

ISO NEWS

by the hosting group. In addition, experience hosting has had a very positive impact on the hosting groups, as evidenced by the response to our survey by former Convention Chairs. The complete results of the survey can be made available to you by contacting our committee at info@saa-recovery.org.

Former hosts have stated that the support provided by the ISO Office has been instrumental in the entire process of organizing the Convention. The ISO has certain requirements for hosting groups, but the Office can help with these activities. For example, the fundraising amount is not written in stone, so a committed group can get help if their fundraising efforts fall short. Also, the ISO can provide support for volunteer manpower during the Convention if needed. In addition, there is a lot of information from previous hosts that can be shared.

Opportunities for hosting conventions are available each Memorial Day Weekend, starting in 2018. We would ask that you share the information about this service project with your groups.

We appreciate your consideration.

In Service,

The Long Range Convention Planning Committee (LRPC).

Women's Outreach Subcommittee Seeks Proposals for Next Retreat

The Women's Outreach Sub Committee of the ISO of SAA is accepting proposals for a host group/city for a 5th International Women's Retreat in 2016 or 2017. Groups (meetings, Intergroups, members) wishing to plan and host this event will have the full support of the WOSC and our Women's retreat standing workgroup. Proposals should include contact information for at least two local hostesses who will be attending.

The retreat has been held at retreat centers/campgrounds where the cost is lower to encourage participation. It should be within reasonable driving distance of a major airport, with local members (men and women) providing transportation.

Retreat weekends usually include meetings, workshops, breakout sessions, activities offered by the venue, meditation room, and other fun activities. Host

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groups and committees are encouraged to create their own retreats as new ideas are always welcome.

The WOSC has a budget to help financially with startup expenses such as the site deposit. It is our intention that the retreat be self-supporting, thus freeing that budget for the following year's start-up expenses. We ask that the event not be in April or May. (Past retreats have been in March and September.)

Groups may express their interest by filling out the proposal form and sending it to the WOSC chair at genoutreach.wosc.chair@saa-recovery.org.

WOSC Women's Retreat Proposal

The WOSC thanks you for your expression of interest in serving as the local hostess for the SAA International Women's Retreat. The annual retreat is a fairly new tradition; we have sponsored four so far. The purpose of this communication is to share what we have learned so far from our experience and to ask for your ideas.

Historically, retreat registrations have been between 15-50 attendees. Because women travel from all over the world, they may spend significant money in travel. Therefore, the cost of the retreat itself needs to be quite minimal, in the \$75 - \$250 range. Previous retreats have all been held in established retreat centers within a 90-minute drive of a major airport. In each case, members of the local intergroup (either men or women) volunteered to drive out-of-town guests to the retreat location.

We avoid competing with the International Conference and Convention (so no April or May) and other major SAA retreats (many of which seem to happen in October). Previous years' retreats were scheduled in March or September, and we are open to other months as well. It's helpful to check in with the ISO to see when other regional events are scheduled.

The WOSC dedicates significant resources to this event each year. We have approximately \$3000 to serve as a deposit at the retreat center. We create a workgroup that meets as needed to approve the site and cost, publicize the event, handle registrations, and coordinate details with the retreat center. The workgroup members attend the event.

What is needed and expected from the local hostess? Several critical things: find the site, select the dates, request donations from local and neighboring intergroups, and provide local volunteers and attendees. Several (at least two) local members would need to attend the WOSC retreat workgroup meetings in free teleconferences.

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What is the next step? Please complete the attached sheet with as much detail as possible and return it to the chair of the WOSC at: genoutreach.wosc.chair@saa-recovery.org.

Again, thank you on behalf of the Women's Outreach Subcommittee.

WOSC Women's Retreat Proposal

Your name and contact information	
Possible Dates	
Nearest major airport (name and miles from event)	
Transportation to/from event location	
Rough estimate of registration cost	
Facility (large meetings space, breakout rooms, amenities, space limitations, etc.)	
Accommodations (max & min attendees, are these shared rooms, private rooms, prices, are linens included?)	
Eating arrangements (include prepared meals, kitchen, snacks, drinks, special dietary accommodations)	

Return to: genoutreach.wosc.chair@saa-recovery.org. Thank you.