

REGIONAL FORUMS

The purpose of Regional Forums is to meet a need in our ever-growing Fellowship and provide a special opportunity of direct communication and personal contact between AA members in a Region and service personnel such as Board members, Conference members and General Service Office staff wherever possible.

Program, location, format etc., are worked out jointly by the Regional Trustee, the Area Delegates and the General Service Office. The responsibility for making the physical arrangements is assumed by a host city contact working with the Regional Trustee and the General Service Office.

These forums are intended simply as a way of providing better communication between AA service workers and their General Service Board and General Service Office. They are really sharing sessions, and in no sense affect the role of the annual General Service Conference, which remains the decision-making body within AA. The forums air many feelings, voice many opinions, answer many questions and make many suggestions, but make no decisions. Naturally, ideas expressed at the forums can be presented to the General Service Conference for consideration.

At the General Service Conference, Delegates, staff members and Trustees have an opportunity for personal contact and a chance to clarify questions and share valuable experience. The purpose of Regional Forums is to provide – closer to home – similar direct contact and sharing among all who are active in, or interested in, service work of one kind or another.

If a Region wishes the attendance of staff or Board members at a forum, the General Service Board will pay up to two full fares per forum per Region per year, for any invited guest from any of the following categories, and will reimburse any reasonable out of pocket expenses that are backed by appropriate documentation:

- General Service Office staff member;
- International Delegate;
- Non-alcoholic Trustee;
- Other Regional or General Service Trustee.

Other invited guests are funded by the Forum Committee.

Conference recommends that guests invited to Regional Forums should actively participate relative to their service position.

Conference recommends that priority should be given to representatives of the General Service Structure to actively participate at Regional Forums.

From 2003 Regional Forums must be bid for by Areas two years in advance at the General Service Conference, with full approval from the Area concerned beforehand.

The program is flexible enough to be adjusted to any needs that may arise during the meeting. Generally the meeting will run from Friday evening until noon Sunday. The success of the forum depends upon participation – upon free and open sharing.

Please come prepared to share the questions that concern you and your Group, District or Area.

All AA members are welcome to attend and may obtain a registration/accommodation form from the host Region or General Service Office.