



Update & Report on the AA 2010 International Convention

Generally SPEAKING:

- AA volunteers will welcome attendees at airports, bus stations, and train stations. They will greet us on street corners, meeting sites and events.
- San Antonio is hot in July! The convention plans to offer water stations and outdoor misting systems in key areas.
- Rooms are still available. Register for the convention at www.aa.org. Once registered, housing information is provided. If arranging housing through this site, shuttle buses will be available to bring attendees into the main areas of convention activity.
- Advanced programs were sent to all registered attendees in March. There are three workshops of special interest to gay men and lesbians.
- In April, registered attendees will begin receiving additional materials, reminders and general information via email.
- In May, registered attendees will begin receiving the 2010 convention badges in the mail.
- Anonymity is the unique and powerful principle at the heart of our program and *"the greatest safe guard that AA can ever have"*. Out of respect for others, photographs ought *not* to be taken during any of the meetings.
- Anonymity and the internet. "Our names and pictures as AA members ought not to be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed". Posting recognizable pictures on websites or social networking sites is something to be avoided.
- The Flag Ceremony will be broadcast through a special system on the internet. This will enable AA members to see this ceremony if they cannot be in San Antonio. Details at www.aa.org

2010 Convention Timeline & IAC Activities

Please check the convention program for further details. Listed below are the main AA event timeframes and those events which would be of special interest to lesbians and gay men. See the AA program for specific locations.

Thursday, July 1

- 4 p.m. – 12 Midnight** IAC Hospitality Suite Opens.
- 7 p.m. – Until** AA Party in the Park. Entertainment, dance and fun for everyone.
- 8 p.m.** Gratitude Meeting. IAC Hospitality Suite. Meet, Greet and Share.

Friday, July 2

- 7 a.m. – 12 Midnight** IAC Hospitality Suite open. (Closes during the Opening Meeting)
- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.** AA workshops and meetings
- 9:30 a.m.** AA Workshop: *"Lesbians/Gays in AA: Gay Alcoholic or Alcoholic Who Happens to be Gay"*.
- 8 p.m.** Flag Ceremony and Opening AA Meeting. Alamodome.
- 9:30 p.m. – 2 a.m.** IAC Dance and Social.
- 10 p.m.** "The Joy of Living" – A theater presentation (at the IAC Dance) The history of gay people in AA presented by *The Not Ready for Sobriety Players*. Delightful, touching, humorous, and grounded in true history.
- 10 p.m.** AA Meeting. IAC Hospitality Suite.

Saturday, July 3

- 7 a.m. – 12 Midnight** IAC Hospitality Suite open. (Closes during the 8:00 Old Timers Meeting)
- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.** AA workshops and meetings.
- 9:30 a.m.** AA Workshop. *"Lesbians/Gays in AA: Being a Part of AA as a Whole"*
- 1 p.m.** AA Workshop. *"Lesbians/Gays in AA: Focus on our Primary Purpose"*
- 8 p.m.** Old-timers AA Meeting. Alamodome.
- 10 p.m.** AA Meeting. IAC Hospitality Suite.

Sunday, July 4

- 7 – 9 a.m.** IAC Hospitality Suite open.
- 9 – 11 a.m.** Closing Big AA Meeting in the Alamodome.

The IAC Hospitality Suite

is located at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel, 420 W. Market

Located in a first-class hotel overlooking the Riverwalk, our suite is in the Hidalgo Ballroom at the top of the Grand Stairway. Everyone is welcome to visit and enjoy the experience of being together. IAC volunteers are eager to be your hosts as we share the AA birthday celebration.

Hospitality Suite Activities

- Gratitude meeting on Thursday night.
- Early-bird coffee time for those up with the sun.
- Maps to mark the location of your home group.
- Breakout room for “quieter” chats.
- Beverages and snacks available for sale by the hotel.
- Decorate convention badges with glitter, stickers and “bling”.
- Message board to find your friends.
- View the river boats and all the sober alcoholics.
- Bring your own coffee and enjoy the air-conditioning.
- Make new friends from other places, or from your home town.
- Relax over board games.
- Late night “wind-down” meetings on Friday & Saturday at 10 p.m.
- Temporary sponsors.
- Bring fliers about hometown AA Roundups and AA group events.
- Pick-up information about upcoming AA events.
- Sign-up to be a part of IAC.
- Check-out the list of special restaurants and places to visit.
- Enjoy the flowers.
- No charge to visit the suite, however we do need to be self-supporting. *Donations are needed and appreciated.*

IAC Dance at La Villita

401 Villita - off of S. Presa (Between W. Market and Nueva)

The IAC dance venue is a round building with two levels—a stage and a patio overlooking the river. We will be the only activity in the building. It is a casual setting with lots of room to dance, visit, relax, and have fun. Please come for a while or stay until lights out. Savor the fellowship as we celebrate sober living.

