



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

September 2008

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

Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need

(Excerpts from Bill W.'s article in the April 1959 Grapevine.)

Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to this effect: "Our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example." In effect, we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us..."

Therefore, a leader in A.A. service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own—well, he really isn't a leader at all.

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From the Archives.....

The MSCA Archives Committee received its largest attendance so far this year at its monthly Movie Night held on Saturday August 9, 2008. There were about 30 in attendance at the Archives when the Committee presented the 1945 academy winning movie "Lost Weekend." The film was based on a novel of the same title by Charles R. Jackson. It tells the story of an alcoholic on a weekend bender. As the weekend continues, he drifts deeper and deeper into his living nightmare, committing crimes and even spending time in a mental ward. Although the character in the movie never got sober until the very end it was a good depiction of what many of us *used to be like*.

There was a surprise before this month's feature. Movie goers viewed the 1946 March of Time news reel "Problem Drinker." This news reel was one of the first films that ever mentioned AA. It followed a drunk as he gets drunk, locked up, 12 stepped, attends an AA meeting, gets saved from relapse by his sponsor, writes a fourth step, make amends and twelve step another drunk all within 20 minutes. (don't we wish it was that easy?). It was a good look into how society felt about the "problem drinker" and the recognition of the good work that AA was doing back in 1946.

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Delegate's Corner

Hello every one;

I would like to share a few things from [Regional Trustee] Madeleine P.'s **Quarterly Board Report** that may be of interest to you and your groups. *I will have copies of her complete report available at the September assembly for everyone and anyone that is interested in having a copy.*

So, beginning with AA World Services, total **distribution of all books** through June 2008 was 1,089,218, up 2% from the same time in 2007. Total AA purchases amounted to 884,172 units while non-AA's accounted for 205,046 units or 19% of the total.

In the second quarter of 2008, **translations** were completed on the following works: *A.A. Fact Sheet* in Vietnamese, *A Brief Guide to A.A.* in Vietnamese, *Alcoholics Anonymous* in Croatian, Greek, and Malagasy (Madagascar), *A Newcomer Asks* in Vietnamese, *As Bill Sees It* in Greek, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* in Greek and Russian, *Living Sober* in Croatian, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in Maltese (Malta) and Sinhala (Sri Lanka).

Financial results for AA World Services were as follows: **Contributions** received for the first six months of \$3,087,000 were \$16,000 (.5%) more than budgeted and \$85,000 (2.8%) greater than the first six months of 2007. Resulting total revenue (gross profit from literature sales, contributions, and interest earned on cash flow) was \$6,774,000. Total revenue was \$221,300 more than budgeted and \$210,000 more than the same time last year. Unaudited net profit for the first six months of \$43,500 compares with a budgeted loss of \$74,000.

The **AA Grapevine Corporation** realized a loss of \$66,168 compared to a budgeted loss of \$60,387. This is due to an unexpected and ever increasing postage increase.

Internationally, we have traveled to help carry the message of AA to *Cuba, Ukraine, Costa Rica, Germany, Great Britain, Trinidad and Tobago,*

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50 Years Ago

from the September 1958 AA Grapevine

New Wording of AA Definition

SHARP-EYED readers will note two significant changes in the wording of the "Definition of AA." One such reader has, in fact, commented on the fact that the two most recent pamphlets issued by AA Publishing--"Partners in AA" and "Alcoholics Anonymous: Helpful Ally"--carried the revised version while the current Grapevine did not. We weren't behind the times . . . just waiting until the midsummer meeting of the General Service Board of AA had given its final approval to the changes, which are aimed at making the definition of AA a little more definite.

The precise history of the "definition," like so many things in AA, is largely a matter of opinion . . . It first appeared (in the form long familiar throughout the fellowship) in the Grapevine, written by the editor-of-the-day but based on key sentences in the Foreword to the first edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. Eventually it began appearing in all Conference-approved literature issued by AA Publishing, and soon groups, intergroups, central offices, and AA publications in all parts of the world were using it. Thus it assumed its "official" status, now made truly so by the action of the Trustees in approving the version as it now stands.

THE EDITORS

Can you spot the changes??

Original version:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Current version (changed by Conference Action 1958)

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

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50 Years Ago ... continued from col. 1 this page

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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From the Archives..... Continued from p.1, col. 1

Our next Movie Night will be September 20, 2008 when the Archives Committee will show *Days of Wine and Roses*, an American Academy Award-winning film released in 1962. It is the story of a young upper middle class couple that meet, falls in love and begins a family. They seem to be on top of the world until alcohol becomes more and more important to them both and they quickly spiral downward into the pit of alcoholism. A sad but often true side of this disease is that one of them get sober with the help of AA and the other doesn't. You have to see the touching ending to this drama and the miracle of recovery.

