

**“A Vision for You”**  
**2010 International Convention**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

*(provided by the International Convention desk @ AAWS, February 24, 2009)*

***Registration, Hotels, Transportation, and Volunteering***

The 2010 International Convention will celebrate A.A.'s 75th Anniversary, July 1-4, in San Antonio, Texas. Members of the Fellowship, as always, 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.

More information will be available throughout 2009 and 2010 in *Box 4-5-9* and on G.S.O.'s Web site, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). The Web site will be updated as more information becomes available. All necessary information will be included in the registration packet, which will be mailed in August. This packet will also provide Web sites and special telephone numbers to consult for answers to specific questions about housing, the meeting program, tours, etc.

**Registration**

**Q** When will registration forms be available?

**A** Registration forms and housing information will be mailed in August of 2009 to all G.S.R.s, Central Offices and Intergroups and international G.S.O.s.

**Q** What about on-site registration?

**A** On-site registration will be set up in the Convention Center. Registration will open on Wednesday morning, June 30, 2010.

**Q** Will I be able to register over the Internet?

**A** Yes. There will be links to forms for registration and to sign up for housing from the A.A. G.S.O. Web site.

**Q** How much will registration cost?

**A** Registration fees will be established this year.

**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** Can travel agents register groups or individuals?

**A** Payments from travel agencies to register groups will not be accepted. Individuals must register themselves.

## Housing

**Q** When can I reserve my hotel room?

**A** Once you have registered, you will be able to sign up for housing.

**Q** What are the main hotels?

**A** The headquarter hotels will be within walking distance of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and the Alamodome and are yet to be determined.

**Q** Can members contact hotels directly?

**A** No. To make the process as fair as possible, all housing requests will be processed through the official Housing Bureau.

**Q** Will there be a hotel room lottery?

**A** No. Because of the large number of hotel rooms available in the downtown core of San Antonio, we will not have a hotel room lottery system for this Convention. This means that rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. In September you can reserve a room electronically or by paper concurrent with registration, and you will know where you are staying when you have completed the housing process.

**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 to ensure fairness while trying to meet your needs. Contact the G.S.O. International Convention Coordinator, in June 2010.

**Q** Can travel agents make room reservations?

**A** Room reservations can only be made in individual people's names. Rooms available through the Housing Bureau, at specially negotiated Convention rates, are not commissionable to travel agents.

## Transportation

**Q** Will local transportation be available?

**A** Of the 10,000 rooms A.A. has in its block, nearly 8,000 rooms are in downtown San Antonio, so many members will be within walking distance or a short ride on public transportation from their accommodations. There will also be a shuttle system in place for Convention attendees. All housing blocked for this event is less than a 30-minute ride from the Convention Center and Stadium.

**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 2009 registration information mailing.

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

**A** If you are coming from abroad you may need a visa. For specific, accurate and up-to-date information about visas and travel to the U.S., visit the United States Department of State Web site [www.travel.state.gov/visa/visa\\_1750.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html). The site shares that 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, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

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

### Volunteering

**Q** How can I volunteer to help at the Convention?

**A** It has been said that International Convention volunteers are like greeters at an A.A. meeting room door, except they are greeting 50,000 people. This wonderful event will need a host committee of 3,000 to 4,000 volunteers to welcome members from around the globe.

That being said, at this point there is very little activity for volunteers. The structure of the local host committee is being put in place. In January of 2010, we will hold a volunteer kickoff event in San Antonio to begin gathering names of A.A. members interested in volunteering. Please keep tuned to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) for future bulletins.

**We hope to see you in San Antonio  
to celebrate 75 years of carrying  
the message of Alcoholics Anonymous!**