

“We are an ever-growing group of sober Chicagoans, diverse in age and sobriety, who want for our city a chance to host the next International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA). We are committed to unifying newcomers and young people in AA, generating enthusiasm and participation for the 52nd ICYPAA in New York, NY, and ultimately creating a group of excited and capable AA members who can help bring ICYPAA to Chicago. Throughout our pursuit we aim to share our experiences with others, honor the traditions and spiritual principles of AA, and carry a message of gratitude, service, and fellowship.”

My first ICYPAA was back in 2007. I had been coming around the rooms for about a year, but I still felt a little removed from Alcoholics Anonymous. Something was missing from my sober life. I heard that some people were going to Los Angeles for some crazy conference in California. Seeing an opportunity to use AA to trick my parents into letting me go on vacation, I got in touch with the people I needed to and booked a hotel room and a flight. Before I knew it I was in sunny L.A., sitting in traffic on the way to our hotel .

Checking into the hotel at the conference felt like checking out of reality. Everyone was smiling, happy and welcoming. Complete strangers said hi to me, asked me where I was from, made conversation and yelled “ICY ICY ICY!” from the balconies, to which “PA PA PA!” was the response. There was something different about this place. I had no idea what I was in for, but I was pretty sure I was going to like it.

Over the next few days I had some of the most memorable times of my life. I listened in on amazing panels and speakers at meetings and said the serenity prayer in a room with 4,000 young alcoholics. In the main meeting, there was a sobriety countdown and there were people with double digit sobriety and there were people with one day sober. After that, there were dances and hotel parties and we danced into the wee hours of the morning. I don't think I slept more than 3 hours a night when I was there, but when we were tired we could always hang out by the pool after hitting a marathon meeting or a panel the next day.

ICY! ICY! ICY!
Darren J.

ICYPAA, I realized, was what was missing from my sober life. The people that went with me on that trip to L.A are still my best friends to this day. ICYPAA is where I learned that you can have fun in sobriety, and not just fun: the kind of fun that makes your heart want to jump out of your chest. I have never had as much fun as I've had at ICYPAA; the relationships that came out of that first trip were relationships that I have not built anywhere else. Every time I go to an ICYPAA, I gain new lifelong friends. The Twelve Steps save our lives, but the fellowship is what keeps me in the program; every time I go to an ICYPAA conference I realize how precious this fellowship is and how lucky we are to be a part of it. In these rooms, I have found people that unconditionally love me. The friends that I have made in this program and through ICYPAA are the kinds of friends that you just can't find anywhere else. Some of my best memories are associated with ICYPAA, and I am truly grateful that it is part of my life. ICYPAA keeps me coming back year after year. I can't wait to see what new memories the 52nd ICYPAA has to offer.

The Chicago Bid for ICYPAA meets at 8pm, every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, at CASO, located on the third floor at 180 N. Wabash in downtown Chicago.

New faces and opinions are always welcome!

Contact us at:

chicagoicypaaid@gmail.com

Or check us out online at:
<http://chicagoicypaaid.org>

I am really excited about ICYPAA this August! Last year, I wasn't able to go because I had just gotten sober when everybody came back from Atlanta. I saw their faces, their glow, their energy, and I wanted it. I have never been to an ICYPAA convention and I have never been to New York, but I am so excited! When I first got into the program, seeing young faces doing what I was doing was so important for me and my sobriety. Young People's AA changed my life. For the past year, I have really been involved in Young People's. I have met so many beautiful people, and I have been thinking about this convention all year. I have had the opportunity to

Excited for
ICYPAA
Amick V.

develop some of the most powerful relationships of my life, and because of my Higher Power, the people in the rooms, and the Program, I have been able to save money to go on this trip and **HAVE THE TIME OF MY LIFE!** From what I hear, ICYPAA will be very powerful, fun, and a great component to my program. New York is going to be so much fun! I am stoked! I cannot wait to meet and see all these young people all trying to live a way of life that really works! The fellowship with these people is going to be absolutely phenomenal. This convention is going to be something I will never forget; it is going to rock my soul.

A Day at ICYPAA - July 10 5555 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL

The Chicago Bid for ICYPAA is excited to be presenting 'A Day at ICYPAA!' Our aim is to put on a workshop to spread the word about our bid and to carry the message. We've decided to model this workshop after what a day would look like at ICYPAA. We hope this event will open up the eyes of those who have never been to ICYPAA, or a YPAA conference, and be a wonderful day of love and service for those who have!

The 52nd ICYPAA will be held in New York City, August 26-29th 2010, at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square!

Visit www.icypaahost.org to pre-register. The host committee encourages everyone to register ASAP! Preregistration is only 30 bucks, but only until August 4. After that you'll pay \$35 to register at the door at the conference

Hurry Up And Get On The Train! Time is Running Out!!

There's not much time left to reserve your ticket to join the Bid on the train to the 52nd ICYPAA in New York City.
\$156 round trip

Contact Transportation Chair Tim P. at 312-813-1083
Tickets must be purchased before July 10

Unfortunately, the Marriott Marquis room block has sold out, but the ICYPAA host committee has secured a secondary hotel.

The Millennium Broadway Hotel in Times Square is directly across the street from the Marriot Marquis. Rooms are available for conference attendees at a discounted rate of \$180/night.

Visit www.millenniumhotelnyc.com and use group code ICYPAA0810 to book your room. But hurry, these rooms will sell out too!

Raid Requests

Want our Committee to Outreach at your home group?
Know of any meetings with a strong group of young people?

contact Britt H.
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