- Dance in the main Ballroom amidst the light show.
- Enjoy quiet conversation and relax in the salon. (lower level)
- Sit on the patio overlooking the riverwalk. Enjoy the Texas sky.
- Watch in awe as the theater event tells our story in AA.
- Explore the quaint shops and local color of La Villita.
- Unwind after a busy opening day and the experience of the opening ceremony.
- Meet new people from around the world.
- Beverages and snacks available for sale by IAC.

- Sit back and enjoy the air-conditioning.
- No admission charge to attend this event, however we do need to be self-supporting.
- *Donations are needed and encouraged.*

Volunteer Options at IAC Events

Alcoholics Anonymous recruited thousands of volunteers to serve at the convention. Those volunteers will greet attendees at airports and on the streets of San Antonio. In addition, IAC is recruiting volunteers to work at the two social events for the lesbian and gay members of AA. These include the Hospitality Suite which is open most of the weekend except during the big AA meetings.

Please look at the jobs below and sign up to be a special part of the convention activity. When you sign-up, you will receive details and a team lead will contact you. If you are able to consider being a Team Captain, let us know. It will help if everyone brings a cell phone to keep in touch. If you wish to volunteer as a group at the same time, let us know. If you have special talents and want to discuss how best to use them, contact us.

TO VOLUNTEER:

Contact us at: www.iac2010volunteers.org

Volunteer at the HOSPITALITY SUITE:

Set-up Team. Thursday, July 1 (Noon–4 p.m.)

Decorate, unload supplies, arrange displays, put up signs and have lots of fun. Will need some cars to transport items to hotel. Bring energy, creativity and humor.

Archives Team. Help design and set-up an archives display about the history of IAC and the gay women and men in AA. Help to solicit and collect materials, copy originals, prepare items for display, monitor materials during convention and return all original materials. Bring your love of AA history and gratitude for those who were here before us.

Greeter Team. Welcome visitors and provide information and directions as needed. Help set the tone for fellowship and fun. Some people will be alone at the convention having traveled from distant places. Share the gay AA fellowship. Bring your cheerful, kind and grateful self.

Temporary Sponsor Team. Talk by phone or in person to someone who is overwhelmed and may need a little AA chat. Share experience, strength and hope. Need a few folks onsite at the IAC dance.

Translation Team. The AA convention provides translators for the major meetings and workshops. This specific IAC team would be available by phone or in person to the gay/lesbian attendees

who may need some help in their own language. Provide information and offer a friendly chat. Some of the languages we know will be represented include Greek, Japanese, Portuguese, Sign, French, Italian, Spanish, German, etc. Need a few folks to be available by phone during the dance.

First Aid Team. Handle non-emergency medical concerns at the Hospitality Suite and Dance. We want folks to have fun but we know that things will happen. Critical care needs will be handled by ambulance service. There will be an ambulance on stand-by at the dance, as required by the facility. We need people with healthcare experience.

Break Down Team. Sadly, there will be an end to the convention. Take-down, pick-up and pack our things to be taken to waiting cars/trucks. Some decorations can be souvenirs. Sunday morning after the meeting. (Alamodome meeting.) (About 11 a.m.)

Volunteer at the IAC DANCE:

(Friday, July 2-10 p.m.-2 a.m.)

Set-Up Team. Decorate, lay out tables, haul ice, prepare the stage, set out refreshments, prepare drink stations and have fun. Afternoon of Friday, July 2.

Greeters Team. Welcome visitors to the dance and direct them to the dance hall, lounge area, patio and refreshments. One hour shifts beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Host Team. Serve beverages and snacks. Staff the kitchen area and drink stations. Assist with trash pick-up. One hour shifts beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Last-Call Team. Take down the dance site. Pack items for transfer to waiting trucks. Re-cycle materials. General pick-up prior to the arrival of the cleaning service.

WHAT DO I PACK?

- Light-weight, casual clothing only. It will be hot!
- Sweater or jacket for indoor air-conditioning.
- You might want to bring a hat and/or suntan lotion to limit sun exposure
- Very, very comfortable shoes or sandals.
- Water bottle.
- Light-weight knapsack.
- Flyers about your upcoming AA roundups, events. These can be posted or distributed at the Hospitality Suite and Dance.
- Tee shirts or buttons celebrating your AA home group or Roundup
- Cell phone so you can find your friends.

