

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

January 2007

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

Concept One

- Okay, what's a Concept!?

Concept 1, in the short form declares, "Final Responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our entire Fellowship". Got it? Now what does it mean?

Well, to start, it almost means that the groups are in charge of A.A. services. Almost, but not quite. It really means, as stated in Tradition 2, that God is in charge, and God's will may be expressed in our collective group conscience. Okay, so how does that come about? I'm glad you asked. It comes about through the group's General Service Representative who serves as a link to the rest of A.A., or, if you will, to the collective group conscience of A.A.

What's that you say? - Your group doesn't have a General Service Representative. Well, your group is still expressing its group conscience and participating in the collective conscience of all of A.A. Your group is simply saying, "We don't care."

Well, just how important is it for a group to participate in the collective conscience of A.A. and shoulder its fair share of the responsibility and authority? Noted Sociologist, Dr. Milton Maxwell, a former Chairman of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, and a non-alcoholic, declared in his book, "The A.A. Experience" that Alcoholics Anonymous was the first "mutual aid society" ever to survive the death of its founders. The first! Ever! If you're still with me, I hope you're asking yourself, Why A.A.? Again, I'm glad you asked. The principle stated in this concept may well be the answer - the principle of the A.A. groups running the whole shebang. If we fail, we fail because we dropped the ball. Not any outside entity. Not the government. Not any political party. Only the A.A. groups can determine the survival of A.A.

What is your group doing to ensure the survival of Alcoholics Anonymous? What are you, yes you, not your group, doing to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous is here for the next generation of alcoholics who stumble in the doors. Will that next generation of alcoholics, our children and grandchildren, find locks on the doors of the meeting rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous? Will the message they find be the same one that you and I found?

Only you and I and our A.A. groups will determine that.

Signed, an anonymous member of A.A. in Orange County



Delegate's Corner

Bruce H.

I have been meditating for the last 2 hours over what to talk about in this corner, and the answer came let's do a year in review type article. That being said I would like say I hope all had a sane and healthy holiday season. When I rotated in a year ago I kind hopefully thought to myself enjoy the process, and I can report that experience has been beyond my wildest expectations. First of all the love and support that Linda and myself have received this last year is something that I will carry for the rest of my life.

It all began with the spiritual process of rotation with the new Panel 56 officers, DCM,s and GSR,s and Committee Chairs that bright warm day in Riverside. Then my Delegate,s sharing session where I hope began the process of open communication between all and the Delegate. Followed by that first AO officer meeting with my fellow Panel Officers, that has continued with a few changes in locations and times. We sadly had to replace 1 Officer due to the fact that she had to move, I hope she and her family is doing well in the Midwest.

Then the experience of receiving all that background material for the 56th GSC which was a little overwhelming but somehow I was able to muddle through it. Then I walked into that room in Woodland Hills for PRAASA , and it struck me that I would be representing Area 09 and AA as a Delegate with your help I was able to soak in all the love without making too much of a fool of myself. To see my friend Jim Estelle experience his first PRAASA, and listen to his words of wisdom was the high point of that weekend. Then I had to get to work to do the primary purpose of a Delegate get ready for the GSC. This is where my fellow Pacific Region Delegates past and present were very helpful and supportive. The Pre-Conference Workshop was the final part of this process, and I was extremely proud of the participation of the Area members so I could get on that jet and fly to NYC with a full array of collective conscience on these final Agenda items.

I could write an entire article on my feelings about the 56th GSC however I have already done that however I can say everyday and hour was opportunity to grow along spiritual lines. The 2 most gratifying experiences was to again visit GSO and finally make that trek to Stepping Stones to walk on that hollow ground where Bill and Lois lived.

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An Anonymous member of ?

I learned most of the useful attributes that I admire and try to emulate from alcoholics. As a newcomer to AA anonymity was vital to my recovery. Anonymity is one of those attributes, and I can give you names of people that have taught me so much when it comes to this spiritual principle. That's right their names and faces come readily to mind. Like all principals there must be people who stand behind them or they have no worth. In General Service I've learned to give my full name so that people can get a hold of me to ask questions or correct me when I'm wrong. Responsibility goes hand in hand with anonymity for if I'm responsible why would I be anonymous other than at the level of press, radio and film?

