Call To Order by the Chairman at 2:06 pm Eastern Standard / 11:06 AM Pacific

Roll Call by the Chairman

2016-2020 Board Members - Present
Carol M. – Host Committee Chair – Toronto 2018
Courtney S. – IT / Web
Geri B. – Secretary
Joy R. – Treasurer
Martin D. – Vice Chair
Sam E. – Chair

2016-2018 Board Members - Present
Dianne P. - Emeritus Member
Thomas B. – Outreach

Nigel S. – Newsletter - absent

2019-2023 Board Members - Present
Faye P. – Fellowship Chair
Gregg O. – ICSAA 2020 Host Chair
Joe C. – Outreach Chair
John S. – Archives Chair

Angela B. – In-Reach Chair - absent
Chair’s opening comments

▪ Remember to be guided by our mission and vision statements:

“Our mission is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous without having to accept anyone else’s beliefs or deny their own. Secular AA does not endorse or oppose any form of religion or belief system and operates in accordance with the Third Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

▪ “Secular AA recognizes and honors the immeasurable contributions that Alcoholics Anonymous has made to assist individuals to recover from alcoholism. We seek to ensure that AA remains an effective, relevant and inclusive program of recovery in an increasingly secular society. The foundation of Secular AA is grounded in our experience that anyone - regardless of their spiritual beliefs or lack thereof – can recover in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Secular AA exists to serve the community of secularly-minded alcoholics by supporting worldwide access to secularly formatted AA meetings and fostering mutual support within a growing population of secularly-minded alcoholics.”

▪ Adherence to AA Concepts, Traditions, Roberts Rules, AA Service Manual and our Bylaws as applicable.

▪ Committee process – Status reports at board meetings and set tasks to be done in committees. Board to function as oversight and hold committees responsible to the collective group conscious. Whenever possible work to be done in committee. Create opportunities to involve more of our full membership in service.

▪ Bylaws – a work in process; any changes, comments, make notes to address later as a group rather than as individual issues come up.

▪ Agenda - be prepared to table new topics if needed.

▪ Upcoming board meeting times (all to be confirmed)
  o January 19th first meeting of the new board
  o April 27th
  o July 13th
  o October 5th

Chair Reports/Updates

A. Approval of Aug 2018 Board Meeting - Approved unanimously
B. Membership Meeting Minutes - Approved unanimously
C. Outreach (Thomas) - No report
D. Newsletter (Nigel - not present) - No report
E. IT (Courtney)- (see Appendix 1.0):

Keeper of the Keys – Update on a document with the passwords and other important information as a backup to be kept by Chair and Vice-Chair. Sam will talk with Court offline.

F. In-Reach (Angela notes, via Sam)

Purpose - The primary purpose of the In-Reach Committee is to assure that others in A.A. are aware of our secular A.A. experience which is that “enduring recovery from alcoholism can be found by agnostic, atheist, and non-religious people, within A.A.”. The secondary purpose of the In-Reach Committee is to promote our ICSAA, regional secular A.A. events, and website resources to A.A. members at large.

Liaising - The In-Reach Committee shall strive to achieve these goals by liaising within A.A. with: A.A. members, A.A. groups, A.A. Intergroups, A.A. General Service Districts and Areas, the A.A. General Service Office, A.A. World Services, A.A. international General Service Offices and A.A. events such as round-ups, conventions, forums, etc. Call scheduled.

Also, encourage members to get on panels at conferences, and attend panels and conferences that we are going to anyway.

Budget issues - cost of pamphlets; costs of travel for attendance at conferences; should be part of committee budget.

G. Fellowship (Faye) The Fellowship Committee is tasked with supporting a fellowship of Secular AA Members to facilitate “sharing our experience, strength and hope” which shall include but not be limited to the following:

Maintaining a “help line” to respond to inquiries from still suffering alcoholics;

Assist Secular AA members in establishing and promoting regional/local secular A.A. events, as well as maintaining a listing of such events available to the Members;

Maintaining a meeting directory of both physical and online Secular AA meetings;

Maintain a mechanism to host secularly formatted online A.A. meetings;

Liaise with other secularly-minded A.A. entities including websites that service the secularly-minded A.A. community.

