

New York South Assembly Area Discovery Convention

FACT SHEET

What is a Convention?

An Area convention is an occasion for Al-Anon and Alateen members to gather for fun and fellowship, to celebrate their beginnings, enhance their understanding of the program, and to find ways to attract new members.

The term "convention" refers to fun and fellowship events; the term "conference" usually is reserved for service and business events. (from Al-Anon Guidelines: Al-Anon Alateen Area Conventions G-20)

Who participates in an Area Convention?

Al-Anon members, Alateen members, family members, A.A. (Alcoholics Anonymous) members, anyone interested in Al-Anon. Attendees may come as day trippers, stay one night or both nights.

Meetings and workshops at Area Conventions are open. Anyone who feels they have been affected by a problem drinker may attend.

"Speakers keep the Al-Anon focus and maintain their anonymity regarding other twelve step programs." (from Al-Anon Guidelines: Al-Anon Alateen Area Conventions G-20)

Does A.A. (Alcoholics Anonymous) participate in an Al-Anon Convention?

If the Al-Anon committee has invited A.A. to participate, the A.A. Chairperson selected by A.A. is usually invited to attend planning sessions. Al-Anon provides A.A. with meeting space and guidelines for specific expenses (speakers, publicity, volunteer sign-up, etc.)." *(from Al-Anon Guidelines: Al-Anon Alateen Area Conventions G-20)*

Open A.A. meetings may be planned throughout a Convention weekend.

Open A.A. meetings welcome all those interested, including Al-Anon members, to attend and observe. Non- alcoholics should not participate in any A.A. meeting discussion unless specifically invited to do so.

(from Al-Anon Guidelines: Cooperation Between Al-Anon and A.A. G-3)

What is a Convention Committee?

The Convention Coordinator is elected at an Assembly for a one-year term and may be re-elected for a second one-year term.

The Coordinator is elected from among current or past active Group Representatives of the New York South Assembly Area who, according to the NYSA Guidelines, are not Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. *(from NYS Assembly Area Convention Committee Guidelines for "Discovery.")* The Coordinator must have attended at least one Discovery Convention.

The Convention Committee consists of the Chairpersons of all the subcommittees. Subcommittees usually "do the footwork." They then bring their recommendations to the full committee for consensus (except on matters where the scope of their authority is defined in advance). Cooperation with Area Coordinators such as Literature and Public Outreach increases committee effectiveness. Committee members should have a sound understanding of the Traditions and Concepts as well as the ability to work and cooperate with others." *(from Al-Anon Guidelines: Al-Anon Alateen Area Conventions G-20)*

What is Discovery?

Discovery is the spiritual theme of the New York South Assembly Area Convention. This spiritual theme is maintained for each Area Discovery Convention.

What are the purposes of the Area Discovery Convention?

1. to share experience, strength and hope in the spirit of fun and fellowship.
2. to help foster a spirit of cooperation, participation, and unity within the New York South Assembly Area.
3. to offer individual members the opportunity of experiencing Al-Anon/Alateen beyond the group and/or district level.

I would like to be included on the Discovery Convention e-mail list to receive information and updates about the Convention, registration, etc. E-mail addresses will be used by the Convention Committee to send announcements, save the date, registration information, etc. Your e-mail address will not be sold or used for any other purpose.

Email: nysDiscoveryConvention@gmail.com Subject: Discovery email list

Use the e-mail account you plan to have registered with the Discovery Convention.

Discovery Convention History

The first Discovery Convention for the NYSA Area (previously called Southern New York Assembly Area) was held in 1977 at Marymount College in Tarrytown, NY.

Since that time we have had 34 consecutive conventions, moving from a college site to the Tarrytown Marriott Hotel. Our last convention was held in July 2011.

The last few conventions, leading up to the July 2011 Convention had some fiscal challenges. In 2011 the Area, which assumes the ultimate financial responsibility for the event, was responsible for additional funds not previously planned for. As a result, the Area was pushed into a decision to limit spending at all levels in order to re-coup funds needed to continue.

The Area then made a decision to place the Discovery Convention on hold until a Thought Force could be established to review events, decisions, etc. and make recommendations for improving the administration of the Convention in all aspects.

The Discovery Thought Force was established and began their work in 2012. Eventually, the Discovery Task Force was established to follow up on the recommendations of the Thought Force.

The Discovery Task Force continued to meet and completed the following:

- revised the Discovery Convention Guidelines, including roles and responsibilities of Chairperson, Co-Chairperson and Sub-Committee Chairpersons;
- reviewed the past three Discovery Convention contracts to decipher, determine and establish key elements to be addressed and/or improved;
 - established credit card use for convention registration
 - developed a member survey to find out what members know about Discovery and what preferences they have
 - established a Discovery Convention e-mail address for communication with members
 - developed an email bank of members interested in receiving updates, registration info, etc.
 - developing a secure registration page on the Area website for convention registration
- developed a standard Site "Spec" Sheet that used with each site considered so comparisons could be easily made across the board
- identified two members of committee to visit potential sites for "specs" and bids
- reviewed bids from three potential sites for convention
- appointed a Discovery Convention Coordinator in order to be prepared when the Task Force was ready to move forward and selected a site and
- establish a Convention Committee

There is a Discovery Convention page on our Area website (www.al-anonny.org) that will be updated as necessary. Stay tuned for updates and information....

Members are encouraged to carry the message about Discovery..... it is the hope of the Discovery Task Force and its members that the "new" Discovery Convention will be well-attended, exciting and a weekend filled with fun, fellowship and recovery.

Looking forward to seeing you at the 35th Discovery Convention on July 8-10, 2016.

