

2020 International Convention Frequently Asked Questions

In a little less than two years — July 2-5, 2020 — the International Convention will celebrate A.A.'s 85th Anniversary in Detroit, Michigan. With a theme of "Love and Tolerance Is Our Code," A.A.s from around the world will converge on Detroit to celebrate sobriety and to share experience, strength and hope in meetings, panels and workshops at the COBO Center, the Ford Field stadium and at other locations throughout the friendly city. Members of the Fellowship are now gearing up for this wonderful event, and the General Service Office is beginning to receive inquiries. So here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding the Convention.



Registration

- Q** *When will registration forms be available?*
A Registration forms will be mailed in August 2019 to all G.S.R.s, central offices, intergroups and international G.S.O.s. Online registration will be available in September 2019.
- Q** *Will I be able to register online?*
A Yes. There will be links to registration on G.S.O.'s A.A. website, www.aa.org.
- Q** *What about on-site registration?*
A On-site registration will be set up at the COBO Center and will open on Wednesday morning, July 1, 2020.
- Q** *Must everyone register? I thought I didn't have to pay to go to an A.A. event.*
A Yes. Everyone must register. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary, and, as responsible A.A. members, "we pay our own way." The International Convention is paid for by those A.A.s who participate in it.
- Q** *How much will registration cost?*
A Registration fees will be established in 2019. Our objective is to keep registration as accessible as possible. For recent International Conventions, the registration was around \$100 for this special self-supporting event.
- Q** *Can travel agents register groups or individuals?*
A No. Payments from travel agencies to register groups or individuals will not be accepted.

Housing

- Q** *When can I reserve my hotel room?*
A Once you have registered for the Convention, you will be able to sign up for housing.

- Q** *Where are the main hotels?*
A Our Convention hotel block of over 10,000 rooms will be in five main areas, four in Michigan — downtown Detroit, Dearborn, Southfield and Romulus/Airport — and one just across the Canadian border, in Windsor, Ontario. Of those 10,000 rooms, only 3,000 are in downtown Detroit and within walking distance of the COBO Center and the Ford Field Stadium.
- Q** *Can members contact hotels directly?*
A No. To make the process as fair as possible, all housing requests will be processed through the Convention Housing Bureau.
- Q** *Can travel agents make room reservations?*
A Room reservations can only be made in an individual's name. Rooms available through the Housing Bureau, at specially negotiated Convention rates, are not commissionable to travel agents.
- Q** *Can we request a room in the same hotel with friends?*
A Yes. You can reserve more than one room through the housing process as long as your friends have registered for the Convention. You will need to provide their name(s) and be prepared to pay additional deposits.
- Q** *If 50 of us are coming together from the same area, can we be in the same hotel?*
A We do make an effort to accommodate group housing requests. There is a separate procedure for this so we can ensure fairness while still trying to meet your needs. For information on this procedure, please contact the International Convention coordinator at G.S.O. at 2020IC@aa.org.

Transportation

Q Will local transportation be available?

A All members in housing blocked for this event will be provided with shuttle buses for a less-than-45-minute ride to the COBO Center and the Ford Field stadium. Some members will be within walking distance of the meeting venues.

Q What about special airline rates?

A As at other International Conventions, there will be special fares available. That information will be available with the August 2019 registration information mailing and on the International Convention Website.

Q Where can I find information about crossing the border into the U.S. for this event?

A For accurate, specific and up-to-date information about visas and travel into the U.S., visit the United States Department of State website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>.

If you are coming from abroad, you may need a visa. Most Canadian citizens and many citizens of countries in the United States Visa Waiver Program (VWP) do not need a visa. However, you will need a machine-readable passport valid for at least 90 days past your date of departure. The VWP countries are: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

If you do not come from a VWP country, you must obtain a nonimmigrant visa. Plan ahead; it may take six (6) months to receive a nonimmigrant visa, depending on the demand in your country.

Please note, some of our available hotels are located in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Therefore, attendees staying in Windsor will be crossing the international border at least twice a day, when coming into Detroit and when departing. While this is handled routinely, it will require you to carry your passport at all times.

Q Where do I obtain more information about the 2020 International Convention?

A More information will be available throughout 2019 and 2020 in Box 4-5-9 and on G.S.O.'s website, www.aa.org (you can use the QR code below). All necessary information will be included in the registration packet, which will be available August 2019. G.S.O.'s website will be updated as more information becomes available.



We hope to see you in Detroit to celebrate the 85th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Vacancy for Appointed Committee Member on Trustees' Literature Committee

The trustees' Literature Committee has an opening for an appointed committee member (A.C.M.). We are searching for an appropriate individual to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations.

Some of the qualities most desirable for this appointed committee member opening are:

- Expertise in and/or familiarity with the use of current technology and communications tools.
- Availability for meetings of this trustees' committee held during General Service Board weekends (usually the last weekend in January, July and October), as well as one meeting during the annual General Service Conference. Available time for participation in subcommittees of the trustees' committee, as appointed.
- At least five years of continuous sobriety.
- The ability to work within the committee structure.
- Experience in A.A. service, and in carrying the message to the Spanish-speaking alcoholic (bilingual preferred).

In seeking applications for all vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons that reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. To obtain a résumé form for this opening, please call the Literature desk at G.S.O. (212) 870-3019, or email literature@aa.org. Résumés should be returned to the General Service Office by November 2, 2018.

Friends Forever

At the 2018 International Convention of Al-Anon Family Groups, held in Baltimore, MD, July 6-8, Al-Anon's Board of Trustees presented Alcoholics Anonymous with a proclamation reaffirming the special bond between A.A. and Al-Anon, along with a gift copy of their commemorative book *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon: 50th Anniversary*. As noted in the proclamation, "Whereas the Al-Anon fellowship has its roots in the lifesaving program of Alcoholics Anonymous, a similar and yet separate fellowship, and whereas Alcoholics Anonymous has carved a spiritual path of living 'One Day at a Time' for Al-Anon Family Groups, and whereas the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups wishes to reaffirm the special relationship of cooperation that exists between Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous, therefore, be it resolved that the 2018 International Convention of Al-Anon Family Groups gratefully acknowledges the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon's ally and friend..."

The proclamation and the book were gratefully received and are currently on view in G.S.O.'s Archives.

