

**2020 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention  
“Love and Tolerance is Our Code”**

**Please direct all  
communications to:**

Grand Central Station,  
P.O. Box 459,  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

February 26, 2019

To: Intergroups and Central Offices, U.S./Canada  
From: Julio Espallat, 2020 International Convention Coordinator  
Re: Preliminary Information on 2020 International Convention

---

Warm greetings from the General Service Office, U.S./Canada!

I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and interest already being expressed for information about the 2020 International Convention to be held July 2-5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan.

We expect several thousand local A.A. members to greet A.A. members as we come together to experience A.A.'s 85th anniversary year. Gathering together in Detroit will be a wonderful opportunity to rededicate ourselves to carrying A.A.'s message of recovery.

I am sure you will be asked questions about 2020 and the enclosed information will help you respond. Please feel free to duplicate and distribute this information at service meetings, conventions, roundups and other A.A. events.

Convention registration is scheduled to open on September 9, 2019. You will receive housing and registration forms in August. In the meantime, here's a suggestion that may help to ease communications and assist members in receiving up-to-date information about the 2020 International Convention—consider linking from your website to our 2020 International Convention section on our Web site at: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). Additional information will be posted in this section from time to time, and in September 2019 a link to online Convention registration and housing will be added.

Additionally, a video/flyer invitation for the 2020 International A.A. Convention will be available for viewing and download on the International Convention page of G.S.O.'s website after March 1st. The video/flyer is available in three different time-lengths for ease of viewing and sharing (1 minute 45 seconds, 45 seconds and 20 seconds). Please take a look and pass it on!

If you have any questions, I would be delighted to speak with you. My direct line is (212) 870-2020 and my e-mail address is [2020ic@aa.org](mailto:2020ic@aa.org). Many thanks for conveying this early information to the Fellowship!

Enclosure: Frequently Asked Questions – Registration, Housing and Transportation (English, French and Spanish)

## 2020 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention “Love and Tolerance is Our Code”

### 2020 International Convention Frequently Asked Questions Registration, Housing, and Transportation

In 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 September 9, 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](http://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** Advanced registration for the convention between September 9, 2019 and April 14, 2020 will be \$115.00 (USD) per attendee. Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00 (USD) per attendee

**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](mailto: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](http://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.**