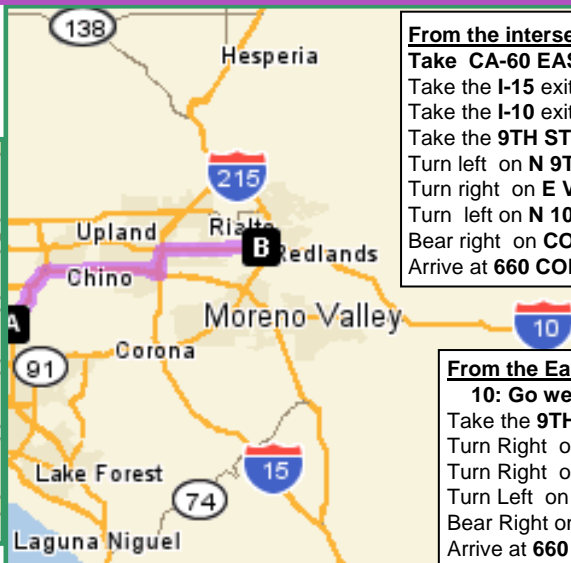
One of our founders wrote: "Since our Tradition on anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English language that to maintain anonymity at any other level is definitely a violation of this Tradition. The AA who hides his identity from his fellow AA by using only a given name violates the Tradition just as much as the AA who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matters pertaining to AA."

"The former is maintaining his anonymity ABOVE the level of press, radio, and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity BELOW the level of press, radio, and films - whereas the Tradition states that we should maintain our anonymity AT the level of press, radio, and films." Dr. Bob

To this I plead guilty as charged, for I've been anonymous to other alcoholics while basking in false humility. Recently in the newsletter I asked to have an article published anonymously in keeping with a growing trend in our newsletter (I had a dream). I believe that whatever words said good or bad, you should know who said them. What if you went to a meeting and no one gave you even their first name? What if they stood behind panels to obscure their identity? Wouldn't you find that a little frightening and discomforting? Dr. Bob said "be known" and I try to live by this credo in all my affairs. I am responsible not only for reaching out but also for my actions and my words. I am not a newcomer anymore so should not need to hide who I am. I humbly apologize for my violation of this tradition.

Mike M. Treasurer Panel 56

Jan. 14 MSCA Assembly, 660 Colton Ave, Colton



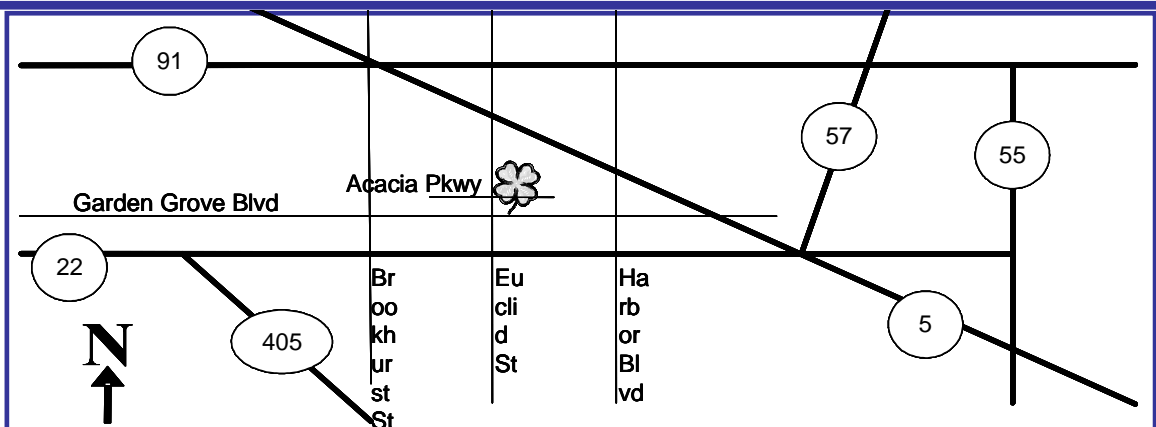
From the intersection of the 57 and 60 Freeways:

- Take CA-60 EAST - go 15.3 mi
- Take the I-15 exit toward BARSTOW - go 3.2 mi
- Take the I-10 exit toward SAN BERNARDINO - go 13.1 mi
- Take the 9TH STREET exit - go 0.2 mi
- Turn left on N 9TH ST - go 0.1 mi
- Turn right on E VALLEY BLVD - go 0.1 mi
- Turn left on N 10TH ST - go 0.2 mi
- Bear right on COLTON AVE - go 0.3 mi
- Arrive at 660 COLTON AVE, COLTON, on the right

From the East, at the intersection of CA-111 and I-

- 10: Go west on I-10 - go 41.5 mi
- Take the 9TH ST exit toward DOWNTOWN - go 0.2 mi
- Turn Right on N 9TH ST - go < 0.1 mi
- Turn Right on E VALLEY BLVD - go 0.1 mi
- Turn Left on N 10TH ST - go 0.2 mi
- Bear Right on COLTON AVE - go 0.3 mi
- Arrive at 660 COLTON AVE, COLTON, on the Right

**4-Area DCM
Sharing
Session,**
Sun. Feb. 4,
9am to 2:30
pm, 11270
Acacia Pkwy,
Garden Grove,
92840



PRAASA 2007

This year, PRAASA (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) will be hosted by Oregon Area 58 from March 2 through 4th, 2007. This year's theme is: "Our 12th step responsibility -- are we going to any length?" The host facility (hotel) will be the Red Lion at Jantzen Beach, located on the beautiful Columbia River with spectacular views of Mt. Hood. The hotel is completing an extensive remodel just in time for what is hoped will be a memorable and rewarding PRAASA. Another option that many people prefer is alternative housing with a local PRAASA attendee. See details on the alternative housing page of the PRAASA website, www.praasa.org. Programs begin at 1PM Friday and end at noon on Sunday. The registration fee is \$17. They'll have a limited number of meals available, so register early (and stay late!). As of Dec. 8, 2006, there were only 64 rooms left at the special \$89.00 PRAASA rate. Registration forms are available on the above-mentioned PRAASA website (however, there will be NO on-line registration this year). Register by February 15th to receive a special hotel rate of \$89/night. By registering early you are helping the PRAASA hosts to create a great PRAASA experience.

Hotel Info... There will be free shuttle service every 20 minutes from the Portland airport to the hotel. Shuttles should take about 20 minutes to arrive at the hotel. We look forward to seeing you on March 2,3 and 4. If you have any questions please feel free to contact one of our host committee members, or use the links above to search the website.

PRAASA's purpose, as described on the PRAASA.ORG website, is to exchange information among the trusted servants of the Pacific Region so as to better inform the area delegates before the annual General Service Conference in New York. Encouraging unity, recovery, and service are among the many side benefits to attending the assembly. One gets a broad picture of what is going on in many of the other groups, districts, and areas of the Western U.S. and there are many opportunities to share experience, strength and hope with other AAs. More than 25 years ago, Diane M wrote in the PRAASA History:

"[Attending PRAASA] helped me immeasurably in my growth, both in sobriety and as a person. What do members do who don't have the privilege of such experiences? I think they surely are missing out on a large portion of the quality of life and living afforded us in sobriety. They are missing out on a depth of fellowship, friendship and sharing which can only add to us as individuals. You see, I want EVERYTHING this program has to offer. The memories of PRAASA are something that no one can take away or diminish; they are things which add to my rich and ever-growing storehouse of good experiences, good friendships, good thoughts and images."

Updates on PRAASA 2007 planning

Here are some points brought up at the PRAASA Committee meeting on 12/8/06:

(1) It is confirmed that there will be no on-line registration. It now appears that we clearly dropped the ball with some deadlines and the company we were working with gave us a final deadline that we could not meet, so we pulled the plug on it. Better luck next time... There is no reason why it cannot be an excellent tool for future PRAASAs.

(2) The PRAASA website is getting a complete revamping. If you noticed on the PRAASA website that there was a sort of chat room called the, "Forum," it has been removed. It was agreed that the Committee was not finding it useful and questions that could have been more effectively directed to Committee Chairs were invited by the Forum to be answered by who? Anyone could log in and answer the questions, so our new Webmaster was monitoring and forwarding questions to Committee Chairs. It became clear that the Forum was not getting a lot of use and the feedback was that it was cumbersome to get registered and read messages. It was felt that the time that would be needed to monitor and maintain it would potentially increase in the last month before PRAASA, just when time demands on the Committee will be increasing. The Forum will be replaced by a single page geared to answer commonly asked questions and display links to Committee Chairs, transportation options etc. For a short time you will be able to see both the old and new look... if you push enough buttons. The top row of buttons on the main page is the new look and directly below is the old format.

