

WELCOME TO ST. LOUIS!

**Gateway to a New Freedom
SA & S-Anon International
Conventions
July 13-15, 2018**



St. Louis, Missouri, is known as the *Gateway to the West*. The Gateway Arch symbolizes St. Louis' role as the primary gathering and embarkation point for thousands of pioneers on their way to build new lives. Those pioneers embraced the opportunity to strive for a new freedom on the western frontier.

We welcome all of you as we join together this weekend to continue our own journeys. May this convention help us to experience a ***new freedom*** as we, too, learn to embrace a new way of life.

Newcomers

We enthusiastically welcome all who are new to the SA, S-Anon, and S-Ateen fellowships. The folks at the Concierge Table can help you with any questions you have about break-out sessions, finding a temporary sponsor, etc. We encourage you to reach out and get to know other attendees. You are not alone.

SA Membership

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop lusting and become sexually sober. (SA Third Tradition)

S-Anon Membership

The relatives of sexaholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an S-Anon Family Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of sexaholism in a relative or friend. (S-Anon Third Tradition)

Anonymity

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." Please keep the names, stories, addresses, and phone numbers of anyone

you meet or learn about at this convention to yourself. This includes digital anonymity. Please refrain from using your mobile devices inside meetings, taking photos in any areas where members are gathered, and publishing anything on social media. **Please use the utmost caution in protecting fellow members' anonymity.**

All convention events are open only to registered members of the fellowship(s) specified for each meeting.

Children

Except for registered S-Ateen members, children and infants are not permitted to attend any convention meetings, events, or meals.

Cell Phones and Pagers

In consideration of other attendees, please silence your cell phones, pagers, and alarms during meetings and other convention gatherings.

Dress

We ask that all attendees dress in a respectful manner so as not to distract others.

Nametags

Please wear your nametag in all areas during the convention. For those who have purchased meals, these are also your meal tickets, and they will be checked upon entrance into the Grand Ballroom at meal times. When the convention is over, please remove your nametag from the clear plastic holder, detach the holder from the lanyard, and drop the **lanyard and holder** into their respective containers marked for this purpose in the Foyer.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed anywhere inside the hotel. If you want to smoke, please do so outside the building away from entry doors or pathways where others are passing.

Room

Most meeting rooms and meals are accessible from the Grand Ballroom Foyer where you registered. There are two exceptions:

- The **Gateway Ballroom** is accessible only from the hallway along the front of the hotel lobby.
- The **Lambert Fellowship Room** and **Soulard Board Room** are only accessible from the hotel lounge. Just go through the white double doors between the bar and the large wall-mounted wine cooler.

Saturday Night Entertainment

It wouldn't be the SA and S-Anon conventions without a **Variety Show!** We hope you enjoy this fun event. You will not only be entertained, you will get to experience the sometimes hidden talents of your fellow members. Acts may include singing, dancing, poetry, playing a musical

instrument, etc. If you wish to perform, you are required to attend the **rehearsal** Saturday afternoon in the Grand Ballroom. The purpose of the rehearsal is to screen out inappropriate sexual or religious content. No impromptu performances are allowed.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to all the wonderful Convention Committee members and volunteers! Your service and commitment made this weekend possible. And **THANK YOU** to all the attendees for your willingness to share your journeys with all of us!

Meditation Rooms

Conference Room 214 has been set aside as a quiet place for meditation or journaling during the convention. Please ensure silence by turning off your electronic devices.

Fellowship Room

Convention attendees are invited to visit the Fellowship Room, located in the Lambert Room. Here you can visit with other attendees and enjoy a variety of snacks and beverages.

Literature Sales

A variety of wonderful Conference-Approved Literature will be available for purchase at each fellowship's **Literature Table** in the Foyer. Sale hours will be posted at the Literature Tables.

Recording Sales

Mealtime speakers and breakout sessions in certain rooms will be recorded as indicated on your program schedule. **Lee's Tapes** will be selling these recordings at a table in the Foyer. If you fill out your order form before approaching the table, it will speed up the ordering process and reduce congestion.

Evaluation Forms

Your feedback is very important to us and future conventions, and we urge you to complete the **evaluation form** in your registration packet and return it when the conventions end. Specially marked containers will be placed in the **Foyer** for you to deposit your evaluation forms.

Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel Information

Please talk to the **hotel front desk** for any questions about your room or hotel services.

