



# The Mid-Southern California Area 9 Newsletter

The Monthly General Service Newsletter for Area 9 of the General Service Conference  
P.O.Box 51446, Irvine, CA 92619-1446 [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org)

May 2005

MSCA Area 9 includes all AA groups in the counties of Los Angeles (South of Rosecrans Ave.), San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange.

## PRAASA 2005

By Bruce H

Well another PRAASA has come and gone, and as usual I learned some valuable lessons and developed some new friendships. Linda and I flew into Tucson on Friday landing on a flight with other AAs from Areas 5 and 93. Deplaning, we saw some friendly faces like the DCMC from District 4, Rich W. We then left for the hotel with no idea what was to occur. From the time we arrived at the Radisson Hotel 'til we left on Sunday, it was a practice of patience and tolerance, that is all I would like to say. After calming down, I proceeded to start enjoying PRAASA like I always do. The presentations were all well thought out with a lot of homework done, including Nancy B, our Special Needs Chair, and Carlos M, our Alternate Delegate. The roundtables on Friday and Saturday nights were very informative. As your Area Chair, I attended the Chair Roundtable both nights. The new Panel 55 Chairs asked a lot of questions. We had a lot of sharing on how we operate in our own separate Areas.

On Saturday at noon all the Pacific Region chairs gathered for an informal lunch, which was nice because we got to share just as alcoholics, not as trusted servants. The banquet was interesting, to say the least. Somehow they found the 253<sup>rd</sup> way to cook rubber chicken. The speaker John S, past Regional NE Trustee, inspired me to keep on trudging this road. I only got emotional once when I got to the microphone on Saturday morning to give my opinion on an issue. Sunday saw us watching a St. Patrick's Day parade with members from Districts 1 and 3. I believe the highlight of the weekend was the one-on-one sharing with new friends and old friends. The ending saw the renewal of the convening of the Airport Group of MSCA which meets in airports waiting for our returning flights from PRAASA. At this time I would like to thank the members of MSCA for the confidence in me to fund me to attend PRAASA, and I look forward to seeing all of you on May 15 at the May Assembly.

*Love thru Service, Bruce H*

## Web Servants Collaborating in Pacific Region

The area web servants in the Pacific Region are creating a Pacific Region Web Servant Forum. We envision it as being in the same spirit as the PRAASA, only on a much smaller scale and just for web servants to share information. We're using an online forum to avoid costs of travel, paper, repro, postage, etc.

## PI Committee in District 1 Has Come Alive

By Scott B

Remembering back two years ago, I was a GSR for a meeting that has since fizzled out. The District 1 GSR Meeting was asking for someone to volunteer for the PI Standing Committee Chairman position. July of last year I became a GSR for my home group. I heard at the District 1 meeting we were still in need of filling the position for PI Chairman. I volunteered and was in much fear that I would not be able to handle it. I received, via US Mail, the Public Information Workbook and found myself to be inspired by what I read. I have since been on fire and this has inspired several other people to be on the committee. We did not realize the importance of PI work until reading the workbook. We have since had our 1st meeting which was held on Sunday, March 6, 2005. We had 12 AA members in attendance, Bruce H, the MSCA Chairman and Linda H, the MSCA Registrar were our guest speakers. The truly amazing thing was that 8 of our committee were Young People. We had our elections for Alternate Chairperson and Secretary. Jerre H was unanimously chosen as our Alternate Chair. He is 17 years old. He has accompanied me on 1 Area Assembly and 1 ASC. Paul S was unanimously chosen as our secretary. He also is 17 years old. Paul did a wonderful job as his 1st time as a secretary of a committee.

We really want to reach out to not only our District, but to our Area. We believe that we can make a difference in our communities and we need your help to do so. We hope that anyone who would like to be involved at any level of this committee will contact me for the next meeting and be inspired by what these Young People have inspired in me.

*Scott B, District 1 Public Information Committee Chairman.*

## ASC and Assembly minutes to be on Website

The approved version of ASC and Assembly minutes will be put onto the MSCA Website. This will allow GSRs and other AAs to review what has happened in past ASCs and Assemblies on whatever issues they are interested in.

## More people visit our website

Our MSCA Website had over 2500 visits in February and over 3000 in March!