Briefly discussed initial targeted steps, especially using the websites and online resources; John S. suggested service called "Grasshopper" for answering the phones for a help line. Looking for ideas and suggestions. Faye will talk to Court.

Sam suggested that we do not have an assignment at this time which will be responsible for communication between the fellowship and the Board, and the issue was missed in the Bylaws. We need to determine which Board position will be responsible. The issue is that the a large part of the fellowship may not be aware of the Board and what we do. Faye volunteered to get started.

Motion to add the task of Communication with the fellowship, including a chart of where to refer questions, to the Fellowship Committee. Passed unanimously. Joy, Sam and Carol volunteered to help Faye.

G. 2020 Detroit AA International Hospitality Suite (Thomas) - has started to reach out to GSO. More information will be after January 1st.
H. Outreach (Joe)

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to assure that Secular AA is practicing the principle in A.A.’s responsibility pledge “When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible”. More specifically, to inform still suffering alcoholics that enduring recovery from alcoholism can be had in A.A. by agnostic, atheist, and non-religious people. The Outreach Committee is to undertake this goal by means of:

- Interacting and cooperating with established CPC (Cooperation with Professional Community), Institutions (Corrections and Treatment), PI (Public Information) committees and similar entities within A.A.;
- Acting as the Secular AA CPC, Institutions and PI committees (see A.A. Guidelines for CPC, Institutions and PI committees).

Joe already had planned travel after the Toronto ICSAA and was able to "hit the deck running". See Attached Extensive Report APPENDIX 1.0, pg 7

I. Archives (John)

The Archives Committee is tasked with organizing and providing access to our shared secular A.A. experience. The Archives Committee must insure that the dissemination of such information is always coupled with a statement conveying the following or a similar alternative as may be outlined in the Guidelines for the Committee: “Please be aware that Secular AA does not attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information obtained from others, including Members of Secular AA, members of A.A., organizations calling themselves A.A. entities, or any other entity or person. We may share information with our Members just as it is provided to us, for the purposes of an open flow of information and ideas, without a critique or review. Therefore the act of Secular AA making the information available does not constitute an approval or endorsement by Secular AA of the information provided.”

The Archives Committee shall:

- Make available information, such as sample formats, for Members wishing to start a secular A.A. meeting;
- Maintain a listing of secularly-inclined A.A. literature as a resource for Members;
- Maintain a listing of secularly-inclined A.A. resources such as websites and blogs as a resource for Members and assuring that any listing or link to such a resource is coupled with a statement of group autonomy, and non-endorsement, consistent with the principles in the Traditions;
- Maintain a forum to archive Members’ personal and the secularly-minded group’s “experience, strength and hope”, and stories of “what it was like, what happened and what it is like now”;
- Maintain historical documents, as they become available, on the history of secularists in A.A.

John reported developing a plan on how to get started on archives by taking inventory of what we have and gathering histories of groups, and try to record stories of individual experience.

J. ICSAA

1) 2018 Toronto (Carol) - Has not yet compiled a post-conference report.

2) 2018 Toronto final Financial report (Nigel) - deferred. Carol reported working with Nigel to settle final financial situation, which will not be until
after January 1st. See attached report from Joy (page Appendix 2.0 page 10, which does not include final figures from Toronto ICSAA). Discussion on confusion reading the reports. Joy will do a YTD report which may better reflect the financial position.

3) Post 2018 ICSAA Survey (Gregg) (see Appendix 6.0 page 17) - Gregg has prepared a draft Survey - Thomas did the initial draft. Court will work with Gregg to put online.

4) 2020 Washington DC (Gregg) - Gregg's committee agreed on calling the event Washington DC ICSAA

5) Discussion of a 2021 ICSAA to not compete with Detroit - brief discussion held. No motion made.

