



What's the "2010" International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous?

The International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 1-4, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You". A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate 75 years of A.A. with big meetings held Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning in the Alamodome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend at the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels within walking distance.

Many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, information will be provided about the convention and the host city of San Antonio. The A.A. website (www.aa.org) will update information as it becomes available and articles will be in Box 4-5-9 which is posted on the AA website. The International Advisory Council (IAC) at www.iac-aa.org will post convention information as well.

What is Box 4-5-9?

This is the "News and Notes from the General Service Office of AA". It is published bimonthly and mailed to all general service representatives (GSRs) from every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with the A.A. General Service Office. Check with your group GSR. Individual subscriptions to Box 4-5-9 are available for \$3.50 a year (six issues) or groups

subscriptions (ten copies) for \$6.00 . Send request and check – made payable to A.A.W.S, Inc - to:

- Box 4-5-9.
Post Office Box 459,
Grand Central Station.
New York, New York 10163.

How Do I Register? Where Do I Stay?

In August 2009, information on convention registration and housing reservations will become available in a packet. It will be at the A.A. website and it will be mailed to A.A. groups, offices and contacts around the world.

Can I Make Lodging Reservations Now?

Not likely. The conventions are held every five years. Far in advance, cities bid for the opportunity to host the A.A. Convention. When a location is chosen, the General Service Office (GSO) of A.A. contracts with the host city and develops a total package. The hotels, convention centers, stadiums, domes, meeting halls, RV parks, motels, etc. are booked at special rates for those attending the convention. When people register for the convention, lodging reservations will be processed through a central Housing Bureau. A lottery system is used to make sure that everyone has equal opportunity.

Other Questions

- (Details available in August 2009)
- Can travel agents register

groups or individuals for the convention or for lodging? No.

- Can we request rooms in the same hotel with friends? Yes. There will be special guidelines to be able to do this.
- What about air travel? Yes. Special fares will be available.
- Is there local transportation? Yes. Of the 13,000 rooms blocked, 8,000 are downtown San Antonio where walking or a short bus ride will get you everywhere. All housing is within a 45 minute ride from the Convention Center and Alamodome.

Make An Inventory?

The gay/lesbian AA groups, meetings, roundups and conferences are the experience, strength and hope of IAC. The website is a source of public information designed to help alcoholics find gay and lesbian AA meetings. Unofficial reports indicate that there are over 1,800 gay/lesbian AA meetings weekly in the US and more than 60 foreign cities offer such groups. There are about 40 gay/lesbian roundups hosted annually in the US, Mexico and Canada. To keep up, we need you to tell us what is happening in your community. Therefore, the solution is an inventory.

Meeting Directory

The revised IAC meeting directory has been drafted and it is on the way. To make that happen, we need current, accurate information. All updated information will continue

to be on-line and it will be in booklet form. Please send new or updated information on AA groups, meetings and roundups.

Self-Serve

The IAC website (www.iac-aa.org) is designed so change requests can be submitted online.

If you want to have your group, meeting or roundup on the website, please go to www.iac-aa.org and submit your group information or changes. We cannot find you unless you tell us where you are.

Subscribe

Individuals may subscribe to the newsletter and it will be e-mailed each time a new edition is published. The website offers subscription directions.

Thank You

Recently, two volunteers stepped-down from IAC service work due to other responsibilities. We want to thank Marie S. from Massachusetts who served as Deputy Chairperson and Mary S. also of Massachusetts who served as Newsletter Editor. We wish them well along the road of happy destiny.

Positions Available

IAC is recruiting for several roles within IAC. All positions are volunteer. There are no paid positions. If you are interested, contact Hebert G. via the website. Openings include:

- Deputy Chairperson (Executive Committee Position)
- Newsletter Editor and contributors
- Area Representatives to IAC
- 2010 AA Convention volun-

teers for IAC events

Button Designs

IAC will introduce a new, official IAC button in time for the 2010 International Convention. We invite artists and amateurs to submit designs. The final selection will be made by a special review panel.

Design guidelines:

- The official logo for IAC will remain as it is for the website, newsletter and correspondence.
- Designs may or may not include that logo.
- Designs must include the name or abbreviation of IAC

Please send designs via email to the website. The deadline for submission will be June 30, 2009.

