

# Newsletter

August 2004

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)

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

## 7th Tradition Wisdom

By Mike M

The long form of our 7th tradition states, *"The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority."*

This tradition came from the early years of experience as A.A. struggled between existing hand to mouth or being offered huge sums to help alcoholics. Today a lot of us take these traditions for granted and yet they insure our very existence as a group. On my journey in general service it has been my privilege to serve as a GSR, a district treasurer, a DCMC and an area committee member. One of the many things I have picked up is a sense of the importance of our 7th tradition. At the group level the money we put into the basket pays the rent, buys the coffee, the literature and makes sure that newcomer has a warm, welcome place to get the message. There are many "agencies" within A.A. to provide services that a group by itself can't. Central offices provide a local number to call for A.A. information and literature. Local H&I's provide 12 step calls in hospitals and institutions. Districts are where the first link in general service communication, the GSR, starts to take his group conscience to the Area, the Delegate and the General Service Conference and connect with A.A. as a whole.

As a member of the finance committee I was asked to put together a 7th tradition packet to help inform our groups. This packet contains information on our 7th tradition and financial information such as filing taxes and starting bank accounts for a group. I believe these will be helpful to group treasurers and secretaries. We have distributed these packets to the districts to use as a basis for their own district packets. If you or your group have any financial questions you find many of the answers in this packet. If not, feel free to ask your district or area, and I'm sure between us we can find the answers. Remember that our 7th tradition is very much a part of 12 step work. If you have any questions, suggestions, please feel free to contact us. We're here to be of service.

Mike M,

## Concept 8 (long form)

VIII The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

## Pacific Regional Forum Experience

By Bruce H

Well, I have decided after a long absence to again write an article for the newsletter. What's on my mind is the Pacific Regional Forum which Linda and I had the pleasure of attending last week. First of all, I want to take full responsibility for deciding to take the train to Portland. Having said that, I really could say that had a great time on the train interacting with strangers when it was time for dinner in the dining car. Arriving at the hotel I never was so glad to jump in the shower in my entire life. Then Linda and I went across the street for dinner and had the pleasure to interact with the Chairperson Roger for Area 007. Then we went back to the hotel and met with some friends from Area 05 and 93.

Next morning it was great to see the arrival of my fellow alcoholics from Area 09. By the way, next to the Host Area Oregon, our Area had the best turnout... somewhere between 45 to 50 were present from our area. Friday was, to say the least, spiritual in nature. It really is hard to describe in words. It must be experienced. Friday I had the chance to meet with the Ad Hoc Committee of Cooperation with The Elderly, and I can report that it is moving along real well.

Saturday was an all new experience beginning with the morning session where first time attendees got to the microphone and express their feelings about how our trusted servants are helping us to carry the message to the alcoholic stumbling in the streets whether in Portland or in Outer Mongolia. Then the Saturday Workshops were excellent, especially the one I attended where our DCMC from Dist 18 talked about getting ALT GSR's when GSR's are rotating out. This is the time I would like to clear up the story about this infamous pool outing. First of all, it was not my idea. It was Carlos M's and Rich W's idea. Do not worry, I will not be leaving AA to join the pro pool shooting tour.

The worst part of the weekend occurred when it was time to leave, especially when I went up to Elaine McDowell and thanked her for her service to AA. To my surprise she thanked me for my service and hoped that we would see each other in Toronto, which had not been in my plans, but I learned again not to project in the future. To wrap it up, again once I get out of my own way and ask God for guidance it turns out the way it should. Thanks again for trusting me to serve Area 9 as your Chairperson.

Love thru Service Bruce H

## Tradition 8 (long form)

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

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

## What's love got to do with it?

By Mike M

If there is one thing I have learned in A.A. General Service, it is how to be more loving and tolerant of others with different ideas, different beliefs, and different problems. This was not always the case, I was one of the 'that's not A.A.' guys long before I really knew what A.A. is. I was reminded of this the other day by someone I once gave the cold shoulder for being an "and a". He is now a regular member of our home group and I am grateful he 'kept coming back' despite my foolishness. Love and tolerance didn't appear in me thru vast spiritual enlightenment but thru necessity- I needed it to do the tasks I'd been given (and to stay sober).