Parking in the Hilton lot is free to all convention participants. Get a pass at the Concierge Table. (If you lose your pass, use the intercom to call the desk and explain it to the person who answers, and you will be good to go.)

Volunteers

Service is a valuable component of recovery. If you didn't already sign up to volunteer, the chances are pretty good that we still could use your help. Check with the Volunteer Table.

Meals

Three meals are provided as an option with these conventions: Friday dinner and Saturday lunch and dinner. All meals are served in the Grand Ballroom. Access during meals is available only to those who purchased meals. No convention meal purchases are available on-site, but you can learn about local dining options at the Concierge Table or front desk.

We have forty minutes scheduled for each meal. Please arrive on time. Meal choices (e.g., standard, vegetarian, kosher) **may not be changed** from your original order. Please don't ask hotel staff or convention volunteers to change your order.

Those purchasing kosher meals will be seated together because of the special nature of the preparation and serving of kosher meals. If you purchased a kosher meal, please sit in the kosher section.

Food may **not** be brought into the Grand Ballroom during meals.

Seating for those who did not purchase convention meals will be available in the Grand Ballroom approximately 40 minutes after the start of each meal so they can hear announcements and general speakers.

Discounted breakfast coupons for the hotel restaurant are available to hotel guests at the front desk when checking in.

Seventh Tradition

A collection will be taken at each meal for one of the following: SA, S-Anon, or the SA Correctional Facilities Committee. You may use cash, check, or credit card.

Temporary Sponsors

Temporary convention sponsors are available if you need help navigating the convention, if you want someone with whom to check in periodically, or if you would like someone with whom to talk. Attendees who are willing to be temporary sponsors will have ribbons attached to their nametags. If you would like to be a temporary sponsor, please go to the Volunteer Table.

Concierge

If you have questions or need assistance during the conventions, please don't hesitate to ask at the Concierge Table. The Concierge volunteers will also have some tourist information.

Message Boards

Message boards for convention and personal communication are located in the Foyer. The Convention Message Board is for official convention information only. The Public Message Board is for group and individual postings. Please remove messages as they are resolved.

Program Schedules

The schedules of the SA and S-Anon/S-Ateen activities are printed on time grids. Please note the color-coding of the sessions on each grid. The key at the top of the grid indicates tracked sessions or sessions open to either fellowship (**green**). The room in which each session occurs is printed at the top of each schedule in a dark blue field. Rooms in which sessions will be **recorded** are noted below the room name or in the session box. A **map of the hotel meeting rooms** is included on the back cover of this booklet and on the back of each schedule. **If you are uncomfortable that a session you wish to attend is recorded or live-streamed, then it is suggested that you either do not share in the session or choose another session.**

Types of meetings:

1. **Audio live-streamed:** The bold yellow SA sessions will be broadcast (audio only) worldwide over the internet. These sessions will also be recorded.
2. **Sharing:** Most of the yellow SA sessions and most of the blue S-Anon sessions follow a standard format. First, one or two leaders will explain the topic and share a few minutes about how it applies to their own lives. They then will invite the attendees to share briefly likewise.
3. **SA Step Into Action:** Bring your book! In each session we will actively work the Step. There will be a brief explanation and sharing by the leaders, followed by time to write and share. We will not just talk about the Step; we will be working it. If you are stuck on a Step, it is a good way to get moving through the Steps with others. These meetings are highlighted in pale yellow on the SA schedule.
4. **Open:** These are open to anyone registered in either fellowship. They may be panel sharing or question and answer format. Open meetings are highlighted in green in both the SA and S-Anon schedules. A complete list of open meetings is printed on the back of each schedule.
5. **Question and Answer:** In Q & A sessions participants write their questions anonymously on index cards provided in the registration packets and deposit them in the appropriate containers in the **Foyer** in advance of the sessions (one for SA Q&A and another for S-Anon Q&A). The team of session leaders will then read through the questions, combine questions as appropriate, select a manageable number of questions for the time allowed, and address the questions from their own experience (not as experts).
6. **Panel Discussion:** A group with a common denominator (e.g., couples, old-timers) shares from that perspective and then takes questions from the participants in one of several formats.
7. **Tracks:** Some sessions this weekend are grouped by themes (tracks), such as **Steps**, **Traditions**, or **Concepts**. Tracked sessions are all printed in the same shade.