Did You Know?

At the International AA Convention in Denver in 1975, an unplanned gathering of gay men leads to the first, unofficial gay hospitality suite.

AAamigosAA is an online AA group exclusively for alcoholics, conducted entirely in Spanish. Now twelve years old, it gathers members from Spain, Bolivia, US, Egypt, Japan, Chile, Australia, Columbia, Mexico, Venezuela and many more. For a list of online AA meetings (Service Piece, SMF-124), contact the General Service Office (212-870-3400).

Russia's Temperance Promotion Society and Alcoholics Anonymous exchanged visits in 1987-1989. Part of the delegation arrived one Saturday morning at the Early Bird Meeting for gay/lesbian alcoholics in Houston, Texas. The AA planning teams specifically selected the group. By 1989, there were three AA groups

meeting in Russia.

In 1980 in New Orleans at the International AA Convention, a gay hospitality suite is announced from the main stage. The convention program lists two AA workshops for gay and lesbian alcoholics. The workshops were packed with gay, lesbian and supportive straight alcoholics. Similar workshops have been offered at all conventions since 1980. Quiz? What were the titles of these workshops? Were you there? Please tell us.

In 1942, San Quentin Prison in San Francisco welcomed the first AA meeting for inmates. The warden, Clinton T. Duffy sought the help and advice of California AA members to help prisoners who committed crimes while drinking. The first women's prison group came in 1944 at Clinton Farms in Clinton, New Jersey. AA members continue to bring meetings to prisons. Contact the local AA Correctional Facilities Committee.

Nell Wing was Bill W's secretary and the first AA archivist. When she retired, Frank M took over her position as AA archivist at the General Service Office. He served for many years until his death from AIDS. Frank was a delightful and humorous gay man who spoke at many conventions and round-ups. The AA Archives are open daily to all alcoholics visiting the GSO in New York. It holds treasurers from the early days of AA and you can feel the experience, strength and hope. Once a week GSO holds an AA meeting and visitors are welcome. Beginning in November 2008, it will be closed for three months for renovation to double the size.

In 1939, AA was four years old and it published the first Big Book. That same year, Marty M became the first woman alcoholic and the

first lesbian in AA in New York. The group met in the home of Bill and Lois and Bill became Marty's sponsor. Shortly, Marty's partner Priscilla P. joins AA and the two are among the first women in AA to achieve long-term sobriety.

The Little Table

We invite you to share experience, strength and hope and we start with a quote from an old-timer. What's your experience? Send us a brief comment for use in the next newsletter.

"When I came to sobriety, I didn't come out of one closet to get into a slightly bigger one." Jim H. New Orleans. 1980. AA International Convention.

Contact us via email to send your experience, strength and hope: iac-aa@iac-aa.org.

Ask It Corner.

How do IAC-AA and AA work together for the International Conventions?

AA organizes the international convention every five years. One staff person in the General Service Office of AA in New York is the point person for planning. There is a comprehensive selection process to pick the cities far in advance. AA selects the locations for all events, meetings and workshops. Since 1980, each Convention offers workshops specific to gay/lesbian alcoholics in the same way that the convention offers other special interest workshops. The convention planners select the topics and presenters for the gay/lesbian interest workshops in the same way that it selects topics and presenters for all workshops.

The convention makes a space

available to the International Advisory Council and the local gay/lesbian AA groups to host a hospitality suite. We are responsible for the expenses. Further, AA locates a space for a gay/lesbian dance and offers it to us at the best possible rate. We are responsible for all dance expenses. Both events are listed in the official convention program. IAC co-sponsors these events with the gay/lesbian AA groups in the host city. The goal for 2010 is to have fun and welcome everyone to be part of the planning for the dance and hospitality suite.

(Do you have questions for the Ask It Corner? Send comments, questions or articles via the website)

Future Sites for International AA Convention

- 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia
 - 2020 is still in the review process.
- The semi-final applicant cities are:
- Detroit, MI
 - Los Angeles, CA
 - New Orleans, LA
 - Vancouver, Canada

The AA Grapevine

The AA Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Written, edited, illustrated, and read by AA members and others interested in the AA program of recovery from alcoholism, the Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another.