Take a simple task like making coffee. I would buy cheap coffee because I felt it would be better to spend my group's meager funds elsewhere. One of our members hated the coffee and brought some "name brand" coffee for me to make. I was offended but made the coffee anyway. After the meeting he took me aside and said: "This is a program of attraction and good coffee will keep the newcomers coming back". He was right, of course, and I bought better coffee from then on. I used to roll my eyes at those that came into my meeting and talk about mental health issues, till I realized that we all have 'mental' issues.

I became a GSR because I thought it would be an easy gig, one meeting a month and just report back to the group. God had a lot more in store for me; 12 traditions, 12 concepts and terms like love and service. As a GSR, I saw lots of examples of love and tolerance and lots of examples that were not so loving. Over time I saw A.A. in a different light. "We" are not just my home group, the big book (1st 164 pages), Central Office, H+I, or General Service. A.A. is a worldwide fellowship that consists of millions of individuals like myself. We are people who would have never met if not for our common goal to stay sober and carry the message. We come together not to revel in our uniqueness but to help each other to solve our common problem. I need that same love and tolerance that is given me as I come into the rooms of A.A., that 'good coffee' if you will, to do the task of helping those God asks me to help. I don't have the right to refuse giving what's been given freely to me if I wish to stay sober.

"Love and tolerance is our code" (Page 84). I must also be tolerant and open to ideas that I don't like because they don't conform to the way I think it should be done. I have learned more from someone else's wrong idea than any of my brilliant ones. We care, hence the love and tolerance of others, their ideas, their problems. If we just try to be as tolerant to newcomers as the groups were to us when we came in, maybe they'll keep coming back.

Mike M.

## Literature Committee

Work has begun on the 2005 MSCA General Service Workbook! Make sure your District's meeting information is accurately reflected and submit any changes from 2004 to the Literature Committee. Also, if you have any ideas for other Literature projects that you would like to see, please stop by and make yourself heard!

Kind Regards, Craig S

## Helping Alcoholics in our Cambodian Community

District 4 has purchased big books in the Khmer language for distribution in our Cambodian community (which is the largest outside of Cambodia). Our understanding is that there is little awareness of the AA program in this community, so we are hoping to establish a positive relationship with this growing segment of our population.

We also purchased the 4 PSA's (Public Service Announcements) for broadcast on our local cable outlet.

In love and service, Rich West, DCMC District 4

## Grapevine (info from the Pacific Regional Forum)

A few notes from Greg J

GRAPEVINE – David, GV Board Chair – 8th year on board – rotates out in 2005. 60 years of the Grapevine! Circulation of GV has dropped from 120,000 to 110,000. The peak circulation 135,000 was in 1990. However, GV made \$5,000 profit in 2003. Operating in the black, YEAH! Grapevine Board consists of 8 volunteer and one paid position. Can you imagine?

### Class B - alcoholics

Phyllis H. – human resources background

Mike P – education background

Arnold R – newspaper manager (if I read my notes right!)

David – Publishing background

### Class A – non-alcoholics

Leonard Bloomenthal – Admin. Law, Bus. Mgmt, Finance, Publishing, Administration, Business

Dorothy Hurley – Editing, Professional Writing, Board Development

Raymond Massey – Business, Business Management

### Notes from presentation by Robin Bromley, Grapevine Executive Editor

Equal authority – equal responsibility It is her responsibility to update board with complete information. Editor is only paid position. Grapevine created when AA was only 9 years old – AA had 2,000 members. Membership quickly rose to 8,000, and the question arose – "How can Groups communicate with each other?" Bill W. started an 8 page newsletter: Cost 15 cents – started with 165 subscriptions. In 1945 – 3,500 subscriptions.

