

"Why Must We Pay to Attend?"

Most associations hold regular conferences or conventions. In AA, a convention is an important opportunity to share the AA experience in a broad way.

There are many AA conventions held around the world. One of the most common misconceptions about these gatherings is that they are AA meetings, and since "There are no dues or fees for AA membership" there should be no fees to attend. Conferences and conventions are special events, not regular meetings. They require months of planning, preparations, and money to present. Since most events are held at hotels or convention centers, there is a charge for the use of the facilities. Along with the facility charge, the hotel or convention center will require that the committee purchase coffee and food. Other expenses include travel and lodging for convention speakers, printing of flyers and schedules, postage and supplies. A large event requires a substantial amount of money.

The convention is self-supporting. The cost of the convention is paid through the registration fees. The ideal goal for any committee in such an event is to break even. Therefore, the registration fee is nominal compared to a weekend's worth of entertainment anywhere else. Attendance is voluntary and as responsible AA members, "we pay **our own way**".