6) ICSAA guidelines (Martin/Carol/Gregg/Geri) - Gregg will contact Martin to get started.

K. Treasurer’s Report (Joy)

1) Quarterly Financial Statements - See attached (APPENDIX 3.0 pages 12 - 14)

2) Secular AA Annual Budget - Received a maximum donation of $3K from one member. Have a small amount of recurring donations from groups and individuals. Some donations are earmarked for IT/Online use.

   Joy requested each committee chair get started on outline of budget for their committee. ICSAA will have its own budget

Old Business

- Discussion on paying Courtney as per motions at last Board meeting. Motion to reimburse Courtney up to total of $2500 on receipt of receipts for expenses for 2017/2018. Passed unanimously.

- Joy requested projected budgets from all Chairpersons which should include expenses for travel, if wanted.

- Motion to pay IT expenses going forward provided they are in a Budget so that the Board could have a chance to discuss. Passed unanimously.

- Motion to change maximum contribution to Secular AA to $5000, to be consistent with AA. Passed unanimously.

- Chair tabled approval of the financials until complete information from ICSAA is received.

- Discussion on reimbursing travel expenses to attend District etc. events. Joy requested this should be part of committee budgets, and ICSAA should have separate budget also.

New Business

A. Group representatives - The Chair introduced the idea that we look at having a representation from groups or areas, similar to the AA Intergroup structure. Discussion, including letter from member about her experience and concerns that the members may
not know that the Secular AA Board even exists. Do we want to set up like AA intergroup structure? Comparison with ICCYP structure. The subject was discussed when Bylaws were written, and decided at that time that the answer was no. Suggestions that there are other examples that may be applicable. An ad hoc committee was formed to look into the subject and options in more detail, consisting of Sam, John S., Joe, Martin, to bring to the Board at next meeting.

B. "What is Secular AA" pamphlet submitted by member discussion
(see Appendix 4.0 page 15, for pamphlet PDF)

Motion to move forward with the idea of a pamphlet with the current example as a starting point. Passed unanimously. Martin volunteered to chair a committee, and Joe will also help.

C. Question asked if our online presence includes, or can include a "Chat" type function, for people to be able to get "live" answers to questions. Courtney described some of the issues involved with security, and volunteers. We already have Facebook, and the Coffee Shop to answer questions, but there are also issues with those. The issue tabled by the Chair and the Board members are asked to think about the issue.

D. Courtney asked for input on his ideas for changing the theme and look of the website.

E. Gregg asked for Board approval on his negotiations with the Hyatt that will be the site of the 2020 ICSAA October 29th - November 1st. See attached Bullet Points, Appendix 5.0 page 16. Registration will be about to $100. Motion to allow Gregg to sign the initial contract based on the bullet points passed unanimously.

Board adjourned at 4:20 pm Eastern Standard / 1:20 pm Pacific
Appendix 1.0
Outreach Report SAA November 24, 2018, Joe C

I kind of hit the ground running because I had a few events I already planned to attend and with Outreach for SAA on my mind, it just helped me focus on making contacts and getting the word out. My overall plan—and I welcome input from the committee at large—is to form a subcommittee. Our goal won’t be to control outreach from an ivory tower but to create some basic supports for any of our members or groups who wish to engage professionals or the public about secular AA as part of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. As a committee, I hope we can put together some talking points, a list of the most useful handouts and maybe a one-page fact-sheet. A lot of the dos and don’ts are already well articulated in PI and CPC literature such as “Speaking at a non-AA meeting.”

Members and secular AA groups might want to work alongside/within their district/area CPC or PI committees. Every member and group is also at liberty to outreach themselves, be it talking to our own family doctor about being in recovery or having an open AA meeting “invite a professional” night whereby members are encouraged to invite someone they know—a social worker, doctor, criminal justice worker, etc to an meeting at your own home group.

Would a specific Secular AA for professionals pamphlet or video (like AA’s public service announcements but more do-it-yourself low-budget) be helpful and time well spent? I don’t know. Our committee will discuss it.