### Grapevine

- "The lighted lamp which illuminates the dark space wherever it lands."
- Cartoons introduced in Issue 6.
- "Language of the Heart" is a book published by Grapevine (is a compilation of writings of Bill W.)
- Preamble of AA came from Grapevine.
- 90% of AA Grapevine comes from AA members.
- STAFF: 14 full time employees, 3 free lancers. Only 17 paid employees for a subscription of over 100,000.
- CAN YOU IMAGINE?
- AA on the Web – 12,000 stories accessible by anyone searchable by topic, date, state, city, name

### LA VINA – Spanish language version of Grapevine

- Conflicting accounts about which district started it! Controversy in AA? Never!
- 1991 – AA Grapevine began with one article in Spanish language
- 1995 – Members of Spanish speaking groups wanted their own in Spanish
- First translation of entire Grapevine in Spanish
- 2001 – General Service Conference – approved 5 year trial of La Vina

50 years of AA in Argentina

50 years of AA in Peru

- Spanish speaking fellowship: 1,700 + grupos (groups)
- 9,200 subscripciones (subscriptions)
- RLV – to reach all grupos in los distritos y area, Trabajo (work within) estructura de AA

## PI Committee

Don't forget the P.I. Committee meeting 10:15 - 11:30 am  
Aug. 8 in Wildomar !

Christine S, PI Committee Chair

## Pacific Regional Forum...A Spiritual Connection

By Linda H

After 31 hours on the train (riding the rails) from Los Angeles to Portland and enjoying the beautiful scenery through Northern California and Oregon as well as the many rusty cars, I wobbled into the Doubletree. I guess I hadn't gotten my train legs back. The first people I saw were Jim & Linda C. & when I went over to say hello, Jim laughingly asked me are you?? He didn't finish the sentence.

This is my 5th Pacific Regional Forum and it was a time to rekindle old friendships and cultivate new ones. For those who have not been to a Pacific Regional Forum, you will relate to this story once you have been.

GSO did a great job in explaining their role to the groups. This is the first time, for instance, in 14 years that we are dipping into our prudent reserve. Greg M., GSO General Manager pointed out it costs GSO \$125 a year to support each registered AA Group.

It was quite impressive that Greg M. came from Mongolia to Beijing to Portland. Also Elaine McDowell, Chair of the Board, was delayed 40 hours due to other flight delays, but she was there as a dedicated, trusted servant (Class A) and she gave her report to a crowded room of recovering alcoholic trusted servants.

Ice cream was served Saturday night. I had to skip it because the Registrars Workshop was still in session. Due to Elaina S., Manager, Support Services sudden illness, Greg M. took over the workshop and with the help of Area 09's own Kandy K.(District 12) who took minutes and the Alternate Delegate from Eastern Washington, who illustrated how to maintain registrations, we had a knowledgeable and stimulating workshop.

The really fun highlight was when two women from Area 05 challenged, Bruce H., Carlos M., Rich W., Peyman, Gregory, Mike P. (Area 05), Jim W. (Area 05 Chair), Alternate Delegate from E. Washington & Hernan-LaVina (GSO) to pool. They also had karaoke & Hernan sang "Hound Dog" Elvis style (swivel hips and all). The weekend was full of spiritual events, like seeing Area 09's Hispanic participation, having lunch with Ken T. (previous DCMC-District 12), driving in Peyman's convertible and kidding him that he would make a great New York cabby. I absolutely love renewing old friendships and although there was work it was balanced by fun. So hasta la vista.

Thru love and service, Linda Henry MSCA 09 Registrar

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## Treatment Facilities Committee

I would like to invite all interested A.A. members to come to our T.F. Committee meeting just prior to the Area Service Committee on Sunday, August 8th. Our meeting will be held @ the same location as the ASC: 20150 Mayhall Drive, in Wildomar. After our committee meeting, you may join us for lunch and/or stay for the ASC meeting.