Widely known as a "meeting in print," the AA Grapevine communicates the experience, strength, and hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current AA experience with recovery, unity, and service. Founded in 1944,

the Grapevine does not receive group contributions, but is supported entirely through magazine subscription sales and additional income derived from the sale of Grapevine items.

The awareness that every AA member has an individual way of working the program permeates the pages of the Grapevine, and throughout its history the magazine has been a forum for the varied and often divergent opinions of AAs around the world. Articles are not intended to be statements of AA policy, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either AA or the Grapevine.

As Bill W. expressed it in 1946, "...The Grapevine will try to carry the AA message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs." Grapevine subscriptions are available as a magazine; as La Vina in Spanish; in audio format and in a digital archive. Visit the website at www.aagrapevine.org or see your local Grapevine Representative.

The Grapevine has published many articles by gay/lesbian alcoholics. Write your story for the Grapevine or the IAC Newsletter.

Individual Ways to Participate in the 2010 Convention

Tell five other alcoholics about the convention.

Invite friends to travel with you to San Antonio in 2010.

Volunteer to coordinate information in your group, state, area, town or country.

Attend the San Antonio Roundup 2009 (Labor Day) and become familiar with San Antonio. Meet the local people involved. Share ideas and have fun. (www.SanAnto-

nioRoundup.com)

Stay sober and consider the journey to AA's 75th birthday to be a part of your own celebration of sobriety. Involve newcomers, friends, sponsors, sponsees and old-timers.

Contribute funds to IAC for the hospitality suite and the dance expenses. Ask your AA group or roundup to make a donation of \$100.

Carry the message about 2010 to every gay/lesbian AA roundup in the U.S. Schedule workshops, host an IAC information table, make announcements, etc.

Suggest that your AA groups or AA roundup host an hour at the hospitality suite or dance. Groups can raise money to cover costs, pick a theme for the hour, wear special tee-shirts, buttons or bells and meet and greet.

Hospitality Suite and Dance at the 2010 International

The International Advisory Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (IAC) and the AA gay/lesbian groups of San Antonio will co-host a Hospitality Suite and Dance at the 2010 San Antonio Convention. The Hospitality Suite will be at a downtown hotel and the dance will be held at a fabulous downtown location to be announced publicly at a later time. Our goals:

Encourage gay and lesbian alcoholics across the USA and around the world to participate in the convention.

Extend a special welcome to gay and lesbian AA members from smaller communities who may not have access to local gay meetings.

Attract gay and lesbian alcoholics

to the excitement, fellowship, gratitude and service work as we plan and attend the 2010 Convention.

About IAC-AA

The International Advisory Council (IAC) serves the gay and lesbian members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our sole purpose for existing is to provide our experience, strength and hope to any arm of AA when called upon to do so, and to work in the spirit of Unity and Service with AA for the betterment of the (gay/lesbian) members of AA and for AA as a whole. IAC was chartered in 1981 and it is recognized by Alcoholics Anonymous as a special interest group. IAC is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

About IAC-AA and AA

IAC operates within all Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous which include:

- "We are self-supporting through our own contributions."
- "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion."
- "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

IAC- 2008 Executive Committee Members

- Chairperson Hebert G
- Deputy Chairperson Vacant
- Secretary Marty S
- Treasurer Kevin W
- Advisor Fred S
- Advisor Mark J
- Advisor Lynn W

IAC Treasurer's Report

Date: November 1, 2008
Balance: \$18, 327.50
Submitted by Kevin W
Treasurer

IAC Donations

In keeping with the traditions, IAC is self-supporting. It accepts donations from AA individuals, meetings, groups and roundups. Monies are not accepted from outside the fellowship - non-AA members, other 12 step programs, treatment facilities or non-AA groups/roundups.

Maximum donations by an individual is \$2,000.

Editorial Policy.

The oversight of the IAC Newsletter and the IAC website is the responsibility of the IAC Executive Committee. Individuals and groups may make copies of materials for local distribution. We invite articles, letters, questions, suggestions and comments.

IAC-AA Contact

Web: www.iac-aa.org
Mail: IAC - AA
P.O. Box 783
Belleville, MI
48112-0783

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