Happenchance starter my committee search right from ICSAA 2018. I drove two people to the airport from our hotel. They happened to be Beth H from Arizona (Lawyer) and Frances from Wisconsin (doctor). Both expressed interest/willingness on getting involved. David B who did a panel at our conference (addiction counselor) and Dr. Ray B who spoke also said they’d help out. I’ll look to our committee at large and our social media community to expand from there.

Here’s a list of events I’ve attended or are scheduled:

**Recovery Capital Conference**, Toronto September 13-14, 2018. It was a good networking opportunity. Dr. Ray was a speaker there and he got me in touch with Dr. Ted Bober. Ted is the director of clinical services for the Physician Health Program for the **Ontario Medical Association** (OMA). Any doctor, pharmacist, healthcare worker
who had a problem with substance use disorder is helped and supervised by the PHP program. Ted sees the need a secular approach to recovery and we’ve talked about how secular AA could be part of the recommended arsenal of resources for professionals transitioning into recovery.

Ted also expressed an idea about providing family doctors with any pamphlet or literature we can create about Secular AA in Ontario, what it is/isn’t where to find us and more about Secular AA as a whole. Ted talked about how first responders from emergency rooms to paramedics come across alcoholism and other addiction all the time. OMA is always looking to provide resources when possible.

In the new year, I’ve been invited to attend a meeting for people who work at PHP and give a talk about secular AA.

**NAADAC (Association of Addiction Professionals) Annual Conference**, Houston October 5-9, 2018. I was invited to do a workshop which I titled, “No God? No Problem! Accommodating the Growing Demand for a Secular View to 12-Step Facilitation.” Treatment program directors, corrections and criminal justice workers and counselors from USA, Canada and Iceland were in attendance. They were already understanding of the changing demographics and legal, ethical and best-practices concerns about treating the traditional 12-Step model as a one-size-fits-all solution. This wasn’t a Secular AA specific presentation, but I was able to share our history, growth and readiness of groups to meet the demand for a non-religious AA approach, either face-to-face or online.

Both events were the subject to my Rebellion Dogs Radio show if anyone has more interest in them [https://rebelliondogspublishing.com/rebellious-radio](https://rebelliondogspublishing.com/rebellious-radio). They are recurring events if anyone else has interest in attending in the future.

Back in Toronto I attended Rendezvous With Madness (a film/art festival devoted to addiction and mental health) October 10-20. It was a great networking event and the program director accepted an invitation to my home group, which was eye-opening for him.

Coming from attending Recovery Capital Conference, an invitation was offered for Secular AA to have a table at Ottawa Recovery Day and Martin volunteered to travel to Ottawa and field questions and chat with Ottawa attendees.

**Indie Week** is an annual music festival I attend and it has a conference that along with tech, touring, publicity, and other business-side of the music biz, Indie 101 added a Health and Wellness Day last year. I asked the organizers if they thought delegates would be interested in hearing from a panel of music biz people in recovery from addiction and they did. So Rob L who’s a journeyman bass player for 80s/90s stadium
acts is a friend from our Whitby Freethinkers Group and he and a friend who’s a
treatment counselor by day, lead singer for an indie band by night agreed to put on a
panel called “Second Chances: Rock ‘n’ Roll Recovery.” We didn’t talk about 12-step
membership overtly from the stage by after our presentation there was a scrum of
people who wanted to talk with us, some sharing their own experiences and some
coming out of the woodwork as 12-Step members themselves.

I interviewed an author for my last podcast who is in recovery, was a one-time
lawmaker and now finds solace in representing the down-and-outs at bail hearings
where people with addiction and mental health find themselves in the cross-hairs of the
justice system. He is in 12-Step recovery himself. His book was a critical look at the
criminal justice system’s discriminatory practices with addiction sufferers and the
criMes they find themselves embroiled with. He has a real interest in secular AA.