## **PRAASA'S Three C'S**

### **Camaraderie, Committees, Controversy**

By Linda H

#### Camaraderie

It is always a privilege to attend PRAASA and get reacquainted with friends made over the years. Since I was involved in going to PRAASA on my own when I was involved in Southern California Hospital & Institutions Intergroup, I am lucky to have made a lot of friends between H & I, CPC Chair, and Area Registrar. Some of those past CPC Chairs & Registrars have moved up the ladder so to speak to new positions. It is always a great pleasure to see my friend, Dr. John Chappel, Past Class "A" Trustee and some Past Delegates that I only see once a year from other Areas that I look forward to seeing and of course my friend from Japan & her translator, Doug. Can you just imagine translating the "Irish brogue" of the speaker into Japanese & Espanol? What an order! A miracle happens at PRAASA and hopefully those who attend in Woodland Hills next year will get to find out what I am talking about.

#### Committee

I attended both Friday & Saturday sessions of the Registration Committee. Friday night included some of the Panel 55 Registrars and of course they had numerous questions and sometimes received vague or no answers. To assist in their getting a better start, it was suggested that we invite Greg M., General Manager, GSO to the Saturday Roundtable. Greg graciously accepted the invitation and we even got a larger room with a window!

We heard some great news for future Registrars-GSO is working on a District Registrars Access Data Base; however it will not be done for 18 months. So there is hope for the Districts even though they will still go through the Area Registrar, they will have records to pass on to the next District Registrar.

Greg clarified the paper vs. diskette (Access Data Base) and told us everything received at GSO-Records is time stamped and done in that order. However, there is only one machine to deal with diskettes, but the mounds of paper consolidated into a diskette seem to be faster. GSO-Records works overtime from January thru May.

Greg was also asked about the packets that new Groups and GSR's with already registered groups receive. He stated you could put together something at your Area/District, but the packets go out to New Groups as soon as they receive their Group Service Number along with a letter from GSO. Already existing Groups with a new GSR takes from 6 weeks to 2 months depending on when it is received by GSO. They do a rate that is better than bulk rate, but not as fast as first class. Greg then

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mentioned something (everyone talking) about purchasing packets from GSO.

#### Controversy

Now here is where things get controversial! Upon returning home, I telephoned Karen H, Support Service Manager-Records regarding the following: 1) Packets being purchased 2) Forms on the Website 3) Giving out "Confidential" Information to Central Offices, Conventions.

Here are some of Karen's remarks: 1) GSO does not sell New GSR packets. They try to get them out as expeditiously as possible and Karen suggested if it has gone past 6 weeks that you notify your Area Registrar and have them check with GSO for you. 2) New Group Forms or already Registered with new GSR Forms are on aa.org and are the property of GSO. They are there for District/Area Registrars to download when they are in need of more copies, PERIOD! 3) The standard GSO answer would be as long as it does not affect AA as a whole; however, Karen & Greg both stated that was an unwanted practice as these are Confidential. And of course there was the new Registrar who thought she could use an inactive Group Service Number and change the name for a new Group. I believe that is called a shortcut! The Registrars sitting around me were hysterical when I put my hands over my ears! But Greg kept his composure and told the Panel 55 Registrar that was not the way to do this because sometimes a Group is listed "Inactive" and then a donation or literature order is sent to GSO with their Group Number which reactivates the Group. We were all tired but a lot was accomplished amid confusion, controversy & camaraderie.

#### Conclusion

I came away with more knowledge and more helpful suggestions and a Panel 55 Registrar asked if I would help with any questions – the old Panel 54 Registrar responded "of course"! Upon getting ready and waiting for our plane, we got to have a few laughs with Kay F, District Two DCMC, and Rich W, District Four DCMC. The end to what started out with a broken toe and no hotel room until 4:30pm was over, and again, it was a miracle.

Thru love and service, Mid-Southern California Area 9 Registrar, Linda H.

### **Nick M is our new EMSC Chair**

Congratulations to Nick M on being our new Electronic Media Subcommittee Chair, replacing our previous EMSC Chair, Nancy R. Nick has been a member of the EMSC for quite awhile, and is also a Past Delegate for Area 9. We know Nick will do a wonderful job.

## Treatment Facility Committees Within AA

By Patrick S

In April, 2004, the General Service Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities requested that the General Service Office T.F. staff person request further shared experience on the scope of T.F. Committee activities from areas, districts, and intergroups/ central offices in the US and Canada. The surveys were mailed throughout North America in June, 2004.

174 people completed the questionnaire & the Summary of Questionnaires was distributed in January, 2005. The Summary is 13 pages long; this document is a synopsis of that Summary.