We will be discussing our Guidelines and the activities and functions of the committee. All are welcome, regardless of treatment facility experience. Please come and share your experience, strength and hope -- or any ideas regarding treatment facilities in our area.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact me in person. The best way to reach me is via email.

Best Wishes, Patrick S, TFC Chair

## Have we lost our focus?

By Scott R

I was always taught to stand up for our traditions, and I was also told the person that stands for the traditions stands alone. I have never had a problem with that. The traditions have been a part of my life for a very long time. I have been with mid Southern California area 09 for roughly 19 years. General service is my nitch (something every one should find) and I love it.

I go to a lot of meetings and I am always amazed at what I see and hear, and how the traditions are used or not used and peoples interpolations of them. I have been to meetings where some think an open meeting means anyone may participate, and it is real sad to me when someone with time 20 years plus knows nothing about the traditions and thinks the same thing. I am so grateful that those people with time knew enough to teach me every aspect of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I go to a lot of closed meetings if I can find them because there I know I am sitting in a real AA meeting. Right now in my district there is a meeting that is allowing anyone to share. I have yet to investigate because I do not need to listen to hearsay, and there is another meeting starting up where anyone can share. Both these meetings are calling themselves AA meetings. I see our message getting mixed a lot, and they always fall back on this "but Bill was a drug addict" , or "it talks about drugs in the big book." People do not seem to realize these are outside issues, and we cannot push aside our primary spiritual aim. Bill Wilson even said if AA gets destroyed it will be destroyed from within, and he is talking about our traditions as one of the pieces that helps us survive not just in the group but as individuals.

I was taught to educate that newcomer walking through that door to carry a message of hope and survival, to teach every aspect of the program. It's all about educating. When I sponsor I teach 12x12x12 step, traditions, and concepts so when they get into service they have an understanding. So we as members of AA need to look at whether we have lost our focus. I was always taught to walk, talk, live and breath AA, and I do. But, as everyone else, I fall short sometimes. So just think about our focus, our singleness of purpose. All our traditions because they are all equally important.

Sincerely yours, Scott R, DCMC District 10

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## MSCA09 Corrections Committee

The proposed guidelines for this new committee will be presented to the A.S.C. on August 8th. Many thanks to those who assisted with their suggestions and guidance. And you know who you are. This committee has done their best to put together a comprehensive yet simple set of guidelines that will assist us through the various facets and areas of our service possibilities. The Corrections Correspondence program seems to be moving along well, adding new writers every month. A.A.W.S. has also been sending literature requests and letters from inmates desiring a "hook-up" when they are released. This information has been passed on to the various geographically appropriate H&I committees in a timely manner.

As I announced at the June ASC, I am moving to Nevada in August and will be unable to serve after that. Our area chair Bruce H. and I have been seeking someone to replace me, and we're comfortable that someone will arise. Anyone having any thoughts or suggestions on this matter should contact Bruce with the information. It's really a good way to meet a lot of new people and it really does not require the amount of time that some of the other committees do.

And lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for allowing me to be of service in MSCA 09 for the past four-plus years. It has been a very heartwarming experience, and not only have I learned a lot, but I have realized much growth in my sobriety. It has been one of the most wonderful experiences I have had, and I will be forever grateful for this. Again, thank you ALL for allowing me to be a part of something so very, very special. *May God be with you and bless you all, always.....*

Sincerely, Alan V

## Announcement:

**Note: announcements are listed here solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the MSCA**

There is a weekly **Concepts and Traditions Study Meeting** that meets on Sunday at 5:30pm, 705 W. La Veta, Ste. 208, Orange, CA 92867.

