

Conference ~ Convention ~ Forum

Why is A.A.'s annual General Service Conference called a "conference"? Why is the annual Ohio State Convention named a 'convention'? Why is the East Central Regional Forum designated as a "forum"? What's the difference? Who cares?

In A.A. we all study the Big Book as we learn about our program and we all know how particular Bill W. was in choosing the correct words to describe the condition of struggling alcoholics trying to get sober. The more accurate the description, the more I could identify. Same way here. There are differences between these gatherings of alcoholics, and the name lets us know what they are.

A Conference is a formal, structured meeting, with a specialized audience, usually held over a period of days. A.A.'s 75th General Service Conference (GSC) was a week-long event, with Delegates from all 93 Areas in the US and Canada *invited* to attend, with the goal of reaching a decision on dozens of agenda items.

A Convention is a large meeting of people, designed to engage and entertain a broad audience with similar interests, often using workshops and panels. Certainly the 69th Ohio State Convention of A.A. fits this description. It will be held on August 8th – 10th in Toledo, with the theme "Attraction By Action". Plan to come and enjoy! Any A.A. member is invited!

A Forum is a space that allows for open discussion and debate where participants can share ideas and exchange views on a topic. It is more open-ended; more interactive. At the upcoming East Central Regional Forum members of the General Service Office, AAWS, and Grapevine come to us to answer questions or concerns we have. It will be held August 22nd-24th in Indianapolis. All A.A. members or anyone interested in A.A. are welcome to attend. Come and get to know the Trustees and staff who work so diligently for our beloved Fellowship!

So, in August come to the Convention, attend the Forum. Experience the difference, notice the similarities too, but *'feel'* what these events are like.

Service is where the fun starts!

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