(3) There is a password protected section just for Committee members where minutes and the schedule of meetings can be accessed.

(4) The goal was set to have requested information relative to translating equipment replacement to Area 93 by Wednesday to support their continuing assistance to our Committee.

(5) Our Registration Chair is Darlene Grisham, a past delegate. She reported that registration flyers were recently sent to every DCM in the Region.

(6) As of this moment there are 64 rooms left at the hotel (Red Lion on the River, Jantzen Beach) at the \$89 group rate.

I hope these little details are useful or interesting to you and I am very excited to be gathering with the Panel 56s and 57s, together for the first time! It's 15 days to Christmas and just 12 weeks to PRAASA!

*Above excerpted from a letter written by,
Eric K, Panel 56 Delegate, , Area 58 Oregon*

History of PRAASA

HISTORIC BEGINNING: A NEW APPROACH

By Ellery S

History was being made, and I didn't even know it! Yet it was happening all about me, and it was certainly a new experience. I was Alternate Delegate/Treasurer of our Mid Southern California Area at the time. The other officers (there were only three of us back then) were Warren S, Delegate, and Bob R, Secretary. Warren died suddenly of leukemia some three years later. Bob was a very remarkable man. Despite a moderate case of cerebral palsy he took all the minutes by hand, typed them out on an old typewriter, and then reproduced them on an ancient hectograph-type duplicator. He then hand-addressed all the envelopes, and sent minutes to every GSR and officer in the MSCA; of course they were comparatively few in those days.

It was January, 1968. There were a dozen or more of us, GSRs and officers, migrating northward to Fresno, of all places - and for what? In response to a call for a conference issued by the "Four Horsemen," as they were called by some: Al M, Past Delegate from the Southern California Area (mainly Los Angeles and counties northward); Stan W of California North Coastal (he served as our Pacific Region Trustee some years later); Les E, Delegate from Nevada; and I'm not sure whether the fourth was Walter K or Pat S, or some one else. Pat was the host delegate for this Assembly, but I believe she had to miss most of it because of illness or an operation.

Now we - our Delegate in particular - had grave reservations about the reasons for this Assembly - the Western States AA General Assembly it was called, but the name was changed before long to Pacific Region AA Service Assembly, which for obvious reasons came to be known as the PRAASA.

Some of those sponsoring the Assembly were known to be pushing for a transfer of AA "power" from New York to California, since we had so many more drunks. They wanted more delegates representing California at the General Service Conference, a West Coast General Service Office, and various other schemes to shift the balance of power. It was suspected that this new Conference was another such device. Some Areas refused to participate. Others found the distances too great to invest in all that travel and time for something they had only heard about a few weeks earlier. Others, like us, felt that we had better be there so that we could keep track of what was taking place.

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History of PRAASA ... continued from col. 1

Besides, the novelty was exhilarating. To our knowledge there had never been a gathering of AA members from a number of Areas to discuss Service - apart from the General Service Conference, of course.

The Assembly headquarters were anything but pretentious, an ancient structure known as the Hotel California, whose big advantages were proximity to where we would be meeting, and moderate rates, as I recall. After things got underway there were talks by various past and present delegates and certain others involved in Service. Our first Pacific Region Trustee, Jim M, from the California Northern Interior Area, had just finished his 4-year term; he was to chair the closing meeting Sunday morning.

His successor, Eric B, had recently returned from his first Trustees' meeting in New York; he was asked to give the main talk Saturday evening. As a "Young Turk" or Eager Beaver (at that time), eager to learn more and more about Service and tangle with some of the tough problems that keep coming up, I have to admit considerable disappointment at Eric's talk. It was much more a regular pitch than a Service talk. I don't believe he said a word about what it was like to sit on the General Service Board and how they worked out their responsibilities. Before long I revised that opinion of Eric. Over the years the majority of PRAASA's Saturday night speakers have given "qualifying"-type talks at the expense of attention to Service: after all, the entire weekend is devoted to Service. I got to know Eric quite well a year or two later. He served AA well as Trustee and his keynote speech at the 1971 conference closing out his term on the Board - with the theme "Service, the Heart of AA" was outstanding. I always like to quote his key phrase: "Service begins at the end of a broom."

