

Things to do...

...at the IAC Hospitality Suite:

- Mark the location of your home group on the map.
- Visit the “quieter” Madero Room.
- Meet a new friend. Say “Hello.”
- Check the message board to find your friends.
- Wind-down at the late meetings.
- Visit the “Information Table” to volunteer.
- Ask about language translation assistance.
- Seek a temporary sponsor.
- Learn about IAC.
- List your home group and roundup for the new IAC Website.
- Sign-up to be a part of IAC into the future.
- Sit and chat in the Carranza Room.
- Pick-up information about area events.
- Decorate your convention badge.
- Share in the fellowship and gratitude of sobriety.
- Stop by the archives table.
- Subscribe to the AA Grapevine.
- Help with “decoration take-down” on Saturday night at 11p.m.
- Take a moment to thank the Texas hosts and all the volunteers for their hard work.

...at the La Villita Dance:

- Celebrate the first day of the convention.
- Dance amid the light show.
- See our history in the theater event.
- Watch the river from the patio.
- Enjoy drinks and snacks for sale by IAC.
- Visit the salon to chat and listen to the “oldies” music.
- Shop in the quaint shops.
- Bask in air-conditioning.
- Hug a volunteer and say, “Thank You.”
- Meet five new people from other cities, states, and countries.
- Check-in and sign-on to volunteer.
- Join the “Last-Call, Clean-Up, and Recycle” Team. (2-4 a.m.)

AA Workshops of Special Interest to Lesbians and Gay Men

Friday, 9:30 a.m. – AA Workshop: “Lesbians/Gays in AA: Gay Alcoholic or Alcoholic Who Happens to be Gay”

Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – AA Workshop: “Lesbians/Gays in AA: Being a Part of AA as a Whole”.

Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – AA Workshop: “Lesbians/Gays in AA: Focus on our Primary Purpose”.

(See the final AA program to confirm times and locations).

Money and Spirituality

It is with gratitude that we thank *all* of the AA members, groups, and roundups that have contributed financially during the past years. In keeping with AA traditions, both IAC events are self-supporting through contributions of the attendees. By group conscience, IAC chose not to charge admission for the dance and shall rely on the principle of self-support.

Donations will be welcomed while you visit the IAC Hospitality Suite during the course of the weekend.

With help of GSO contacts, we were able to obtain a wonderful venue for the dance at a terrific rate which was far below the going rate at hotels or other locations. Because of this, there will be no tickets sold for the dance.

All expenses for the dance thus far have been monitored closely. Your donations at the door will be greatly appreciated and needed.

After all is said and done, final numbers with full disclosure of the weekend event expenses will be available.

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

Available in our next issue following the 2010 International Conference.

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

Email: iac2010@sbcglobal.com

Contact us by mail:
9226 Barr Circle • Houston, TX 77080



International Advisory Council
for Homosexual Men and Women In Alcoholics Anonymous

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous



International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women In Alcoholics Anonymous

July 2010

With gratitude, We are here!

*Alcoholics Anonymous is 75 years old,
and we are sober and celebrating!*

AA Convention Events

There are workshops, meetings, hospitality suites, and dances. Please see the convention program for a listing of all events. Alcoholics Anonymous invited IAC to host a hospitality suite and dance as part of the convention. The sober gay men and lesbians of Texas are delighted to host these activities. The IAC Hospitality Suite and the La Villita Dance are of special interest to lesbians and gay men. In the spirit of fellowship, *we welcome all convention attendees* to join us. Invite all your sober friends to meet, greet and dance with us.

ANONYMITY IN PRACTICE

Anonymity is the unique and powerful principle at the heart of our program and is the greatest safeguard that AA can ever have. Out of respect for others, photographs ought not to be taken during any of the meetings, at the IAC Hospitality Suite, or at the La Villita Dance. We ask that photos be restricted to the room/decorations. Please respect the anonymity of others so people seeking recovery will know that we honor our own anonymity. Photos ought not disclose the faces of attendees. *Thank you.*

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 IAC Hospitality Suite

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 Schedule Highlights

Thursday, July 1

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 4 p.m. – 12 Midnight | IAC Hospitality Suite Open. W |
| 7 p.m. | AA Party in the Park.
Entertainment, dance and fun for everyone. |
| 8 p.m. | Gratitude Meeting. Chaired by San Antonio. W |

Friday, July 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 7 a.m. – 12 Midnight | IAC Hospitality Suite open. W
(Closes for the Opening AA Meeting at the Alamodome) |
| 8 p.m. | Flag Ceremony and Opening AA Meeting. (Alamodome) |
| 9:30 p.m. – 2 a.m. | IAC Dance and Fellowship. LV |
| 10 p.m. | “The Joy of Living” – A theater presentation about the history of gay people in AA. Delightful, touching, humorous, and grounded in true history. LV |
| 10 p.m. | AA Meeting. Chaired by Austin. W |

Saturday, July 3

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 7 a.m. – 12 Midnight | IAC Hospitality Suite open. W
(Closes during the 8:00 Old Timers Meeting) |
| 8 p.m. | Old-timers AA Meeting. (Alamodome) |
| 10 p.m. | AA Meeting. Chaired by Dallas. W |

Sunday, July 4

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 7 – 9 a.m. | IAC Hospitality Suite open. W
Share morning coffee and fellowship. |
| 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. | Big AA Closing Meeting in the Alamodome.
(IAC Hospitality Suite closes for this farewell meeting.) |

Locations: AA will provide maps of downtown San Antonio.

- W** IAC Hospitality Suite in the Hidalgo Ballroom.
Westin Riverwalk Hotel, 420 West Market St.
- LV** La Villita. 401 Villita. Walk on West Market St. to the corner of S. Presa. La Villita is located between the Convention Center and the Westin Riverwalk Hotel. At the corner of Market and Presa, the street sign will tell you the direction to turn. The dance site is two small blocks south of Market at the corner of Presa and Nueva. The big round building!

