

CONVENTION 2016 - SEEING CLEARLY NOW
SEPTEMBER 16, 17, AND 18, PLAZA RESORT AND SPA, DAYTONA BEACH FL
REPORT FOR AWSC, FEBRUARY 2017

District 3 thanks you for the opportunity to host and participate in our Area Convention 2016. It was a wonderful adventure and we appreciate your trust.

Our host committee decided to focus on getting as many attendees as possible pre-registered. We did this by offering \$15 registrations at the close of the 2015 Convention. We still had 140 on-site registrations. We had been told that most of the on-site registrations would come on Saturday. That was not true for us. Over 100 on-site registrations came in Friday night.

We also decided to concentrate more on making the Convention fun and available for everyone instead of trying to make as much money as possible. We did this by planning a "Fun" program and offsetting the expense of meals if attendees purchased meal plans. We had a Celebration lunch instead of a Banquet dinner. We offered three meal plans and they all included the lunch. 268 attendees purchased meal plans and attended our Celebration Luncheon.

The seed money from the Area is not enough to get the Convention started. We were able to get the hotel to agree to \$1,500 deposit with the final payment then split with a payment due the week before Convention and the balance due the Monday after Convention. The total paid the hotel was \$25,744. The vegetarian lunch was unsatisfactory and the hotel refunded their cost. We held jewelry parties and raffles and we were able to borrow money from our District, our LDC, and an individual. All these loans and the money from the Area were repaid before the Convention started in September. The Convention returned \$15,973.19 in revenue to the Area in December 2016. Our raffle and boutique each made about \$3,500. The LDC, clock, & weekend raffles made about \$1,500.

Our Hospitality Committee elected to request cash donations instead of food and supplies from each District (great idea - they had to shop, but were able to purchase what they needed and not have an excess of any one thing). They also suggested cupcakes to celebrate Al-Anon's birthday, if someone wanted to bring something. The response was overwhelming and we want to thank everyone who donated.

There were 603 pre-registered. 250 registered on-line. The total registered was 743. About 20 no-showed. We also know of at least 5 people who attended on Saturday without registering. We had discussed situations like this in advance and decided not to confront anyone. Our Convention booked a total of 646 room nights with the Plaza.

We had 8 speakers including one Alateen and one Spanish Speaker who told her story twice, once in Spanish and once in English. We elected to pay expenses for all Speakers and one guest each.

Since we hosted at a venue outside our District - we also paid for Committee Member's rooms. Since both the 2016 and 2017 Convention Committees were present on Sunday, our Hospitality Suite served lunch for both Committees and we had our Turnover Sunday afternoon.

We had 8 Alateens pre-registered including the speaker. We think 8 more registered on-site- but they had their own registration and we lost count. Oops. The Alateen Program was for Saturday only.

We offered 59 workshops. We only had one facilitator who no-showed. Luckily we were monitoring the rooms and a volunteer chaired at the last minute. Our Program Chair had to replace 5 facilitators in the last two weeks before Convention when they notified her that they would not be able to attend etc... All workshops had attendees although attendance dropped off when the speaker ran late on Saturday. Note for future facilitators - Attendees like takeaways they can take back to their groups. We offered Spanish and AA workshops.

We had fun and we hope you did too. See you in August for the 2017 Convention!