Friday evening there was much talking in low voices, and messages being transmitted from one person to another. The word went round: "Meet in Room 111 at 10 p.m." Like a bunch of conspirators we crept to that door and entered a genuinely "smoke-filled room", and straightway became part of "the group conscience." I don't remember much of what went on (let's face it, I didn't know what the score was), but decisions were being made. There would be another meeting like this one next year, - this time in Reno, apparently timed to coincide with the Big Storm that hit Northern Nevada that next winter. I wasn't too sorry that I missed that one, being home with a cold.... When our meeting was all over, we slunk back to our rooms, having performed our "civic duty." Sunday morning was probably termed the Spiritual Meeting (that seems to be an unofficial AA tradition, at least in these parts), and Past Trustee,

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History of PRAASA ... continued from page 4, col.

Jim M, was the leader, as I mentioned earlier. Jim gave a great talk, as usual. Everything was fine, except that we were operating spectacularly in the red. Nothing daunted, Jim obtained a King-size hat, which was passed around, and the group wiped out a \$500+ deficit (by the skin of our teeth!), so that we could head for home with our heads up.

Traveling back, we compared notes. It had really been exciting to meet with so many other Service representatives from all over the Region (mostly from California, of course, under the circumstances). Some good things had been discussed, concerns aired, new thoughts introduced, and new developments announced. Nevertheless, we couldn't help feeling a little smug. From much of what had been said, and the questions asked, we felt we were considerably better informed than most of the others. This feeling was reinforced later, after Warren launched the first Symposium of Service, or S.O.S. (name recently changed to Pre-Conference Workshop, alas) – first of its kind in A.A., and later when the first Servathon was staged in 1970. Perhaps there was some basis (certainly not justification) for smugness. Perhaps not. Yet one thing has stood out over the years. As a group, the delegates that the Pacific Region has sent to the Conference always seemed to have done their homework better than the average - in some cases much better - and have participated actively and constructively in the deliberations of the Conference. This can be attributed in large measure to the PRAASA. Ever since, over 34 years, the PRAASA has been training GSRs, DCMs, DCMCs, Area Officers and Delegates (not to mention some Group secretaries and AA members active in other branches of Service) while they're enjoying themselves in a way that's unexpected and (you should excuse the expression) intoxicating!

Roundtable discussions for members with a special interest or job, introduced some 17 years ago, have proved to be one of the best ideas of the last century (the 20th, that is to say), and alkathons are held all weekend for the benefit of those suffering from insomnia.

What about those sinister plots to capture GSO? Starting in 1970, and particularly in 1971, with Carl B playing a major role, the PRAASA took a new course. If there ever were any plots or designs, they are long gone (They are History, to use the vernacular.) True, we did have a blood bath in 1976 at Tucson, over whether the PRAASA was an instrument of General Service put on by the Areas, and therefore responsible to the Delegates, or whether it was an autonomous body governed by the membership (i.e., the attendees). But no one was slaughtered in Tucson, and things have been rather mature (at least, for alcoholics) ever since. I have always loved it

...Ellery S.

Delegate's corner ... continued from page 1, col. 2

The cooperative and reception welcome I received when arriving home was unexpected but real gratifying. I am pleased that was able to relay to the best of my ability what happened at the GSC so every was able to feel the experience along with self again.

Then the ventures to the 2 forums in Morongo and Seattle where again Area 09 and its members stepped up by showing with all there love and support

The joint delegate report backs were to say the least a resounding success, I have nothing but gratitude for the hard work that it took to get these done by the end of June. Without the cooperation between the Districts and there members that would never been able to have taken place. In July the FORO was one of the finest examples of cooperation between our Spanish Speaking Members and their English speaking counterparts.