IAC Service Work: Positions Available

IAC has many volunteer positions available.

Please stop by the IAC Table to learn more or contact us by email at: iac201@sbcglobal.net

REPRESENTATIVES: Local community representatives are the cornerstone of the IAC message to reach the gay/lesbian alcoholic in need. Representatives share information between their city, state, region or country and IAC. The representatives participate in IAC committees with members of the Executive Committee to meet the needs of our AA community.

WEBSITE POSITIONS

Web Editor: Oversee general update information.

Roundup Editor: Manage roundup information.

Group/Meeting List Editor: Manage meeting information.

Email List Editor: Manage listing of members, volunteers, those interested in IAC.

NEWSLETTER POSITIONS:

Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Feature Writers

Newsletter Column Writers

Newsletter Graphic Designer

ROUNDUP LIAISONS: Individuals with each roundup to work with IAC on joint projects.

SERVICE WORK: COMMITTEES

Committee Members are needed to serve with the Executive Committee in an IAC inventory. With a thirty-year history, it is time to pause in today; take time to look back and look forward. What is needed, how shall we do it. What needs to be reassessed in the light of new technology?

Are there new areas or neglected areas needing our attention. We welcome thought, suggestion, discussion and helpful criticism. These will be time limited, work groups and may evolve into permanent committees as determined by the participants.

IAC Newsletter Committee: Help to identify a new vision, clarity of purpose and working steps to move forward.

Roundup Committee: How does IAC cooperate with roundups? How can we serve roundups?

IAC Representatives Committee: Is the current system working effectively? Why? What might we do differently? Do we need a special web-based method of communication? What does the job description need to include?

Loners and Tape Library Committee: In the early days, these services of IAC were managed by letter, phone and roundup tapes to meet the needs of alcoholics in more isolated settings and those unable to be in larger cities. Is this still a viable need and how best can we meet it?

Literature Committee: Review the IAC materials and consider content, modifications, formatting.

Archives Committee: We are losing our own history. As committee members change and the internet became a part of our world, we are not as attentive to keeping our archives. Help review this situation and set goals for preservation of the history of IAC, groups, roundups, etc.

SERVICE WORK: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Adviser Position #3:

Requires time, energy, commitment and tolerance. Help IAC move into its next phase of development. Please visit the IAC table for details.

The current Executive Committee serves until 12/31/11. New elections will be held for all positions to begin serving on 1/1/12.

The AA Responsibility Pledge:

"I am responsible ... When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

OUR LEGACY IN THE WRITTEN WORD

1980 New Orleans AA Convention (Howard H, England)

"Before this high from the convention wears off, I want to express my thanks for the wonderful warm hospitality center. I received much inspiration from those late night and early morning meetings. Here is one statement that I loved,

"I didn't come out of one closet just to get into a slightly bigger one."

1980 New Orleans AA Convention. (Roger, California)

"(Thanks to hospitality suite) for putting the icing on the cake. My deep gratitude and appreciation for your efforts."

1980 New Orleans AA Convention.

(Randi, Sales Representative for the hotel)

"What can I say? I can't ever remember working with a group I've enjoyed more. It's almost as if you came to New Orleans to make me happy instead of for your AA meeting. You are really a delightful crew."

1993 Israel. (Itzak)

"We opened for the first time in Israel a group of twelve steps for gay and lesbian. I appreciate if we can get some help and advice from you (IAC)"

1987 AA Grapevine - August. (J.H., Oklahoma)

*"So, thank you—thank you 'beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, queers, plain crackpots and fallen women.'"**

(*As written in the Twelve and Twelve - page 140)

1989 AA Grapevine - April. (B.J, New Hampshire)

"Gay meetings have their place and help a great many people get started in the program, but I strongly recommend breaking the mold by becoming a whole person, by being open, kind, and honest everywhere. Have integrity. If people don't like that, then they have the problem, not us. Don't be turned off by the bigot (and) don't forget why you are at the meeting—to stay sober. And the bigot is there for the same reason"

1976 AA Grapevine - February. (K.L., California)

"I hold my head up with respect and love for myself. I was a hard-nosed butch who had not just a chip, but a whole tree of hate on her shoulder. I have mellowed. Here I am, you straights. Let me love and understand you so I can love and understand me, so we can love and understand each other."

1976 AA Grapevine- September (B.L, New York)

A jailbird, mental case, narcotics addict, homosexual and alcoholic—the old fellow said he was all of these.

After talking with him for about an hour in New York's old 41st street clubhouse, some fellow members and I agreed with him. The problem was: Did he belong in AA?

He was sarcastic, arrogant and vulgar, and needed a bath. We decided to ask the longest-sober AA we knew. He was silent for a while before saying *"Well, did you say that in addition to all these other things, the guy is a drunk?"* Oh yes, we assured him, no doubt of that. Silence again. *"If he's a drunk", the old timer finally drawled, "I suppose that's all we can ask."*

(Event took place in 1945 when AA was ten years old).

1976. The Gay Groups of Washington, DC and Princeton, NJ were given permission to use the AA Preamble and the Twelve Steps in a the booklet entitled "The Homosexual Alcoholic", a precursor to the AA publication which came later.

1991. Letter to IAC. (Uli, Germany)

"Our group has been existing now for three years and we made several attempts to become listed in the local meeting directory. Berlin does not accept a meeting being listed as 'gay'. I sometimes feel lost in the rigidity of German AA. (Have) others groups in other cities had similar experiences, and how do they handle it apart from saying the Serenity Prayer"