So bring a lawn chair and come join us next month at the Archives at 6922 Brockton Ave, Riverside CA, for Days of Wine and Roses. Come early for the best seat positions.. The movie starts promptly at 8:30 PM. The cost is always free and some refreshments are provided or you can bring you own. The Archives is open before and after the movies so plan on taking a tour of Archives too. For more information see the flyer for this event on the Area 9 website and www.msca09aa.org or call the Archives at (951) 683-6988.

See you there!

The MSCA Archives Committee

Concept IX (long form)

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders of A.A., must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Tradition 9

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Each A. A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

MSCA presents a workshop with Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community

This workshop seeks to share with other AA members, community professionals, and the general public what the Public Information Committee and the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee are doing to assist alcoholics who are seeking recovery and to demonstrate how A.A. cooperates and shares experience, strength and hope.

When: September 27, 2008

Time: 8:30 am coffee and donuts

9:00 - 4:30 workshop

includes Nick M.'s famous spaghetti lunch

Cost: FREE

Where: 1st Evangelical Free Church, North Campus,
2904 N. Brea Blvd., Suite 190, Fullerton, CA
92835

This event will be bilingual and will have translation equipment available.

Further Information:

Santiago S., CPC Spanish Co-Chair, 714/585-6379

Michael M., CPC Chair 714/686-7360

Kay M 760-366-1955

Francisco D. 951-742-0785

What: Numerous Area 09 Committees working together to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those professionals that may come in contact with alcoholics.

Who: Several speakers from various professions who will speak on their experience with their clientele and AA.

Delegate's Corner... *continued from p. 1, col. 2*

Croatia, Turkey, Greece, Lithuania, Austria and Hungary.

It is with much regret I let you know that our **GSO archivist**, Amy Filiatreau, has tendered her resignation in July. She is moving to be closer to an ill family member and she will be missed. She brought so much to the position in her short tenure and I know everyone benefited from her contributions.

There will be major construction going on in our **Archives Department**, beginning this fall and into the early spring so this will cause possible delays in archival requests. Be patient. The renovations are sorely needed.

The GSO General Manager reported on the **2010 General Service Conference site selection process** and noted that management continues to investigate possible alternate sites. One would think NY would be plentiful with hotels where we could hold our conference, but not so. We require an inordinate number of breakout rooms for our conference committees and there are not very many hotels available that fit our needs. Our current hotel is raising its rates 35% or about \$100/night per guest when our contract runs out.

Five **trustees will be rotating** this year, including the chair of the General Service Board.

Please: share this information with you Groups, and let them know that there is still a lot of work to be done. We need everyone's view points to have an informed group conscience at the Area level.

Remind them that AA's service structure is an upside-down triangle. **With the groups at the top!** The groups have the *ultimate responsibility and final authority* over the whole of AA including, but not limited to the General Service Office, AA World Services, AA Grapevine-LaVina, the Area and District. We are all here to serve them.

Help them to understand that the *entire structure of AA depends on their participation*

Please let me know what you think;

@yourservice, Joe B.

Directions:

From the 57 Freeway, take the Imperial Highway exit and go west. **Turn left (south) onto Brea Blvd. North Campus is located on the left before crossing Rolling Hills Dr.**

Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need

(Excerpts from Bill W.'s article in the April 1959 Grapevine.) ... continued from p.1, col. 1

Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its service. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source....

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can obtain, sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided, of course, that such action be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility....

Another qualification for leadership is give-and-take, the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction.

Compromise comes hard to us all-or-nothing drunks. Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises. We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled. These are situations for keen timing and careful discrimination as to which course to take.

Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism. This is an acid test. There are always the constructive critics, our friends indeed. We ought never fail to give them a careful hearing. We should be willing to let them modify our opinions or change them completely. Often, too, we shall have to disagree and then stand fast without losing their friendship.

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Autonomous Committees?