The Survey asked 8 questions: 1) Which Committee do you represent? 2) Which Area/ District is your Committee located in? 3) What types of facilities does your committee have experience with? 4) Would your committee like the T.F. Desk at GSO to share collected experience on AA service work at these facilities? 5) What services does your committee provide? 6) Does you(r) committee also meet with T.F. professionals? If not, does another AA committee? If yes, which committee? 7) How has the T.F. landscape in your area changed over the past 10 years? 8) We invite you to share your committee's experience with any of the topics mentioned above.

**Q1.** 40 of the responding members (or 22.9%) represent a General Service Area; 58 (or 33.3%) represent a General Service District; 63 (or 36.2%) represent a Central Office/Intergroup; 10 (or 5.7%) represent an A.A. Group and 3 people gave no answer.

**Q2.** The Summary includes a table indicating which area and/or district the person represents. 23 (out of 93) Areas did not respond at all; however, there were approximately 20 responses from people that did not indicate any Area of which they are a part. Area 64 (Tennessee) had the most participants (10) and many Areas had only 1 or 2 responses. Every respondent's comments are included in the Summary. (3 members indicated that they are from MSCA09.)

### Q3.

20% (146) people have experience with In-patient facilities  
15.7% (114) people have experience with Detox facilities  
13.9% (101) people have experience with Out-patient facilities  
10.7% (78) people have experience with Halfway houses  
10.6% (77) people have experience with In-patient Psych./ mental health facilities  
9.6% (70) people have experience with Juvenile facilities/ Group homes  
6.7% (49) people have experience with Homeless shelters  
5.9% (43) people have experience with Out-patient psych./mental health facilities  
4.1% (30) people have experience with Nursing home/ assisted living centers  
2.6% (19) people have experience with Safe house/Crisis centers

26 members indicated that they also have experience with Corrections Related Facilities and approx. 30 members named the specific facilities that they have direct, personal interaction with.

**Q4.** 160 (92%) of the respondents said "YES" they want the T.F. desk at GSO to share collected experience on A.A. service work at these facilities. Only 2 people (1.1%) said "NO" they do not want to know about collected experience and 12 (6.9%) gave "NO ANSWER."

### Q5.

26.9% (147) people said their committee provides AA Literature  
25.1% (137) people said their committee communicates with facility staff  
24.9% (136) people said their committee takes in AA meetings  
23.1% (126) people said their committee does Bridging the Gap  
Approximately 16 other members said that they provide "Other Services" (including such items as "message of the day" and "rides to meetings").

### Q6.

62.6% (109) people said their committees meet with treatment professionals  
29.3% (51) people said their committees do not meet with treatment professionals  
8.0% (14) people gave no answer  
Of those that said their committee does not meet with treatment facility professionals:  
45.1% (23) said another committee meets with treatment professionals  
49.0% (25) said no other committee meets with treatment professionals  
5.9% (3) people gave no answer

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Of those that said another committee meets with treatment facility professionals, there were 6 different types of committees listed: 11 said CPC, 7 said PI, 4 said Correctional Committee, 2 said district treatment and 1 said that [their county's] Bridging the Gap committee meets with treatment facility professionals.

**Q7.** It appears that every single answer to this question was printed in the Summary. There is a section entitled "**Numbers**" and the most noteworthy statistics state that 11 respondents have had no change in their number of facilities and 6 people said facilities have closed or downsized as a result of insurance restrictions. Under "**Types of Changes**," 12 respondents said there are more outpatient facilities, 4 said that clients seem to be younger & 1 person said that an "administrator asked me to compromise our Traditions and incorporate their philosophies into our meetings but I refused." As for "**Length of Stay**," 11 respondents said stays in treatment have been shortened and 3 of these are because of insurance coverage. In the section entitled "**Content**," the most common response was that "there is some staff confusion over Singleness of Purpose" but only 3 (out of 13) gave this response. "**How A.A. Helps**" includes several pages of answers and the most common observation is that "it is a challenge to get enough groups & individuals to chair meetings (4) and keep the temp. contacts list current... even though there is a need for more B.T.G. service (3). "**Site Specific Reports**" is also several pages long and none of the answers were repeated since the focus is on specific sites. Several people indicate that there are less in-patient facilities and more out-patient or day-treatment programs. A couple of people shared about legal issues: 1 facility (in Delaware County) "dropped [AA] from taking weekly meetings to [the facility] because of a court ruling that AA is a religious organization." Another facility (in Washington) "was recently sued for requiring that patients attend AA meetings."