## Upcoming Events

**Aug. 8 (Sunday): ASC**, hosted by District 17. 20150 Mayhall Dr., Wildomar, CA

**Sep. 12 (Sunday): MSCA Assembly**, hosted by District 30. 7050 La Contenta Rd., Yucca Valley, 92284.

**Oct. 10 (Sunday): ASC**, hosted by District 24

**Mar. 11-13 PRAASA 2005**, Tucson, Arizona

## Secretary Workshop

District 5 will have a Secretary Workshop at their August 12, 2004 meeting, and a Treasurer Workshop at their September 9, 2004 meeting. Their meetings are at the Church of the Foothills, Newport and Dodge, Santa Ana CA. {use Garry B.s number for questions}

Melissa B

## CPC Workshop

District 11 will be hosting a "Cooperation with the Professional Community" workshop, October 17th 10 AM to 12 PM, in Fontana in the cafeteria of Alder middle school.

Yours in Service, Patrick C

**Aug. 8 (Sunday) MSCA ASC**, 20150 Mayhall Dr., Wildomar

### Directions from the West:

From the 91 Freeway, Merge onto I-15 S toward SAN DIEGO. Drive 22.5 miles  
Take the DIAMOND DRIVE exit toward RAILROAD CYN RD. Drive 0.2 miles.  
Turn RIGHT onto DIAMOND DR. Drive 0.1 miles  
Turn LEFT onto MISSION TRL. Drive 1.9 miles.  
Turn RIGHT onto CORYDON RD. Drive 1.2 miles.  
Turn LEFT onto UNION ST. Drive 0.1 miles.  
Turn RIGHT onto TRAILWOOD CT. Drive <0.1 miles.  
Turn LEFT onto MAYHALL DR. Drive <0.1 miles.  
End at 20150 MAYHALL DR WILDOMAR CA

**Sep. 12 (Sunday): MSCA Assembly**, hosted by District 30. 7050 La Contenta Rd., Yucca Valley, CA 92284

### Directions from the West:

From the 91 Fwy, Merge onto CA-60 E toward INDIO. Drive 23.1 miles.  
Merge onto I-10 E via the exit- on the left- toward BEAUMONT. Drive 22.4 miles.  
Merge onto CA-62 E/TWENTYNINE PALMS HWY toward 29 PALMS/YUCCA VALLEY. Drive 24.5 miles.  
Turn RIGHT onto LA CONTENTA RD. Drive 0.5 miles.  
End at 7050 LA CONTENTA RD YUCCA VALLEY CA

The MSCA Assembly includes permanent committees responsible for conducting much of the AA business activity in the Area. There are Standing and Coordinate Committees. The chairs and co-chairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

## Panel 54 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, and other Area trusted servants

Archives Chair...Pete B  
Archives Co-Chair...Ron E  
CPC...Maggie R  
CPC Spanish Co-Chair...Miguel M  
Convention Liaison...Jason S  
Convention Liaison, Spanish...Arturo F  
Correctional Facilities Chair...Alan V  
DCM School...Phil L  
Electronic Communications...Andrew D

Finance Chair...Mike M  
Grapevine Chair...Mitch C  
La Vina Chair...Raul C  
GSR School...Jim B  
GSR School, Spanish...Felipe G  
Literature Chair...Craig S.  
Literature Chair, Spanish...Max O  
Treatment Facilities Chair...Patrick S  
Newsletter Chair...Nancy R

Newsletter Co-chair-Spanish...Jesus O  
Public Information Chair...Christine S  
Public Information, Spanish...Ezequiel G  
Registration...Henry B  
Special Needs Chair...Nancy B  
Special Needs, Spanish...vacant  
Archivist...Charles K  
Audio Equipment...Joseph M  
Coffee Maker...Suzy C

## Area Officers (Panel 54)

**Delegate.....Nancy J**

**Chairperson.....Bruce H**

**Secretary.....Cesar F**

**Alt. Delegate...Carlos M**

**Registrar...Linda H**

**Treasurer.....Joe B**

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to Nancy R