I've heard the word autonomy used in regards to committees at our area. While our 4th tradition states "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole" it doesn't state *committees* are autonomous! Our steps and traditions are meant to be used together, not taken out of context. The first tradition talks about unity while our 4th gives groups the freedom to be independent as long it doesn't effect other groups or A.A. The 9th tradition talks about committees: "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees *directly* responsible to those they serve." Now I may be wrong but it doesn't say "1: of, relating to, or marked by autonomy 2 a: having the right or power of self-government b: undertaken or carried on without outside control : self-contained 3 a: existing or capable of existing independently b: responding, reacting, or developing independently of the whole 4: controlled by the autonomic nervous system"

Tradition 9 says committees are directly responsible to those they serve. For area committees that would mean the area wouldn't it? I could see if a committee only serves itself where they might think they are autonomous. Everyone in AA has to answer to someone and committees answer to those they serve. At my home group if I said I was an autonomous committee they would laugh me out of the room. This notion flies in the face of the spirit and letter of our steps, traditions and our concepts. As a trusted servant you have given me great freedom but with that freedom comes great

responsibility. Where this idea came from that committees are somehow separate is ludicrous. It goes against our first tradition. At all levels I hope we serve the same primary purpose. As an area officer I'm part of the area officers committee and the area service committee. The area officers are directly responsible to the area. The area service committee is directly responsible to the area. The area is responsible to the districts and the groups. The groups provide the 7th tradition funds and manpower to do what they as groups can not. Mid-Southern California's area guidelines state: "Service to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous shall be the primary purpose of General Service in the Mid-Southern California Area. In all our proceedings we shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Twelve Traditions and the Six Warranties, mindful of the ideals expressed in *"The A.A. Service Manual"* and the *"Twelve Concepts for World Service."* The "Right of Decision," the "Right of Participation" and "right of Appeal" shall always be observed." I've also heard that these are only suggestions much like the suggestion that if you are an alcoholic who wants to remain sober you *should* work the steps!

As trusted servants we must be responsible and stating committees are autonomous is irresponsible! In no other area have I seen this mindset. Feel free to use the knowledge gained by reading the twelve and twelve and the service manual to correct us when we're wrong. Are we observing the spirit of A.A. by making personal attacks and spreading misinformation? I can only trust in a loving God as expressed thru our group conscience.

Mike M. AD panel 58

Directions to September Assembly

Sept. 14, 2008
Whaley Park Community Center
5620 E. Atherton St.,
Long Beach, CA

From the intersection of the 57 freeway and the 22 freeway:

Take the 22 Freeway west. Drive 13.4 mi.

Turn right onto N. Bellflower Blvd. Drive 0.9 mi.

Turn right at E. Atherton St. Drive 0.1 mi

Upcoming Events

Sep. 14, Sunday, Assembly (**GSRs vote**),
(District 4) Whaley Park Community
Center 5620 E Atherton St, Long
Beach, CA

Oct. 12, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will
present proposals, but no vote will be
taken on them*), (District 7)

Nov. 8, 2008, Servathon (Saturday)
(District 3)

Dec. 14, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC
will vote on which proposals to put onto
the next Assembly Agenda*), District 18

Panel 58 Area Officers

Delegate: Joe B, 714-423-3808,
delegate2008@msca09aa.org

Alternate Delegate: Mike M

Chair: Jason S

Secretary: Ruth D

Treasurer: Linda H

Registrar: Cesar F

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:00 am...GSR/DCM/DCMC Schools,
Delegate's Rpt

10:30...ASC or Assembly mtg

Ca 1 pm.....Lunch

Ca 1:30 pm...Committee mtgs

3:30 pm...Committee mtgs Adjourn

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 Co-Chairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

Panel 58 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Joseph H

CEC Chair...Rick H

Communications Committee Chair...Linda C

Newsletter Subcommittee Chair...Steve S

Electronic Media Sub-Committee Chair...Henry B

Web Coordinator...Becky B

Equipment Subcommittee Chair...tbd

Translation Subcommittee Chair...Jorge

Convention Liaison...Mike

Convention Liaison, Spn..Jose A

Corrections Chair...Patrick C

CPC Chir...Michael M

CPC Co-Chair, Span...Santiago S

DCM School...Scott R

DCM School Spanishtbd

Finance Committee Chair...Joseph M

Grapevine Chair...Kimberli A

La Viña Chair...Angela R

GSR School...John H

GSR School, Spanish...Paco G

Literature Chair...tbd

Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ...tbd

Public Information Chair...Kay M

Public Info., Sp...Francisco D

Registration...David T

Special Needs Chair...tbd

Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish....tbd

Treatment Facilities Chair...Al F

Sound Dude...Raul C

Coffee person...Mauricio T

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to newsletter2008@msca09aa.org