

Why do I have to pay?

"..Most associations like to hold conferences/conventions. But in A.A., a conference/convention is an important opportunity to share the A.A. experience in a broad way.

There are many A.A. conferences/conventions held around the world. One of the most common misconceptions of these gatherings is that they are A.A. meetings, and since 'there are no dues or fees for A.A. membership', there should be no fees to attend. Conventions and conferences are special events, not regular meetings. They require months of planning, preparation and money to present. Since most events are held in hotels/convention centers, there is a charge for the use of the facilities. Along with the facility charge, the hotel/convention center will require that the group purchase coffee and food from the hotel/convention center. Other expenses include travel and lodging for conference/convention speakers, printing of fliers and schedules, postage and supplies. A large event requires a substantial amount of money.

This convention is self-supporting. No group monies are used to pay for the event. The cost of the event is paid through registration fees. No baskets are passed. The ideal for any committee of such an event is to break even; therefore, the registration fee is nominal compared to a weekend's worth of entertainment anywhere else. Attendance is voluntary and, as responsible A.A. members, we 'pay our own way.'.."

- The A.A. Service Manual