

SSAASA Steering Committee Inventory

Summary 2022

The SSAASA Steering Committee took a wide-ranging inventory including consideration of the event's purpose, the authority of the committee and the applicability of the current guidelines. The questions were generated from both internal discussions as well as feedback from previous SSAASA events.

The following is a summary of our discussions.

What Are We Doing?

What are we trying to do? Who are we trying to serve?

SSAASA wants to help alcoholics carry the message of recovery to another alcoholic. We want to attract and inspire those members not yet involved in general service and serve those who are already engaged and participating.

Our focus is on the entities (members, groups, district committees) in the upper part of the triangle, but we also encourage participation from A.A.s with experience up and down the triangle.

After much discussion, the committee settled on the mission statement which is not intended to limit the Host Committee's creativity or flexibility:

“At SSAASA, we share our A.A. service experience to attract and inspire each other to carry our message.”

How Do We Do It?

Should the steering committee offer guidance on the program agenda? If so, what does that look like?

The mission statement will serve as general guidance to the host committee while creating the event's program. The steering committee is an additional resource for the host committee, helping to answer questions or giving feedback.

Language/Sign Interpretation – is this an issue the steering committee needs to address or is it a host committee concern?

While acknowledging the desire to increase accessibility to all, having interpretation will present an unequal burden to potential host committees. Not all Areas have access to the necessary equipment and/or facilitators. The Committee agreed with substantial unanimity that the Host Committees need autonomy to decide whether and how to offer Spanish speaking interpreters and/or ASL signers.

Current delegates and others may or may not attend the event, depending on how they and their Areas value the event. Host committees pick presenters and workshop leaders from those already attending. Is this an issue and, if so, what do we do?

The steering committee recognizes SSAASA is a regional event. Therefore, if possible all Areas should have some representation among the presenters and workshop leaders. The Host Committee may also recruit participants, including reaching out to delegates for a list of possible participants from their Areas.

Where and When?

We choose host Areas by bid such that Areas participate only if they want to participate. Is this an issue and, if so, what do we do? Do we want to develop a fixed rotation?

The committee discussed how we choose venues and strongly favor the current bid system. The event should not be a burden on any Area that for whatever reason, does not want to host it. The system is working and is not a problem.

Should we consider changing the suggested date in the guidelines to the first weekend in December?

After discussion about why the guidelines stimulated the first weekend in November that does not conflict with the GSB Quarterly meeting, the committee felt it should be changed. The preferred date is the first weekend in December. This will be less likely to conflict with Area assemblies while in some cases enhancing the host committee's hotel negotiations. It also brings us into better alignment with the regional forum.

Says Who?

Should the steering committee have more discretion in making changes to the guidelines? How can we cut down the time to implement motions?

The steering committee understands that it has the right of decision to change the guidelines, understanding that the committee will report the changes for the body's disapproval, if any.

Any concerns over the delay in implementing a motion proposed at the business meeting, should come from the body.

The Southeast Regional Trustee is automatically a member of the Steering Committee. Does this unnecessarily add to our Trustee's job?

The committee asked for feedback on this question from both the immediate past and the current Southeast Regional Trustee. Neither have an issue with serving on the steering committee. However, our trustee's workload has grown with the increasing use of online meeting technology. Therefore, in recognition of this schedule, the current trustee is always welcome to participate.

The current trustee will receive the minutes and will be invited to attend and have a voice and a vote in the steering committee as their schedule permits. Having this flexibility will allow the current trustee to rotate on as Steering Committee Chair more smoothly at the end of their term.