SO, WHO IS COMING?

Our most recent information tells us that there are about 68,000 registrants for the entire convention. So far, IAC has seen information that indicates that the gay and lesbian AA community will be represented by folks from: Missouri, New York, Illinois, North Carolina, Washington, South Carolina, Massachusetts, California, Delaware, Oregon, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, Florida, Hawaii, Michigan, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Colorado, Georgia, Texas, and Pennsylvania. *And* from Mexico, South Africa, Canada, Scotland, and Japan! Who else?

the IAC website!

"Trudging the Road"

Nothing has been as painful for the IAC Executive Committee as the journey of the website over the last two years. With a new website plan in 2007, it looked like we were going to enter a new chapter and for awhile that did happen. Troubles began and we thought that it was only a glitch or two; then there were more problems, but we minimized how serious they were and later we realized that we did not understand the technology. If we knew then what we learned later, we would have acted more quickly.

Our website went from rebirth to flat line. It was hijacked and held hostage. When released, it no longer served our community. It has been an anguishing struggle for your committee.

We accept and appreciate your criticisms because it kept us going when it seemed like too much. We are grateful for those who educated us, held our hands, reminded us of the spiritual aspects of our program and told us that there would be a solution. We thank you for your patience and ask you to hang on a little longer. There is hope and there is a plan underway. The new website is gearing up and will be viable soon. The initial priorities will be:

- Accurate and easy to use listings of meetings, roundups and representatives.
- Smooth, simple way to change information about meetings and roundups.
- Email component so you can reach us directly.
- Flexibility to post information for you in a timely fashion.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact us at iac2010@sbcglobal.net.

Once over this giant hurdle and the work for the International Convention events, we look forward to serving you in many other areas. Suggestions, comments and solutions are welcome.

Sincerely in fellowship,
The IAC Executive Committee

IAC Representatives—Community Volunteers

Local representatives are the cornerstone of the IAC message—to reach the gay/lesbian alcoholic who is in need. The “reps” collect information from their city, state, or region to share with IAC. In turn, IAC shares with the gay and lesbian AA community through the representatives. The reps serve on IAC committees with members of the Executive Committee to meet the needs of our AA community. In a recent inventory of representatives, there are open positions. If you would like to be a representative or if you would like to talk with a representative in your area, please contact us at iac2010@sbcglobal.net.

Representatives are needed from the following states. Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Washington, DC, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Regional Representatives include these great folks with two vacant positions.

Region	Representatives	Homebase
East / Central US	Eileen S	Joliet, ILL
Eastern Canada	Cheryl M	Toronto, ON
Northeast US	Yvonne M	Elmhurst, NY
Pacific US	Scott S	Phoenix, AZ
Southeast US	Doug H	Charlotte, NC
Western Canada	Stephen F	Vancouver, B.C.
Southwest US	VACANT	
West / Central US	VACANT	

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. It needs some help from everyone. Finances are tight so let's get some new subscriptions for our AA Grapevine.

Widely known as a “meeting in print,” the AA Grapevine communicates the experience, strength, and hope of its contributors and reflects the broad geographic spectrum of AA experience. 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.

With its diverse articles, the Grapevine reflects the broad experience brought to recovery by each individual, 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.

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.

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.

IAC 2010 Executive Committee

Chairperson: Lynn W (Houston, TX)
Deputy Chairperson: Fred S (Missouri/Florida)
Secretary: Kevin W-S (Houston, TX)
Treasurer: Geoff M (San Antonio, TX)
Advisor: Mike N (Big Falls, Wisconsin)
Advisor: Gary C (Royal Oak, Michigan)
Advisor: Vacant (*Candidates welcome!*)
Past Chairperson: Hebert G (Providence, RI)

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/clubs). The maximum donation by an individual is \$3,000.

IAC Treasurer's Report

Date: March 31, 2010 • Balance: \$18,772.14
Within the balance are Restricted Funds for the International Convention in the amount of \$5,166.46.

Editorial Policy.

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

Contact us online:

www.iac-aa.org (soon to be available)
Email: iac2010@sbcglobal.com
NING. <http://iac-aa.NING.com>

2010 Convention IAC Volunteering:
www.iac2010volunteers.org

Contact us by mail:

9226 Barr Circle • Houston, TX 77080

NING. The 2010 IAC International AA Convention social network is anonymous — no last names; no photos. If you are asked for any identifying information, it is *not* IAC. NING is link to information and communication about IAC and the convention.

<http://iac-aa.NING.com>



International Advisory Council
for Homosexual Men and Women In Alcoholics Anonymous