**Q8.** There were approximately 50 responses to this request and the answers were divided into 6 sections: General Observations, Bridging the Gap, Working with Youths, Facilities, Requesting Support and Experience of Committee Members. Although all of the sharing is interesting & noteworthy, the most fascinating items (to me) are somebody who stated that a facility has "had AA meetings and because the volunteers acted as counselors, they stopped inviting them to bring meetings to their patients." Perhaps these people will read the Summary, in which another member shares about interacting with treatment facility staff people and said: "It is best for me to keep my ideas and experiences out of the conversation unless asked. I just offer AA services like most things in my sobriety. I had to learn the hard way -- by error."

If you would like a copy of the Summary of Questionnaires, contact the GSO Treatment Facility desk or your local District or Area Treatment Facility or Bridging the Gap Committee.

Devotedly Yours,

Pat S., MSCA09 Treatment Facilities  
[hospital-treatment@msca09aa.org](mailto:hospital-treatment@msca09aa.org)

## Concept 5 (long form)

Throughout our Conference structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

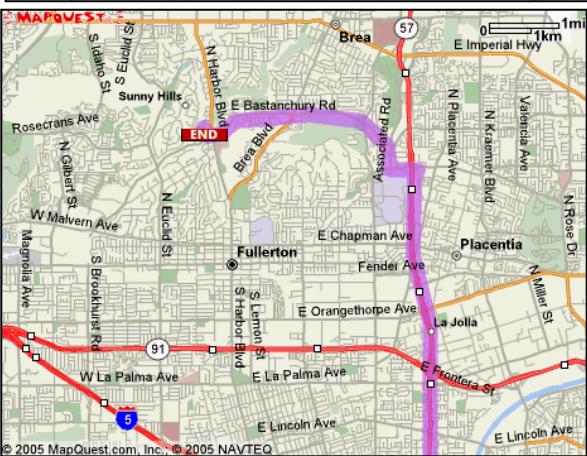
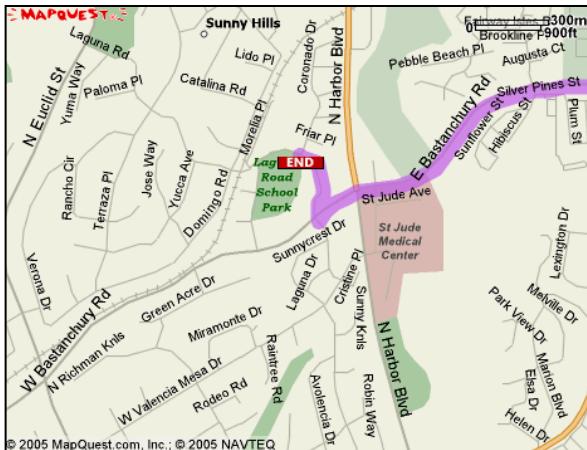
## Tradition 5 (long form)

*Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

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**May 15 (Sunday): MSCA Assembly** (Host: District 15), Ebell Club, 313 Laguna Road, Fullerton



Directions: From the 91 Freeway in Fullerton, take Harbor Blvd north to Bastanchury Rd. Turn left on Bastanchury. Turn right on Laguna Road (first light south of Harbor Blvd). You will see the Ebell club on your right after driving about .1 miles of very curvy road.

The MSCA Assembly includes permanent committees responsible for conducting much of the AA business activity in the Area. We have Standing and Coordinate Committees. Chairs and cochairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

**Panel 54 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, et al.**

Archives Chair...Pete B	GSR School, Spanish...Felipe G
Archives Cochair...Ron E	Literature Chair...Craig S
CPC...Maggie R	Literature Cochair, Spanish...vacant
CPC Cochair, Spanish...Miguel M	Treatment Facilities Chair...Patrick S
Convention Liaison...Jason S	Newsletter Chair...Nancy R
Convention Liaison, Spanish...Arturo F	Newsletter Cochair, Spanish...Jesus O
Correctional Facilities Chair...Alex N	Public Information Chair...Christine S
DCM School...Phil L	Public Information, Spanish...Luciano P
Electronic Media...Nick M	Registration...Henry B
Finance Chair...Mike M	Special Needs Chair...Nancy B
Grapevine Chair...Melissa B	Special Needs Cochair, Spanish...vacant
La Vina Chair...Raul C	Archivist...Charles K
GSR School...Jim B	Audio Equipment...Joseph M

