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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 6, 2026

**To:** 2026 Regional Forum Volunteer Committee chairpersons

CC: 76th General Service Conference members

**From:** Gail P., Trustees' ICRF Committee Chair; Diana L., Regional Forums Coordinator

**Re:** Updates on 2026 Regional Forums Service Events

Dear A.A. Friends,

Thank you for your continued service to A.A. and generous contributions to the General Service Board. These funds help ensure that Regional Forums remain reachable across the eight service regions in the U.S. and Canada, helping us all stay connected: A.A. members, trusted servants, and newcomers to general service.

As you are aware, the General Service Board has been facing very difficult financial challenges, as have other entities throughout the U.S./Canada service structure. Given these challenges, rising costs associated with in-person Regional Forum (RF) events—and increasing costs per Forum attendee—the trustees' International Convention/Regional Forums Committee has prompted a careful re-examination of the 2026 Regional Forums Budget for sustainability. A mid-year budget reforecast will be reviewed at the committee's Q3 2026 meeting.

In the meantime, to manage expenses while upholding essential services, we are implementing several adjustments to the 2026 Regional Forums, while continuing to offer these forums:

- Reducing arrival travel and lodging days of Board and Staff participants whenever possible.
- Pausing the coordination and payment for Sign Language Interpretation for deaf attendees. Here, we ask the Forum Volunteer Committee, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition by coordinating and paying for the Sign Language Interpretation to support the deaf AA members from the region who plan to attend. A list of considerations, local committee experiences, and other A.A. resources for coordinating sign language will be given to Volunteer Chairperson through the RF coordinator.

- Pausing on the gratitude breakfast buffet for Volunteers and Board and Staff Participants. Instead, the RF coordinator will schedule a Meet and Greet opportunity prior to the Forum's opening session.
- Pausing on the livestream audio option at each Forum.
- Continuing to explore an online forum with a shorter-format for attendees who are unable to attend in person.
- Continuing to develop an annual Regional Forum Invitation from the General Service Board Chair that includes Sign Language Interpretation for Deaf members, and interpretation in Spanish and French for hearing members
- Continuing the use of an AI-powered platform for simultaneous Spanish and French interpretation for hearing members at Regional Forums.
- Continuing to translate all Board/Staff PowerPoint slide decks, Delegate presentations, and Forum final reports.

Regional Forums, first established in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris, were designed as weekend sharing and informational sessions to strengthen communication among the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine leadership, and members throughout the Fellowship. As we prepare for the 2026 Regional Forums, we remain focused on maintaining this purpose while exercising the financial prudence required in today's environment.

To learn more about the purpose and history of Regional Forums, please visit:

- <https://www.aa.org/regional-forum-video>
- <https://www.aa.org/regional-local-and-special-forums>

Thank you again for helping make these important service events possible. We look forward to continued cooperation and hope to see you at a Regional Forum in 2026.

In fellowship,  
Gail P. and Diana L.