Then toward the end of July I was awoken early in the morning by a phone call from my sister to say that our Dad had taken ill and was in the hospital in AZ. After numerous long trips to Gilbert AZ, and a courageous fight by dad he succumbed to his ailments and passed away on August 27th at 8pm. The most important lesson I learned from this was that my Dad always loved me, and in the end he went peacefully knowing that I loved him. I was able those last few days to hold his hand and accept his love. All this could have taken place without AA. This sad event had its high point for I was finally able to clearly reestablish a relationship with my sister and her family in Minnesota. When I left her home after having laid dad to rest with mom at Ft Snelling Minnesota, she for first time was able to say that she loved me and I returned that I loved her and always had. I can say that would never been able to have taken place without the love and support from all the lovely ladies in AA and especially Area 09. Thanks ladies for showing me how to be a loving son and brother. The last couple of months have been filled with events like the Servathon, Heritage Day and the PI Workshop. These events again showed how Committees work together for what is best for AA. My trips to Areas 5,6 and 93 for their Elections showed me the Third Legacy process always works, and I am not in charge.

I am looking forward to working closely with the Panel 57 Pacific Region Delegates, and I will never forget my fellow Panel 55 Pacific Region Delegates and their kind words and constant support. I truly wish them well in next Service position which should be Grapevine Rep which we learned last year at the GSC.

In closing I would like to thank all my friends in AA and Area 09 for their support and unconditional love over the last 12 months. Lets get out there and make 2007 a year to remember as the year of the working with the wet drunk.

Love thru Service Bruce H.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 14, **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (Host: District 11) Hutton Center, 660 W. Colton, Ave., Colton, CA 92324

Feb. 4, 4-Area DCM Sharing Session, 9 am to 2:30 pm, 11270 Acacia Pkwy, Garden Grove, 92840

Feb. 11 ASC (District 2) *(The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them)*

Mar 2-4 PRAASA, Red Lion Hotel on the River, Jantzen Beach (I-5 Exit 308), 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, Oregon 97217. Hosted by Oregon Area 58. There will be NO on-line registration this year, so please snail-mail in your registrations. Registration forms can be downloaded from the PRAASA.ORG website. As of Dec. 8, 2006, only 69 more rooms were available at the special PRAASA room rate of \$89.00 plus tax.

Mar 11 ASC (District 9) *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda)*

Apr. 1 Archives Open House, Riverside

Apr. 15 **Pre-Conf. Workshop (GSRs vote their groups' conscience)** (District 15), Ebell Club, **313 Laguna Road, Fullerton, CA 92632**

May 20 **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (District 6)

June 10 ASC (District 19) *(The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them)*

Jul 8 Foro (Districts 4 and 21)

Aug 12 ASC (District 14) *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda)*

Sep 9 **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (District 12)

Oct. 6 Heritage Day

Oct 14 Assembly (District 8)

Nov. 3 Servathon (Dist 17)

Nov. 11 ASC *(The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them)* Dist 18

Dec. 9 ASC, (D 23) *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda)*

Tradition 1 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

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 56 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Pete B	Literature Cochair, Spanish
CEC...Michael M	...Cesar F
CPC...Ernesto M	Newsletter Chair...Russ D
CPC Cochair, Spanish...tbd	Newsletter Cochair,
Convention Liaison...Gary M	Spanish...Raul C
Convention Liaison,	Public Information
Spanish...tbd	Chair...Linda H
Corrections Chair...Alex N	Public Information,
DCM School...Jim B	Spanish...Damien
DCM School Spanish	Registration...Ben
Cochair.....	Special Needs Chair...Rich
Electronic Media Sub-	W
Committee...Nick M	Special Needs Cochair,
Finance Chair...Joseph M	Spanish....vacant
Grapevine Chair...Linda C	Translation... Jesus O
La Vina Chair...Francisco D	Treatment Facilities
GSR School...Scott R	Chair...Phil L
GSR School, Spanish... Jose A	Webservant...Nancy R
Literature Chair...Patrick C	Sound Dude...Joseph M
Coffee person...vacant	

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:30 am....GSR School

9:30 am....Delegate's Sharing Session

10:15 am....Committees meet

11:30 am....Lunch

Noon... **Main Meeting** (which normally includes introductions of new GSRs, Area officers' reports, presentation/ discussion/ voting on proposals, committee reports, other reports)

3:30...Adjournment

Panel 56 Area Officers

Chairperson: Craig S,
chair@msca09aa.org,

Delegate: Bruce H,
delegate@msca09aa.org,

Alt. Delegate: Joe B,
altdelegate@msca09aa.org

Secretary: Oscar G,
secretary@msca09aa.org,

Treasurer: Mike M,
treasurer@msca09aa.org,

Registrar: Jason S,
registrar@msca09aa.org,