**Area Officers (Panel 54)**

Delegate: Nancy J, [delegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:delegate@msca09aa.org)  
 Alt. Delegate: Carlos M, [altdelegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:altdelegate@msca09aa.org)  
 Secretary: Cesar F, [secretary@msca09aa.org](mailto:secretary@msca09aa.org)  
 Treasurer: Joe B, [treasurer@msca09aa.org](mailto:treasurer@msca09aa.org)  
 Registrar: Linda H, [registrar@msca09aa.org](mailto:registrar@msca09aa.org)  
 Chairperson: Bruce H, [chair@msca09aa.org](mailto:chair@msca09aa.org)

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to [newsletter@msca09aa.org](mailto:newsletter@msca09aa.org)

**Upcoming Events**

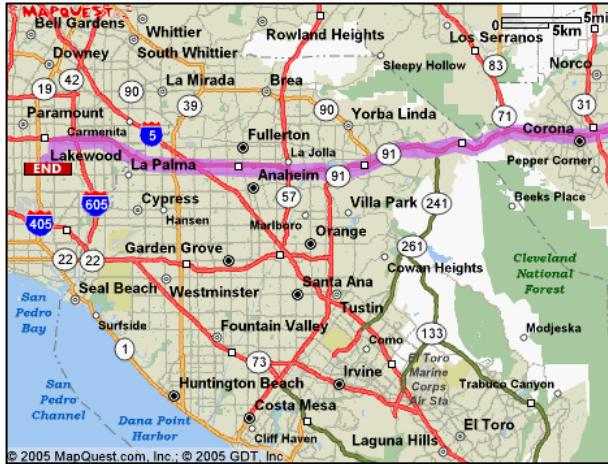
**May 15 (Sunday): MSCA Assembly** (Host: District 15), Ebell Club, 313 Laguna Road, Fullerton

**June 12 (Sunday): ASC (Host: District 2)**  
 Community Center at Mayfair Park, 5720 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712

**July 10 (Sunday): Foro (Host: Dist. 10 & 24)**

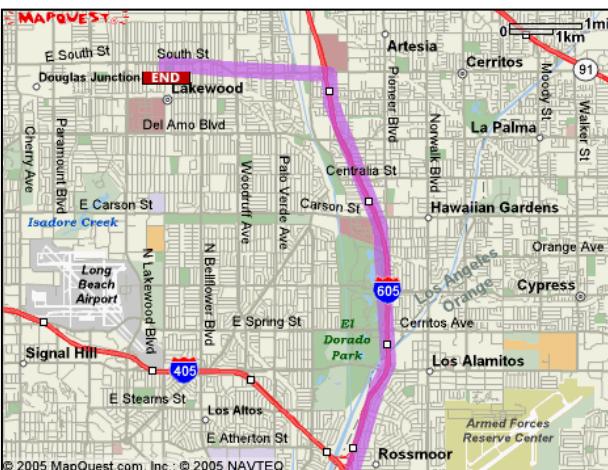
Aug. 14...ASC (Host: Dist. 11)  
 Sept. 11...Assembly (Host: Dist. 12)  
 Oct. 2..Heritage Day (Host: Dist. 19)  
 Oct. 9...Election Assembly (Host: D 1)  
 Nov. 5...Servathon (Host: Dist. 14)  
 Nov. 13...ASC (Host: Dist 5)  
 Dec. 11...ASC (Host: Dist. 6)

**June 12, 2005, MSCA ASC**, at the Community Center at Mayfair Park, 5720 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712



**Directions From the East:**

Take I-10 W toward Los Angeles. Merge onto CA-60 W via the exit on the left toward Riverside...23 miles. Merge onto CA-91 W toward Riverside/Beach Cities...49.8 mi. Take the Bellflower Blvd exit toward Bellflower...0.1 mi. Turn left onto Bellflower Blvd...1.1 mi. Turn right onto South St...0.5 mi. Turn left onto Clark Ave...<0.1 mile.



**Directions from the South:**

Take I-405 N toward Long Beach. Merge onto I-605 N. 5.4 mi. Take the South St exit...0.2 miles. Turn Left onto South St...2.2 mi. Turn left onto Clark Ave... 0.1 mi.

At the May MSCA Assembly, we will hear feedback from our Delegate on what happened at the April 2005 General Service Conference, where delegates (carrying their GSRs' opinions) from all the general service areas in the US and Canada met to discuss and make recommendations on issues that affect AA as a whole.