Further to that I’ve looked into ILAA and IDAA (International Lawyers/Doctors AA
conferences). I think these would be good organizations to make inroads with although
I don’t know if it’s an in-reach or out-reach effort. I encouraged a senior member of the
criminal justice system in our home group to join and I think any doctors or lawyer
among us, if they could and would, could help carry the message about secular AA
among our own professionals in AA’s ranks. There’s no reason not to start reaching out
now but at the International in Detroit, we ought to visit their hospitality suites and get
to know them. I will want to talk with Angela about this because I think, while ILAA
and IDAA are good targets of our attention, this could be more in-reach (with our
fellowship) than outreach to professionals and the general public.

The new AAWS pamphlet and Grapevine book are great conversation starters, I think.
Any of our members can talk to our districts or areas about putting on a
panel/workshop about how AA’s new literature helps eliminate barriers that
agnostics/atheist encounter as far as AA is concerned. It also provides us with
something new to share with the professional community. If all of us on the committee
just sent a note with The “God” Word or personally delivered it to a professional we
know working at a treatment center or in health or the criminal justice system, who
knows what ripple effect that might cause.

Joe Chisholm

416-239-8737 (mobile)
APPENDIX 2

IT REPORT

Secularaa.net: Board Website

- New Theme Design (Less Bulky..much faster - easier Modification)
- New Documents Vault – Password and user security
- New Security Suite
  a) BBQ Pro – Advanced Blocking (URI, Request, IP address, Queries, Refferer Blocking )
  b) WordFence- Malware and user login Hacks
- Improved Backup Systems – 4 Separate Systems
  a) GoDaddy Server Cloud
  b) Amazon S-3 Buckets (Cloud)
  c) Desktop NAS Server (Synology Drive)
  d) Desktop External 3TB Disk (Portable)
- Speed Mods: Websites now loading in <500ms (Pingdom)
- Convert MySQL DB Tables to InnoDB - Security Speed and Modernity
- Upgrade to PHP 7.2 and deprecated 5.0 - Speed and Security

Secularaa.com: Conference Website

- Mods above
- Added YouTube Channel Linkage from ICSAA 2018
- ICSAA 2022 Bid Form
- Made site current to Reflect ICSAA 2020

Secularaa.org: Main SecularAA Information and Resource Website

- Mods above
- Regional conference Request Forms and Listings
- Start New meeting Help and Contact Listings
- News Letter subscribers: 1041 (continuing to increase)

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<th>Hits</th>
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Draft Page 10 of 20
Coffeeshop

- **937 Members**
- **Admin Moderation Panel** (6)
  a) Courtney S.
  b) Dianne P.
  c) Joe C.
  d) Carol P.
  e) Justin H.
  f) Ed W.
- **>4,000 Posts in last 28 days**
- **Conduct Policy:** Updated and Published on Secularaa Website and Rules of Conduct posted in the Coffeeshop. Infractions and Moderation are codified and included with the notice of infraction to the member. Member removal reasons are also disclosed to the user.

Online Meetings

- **New Thursday** Meeting “**Secular on Thursday**” (SOT) 12:00 Noon EST
  a) **Requested by weekend meeting attendees**
  b) Had 6 in Meeting on Thanksgiving Day. (3rd Meeting)
- **Secular Saturday 20-26 attendees** 1:00pm EST
- **Secular Sunday 20-30 attendees** 1:00pm EST
- **Sober She Devils Monday Night 15-20 attendees** 9:00pm EST
## APPENDIX 3.1

### Secular AA, Inc.

#### Profit & Loss

**Cash Basis**

January through September 2018

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<td>Contributions to SECAA</td>
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## APPENDIX 3.2

### Secular AA, Inc.

**Balance Sheet**

As of September 30, 2018

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<td>PayPal Acct - Secular AA</td>
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<td>Hotel Deposit</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
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APPENDIX 3.3

Secular AA, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2018

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<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<td>Net Income</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>7,793.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
<td>7,793.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 5.0

ICSAA
Secular AA

Main Points of ICSAA 2020 (Washington)
Group Sales Agreement
With
Hyatt Regency Bethesda
Nov. 24, 2018 Board Meeting

- No advance deposit required.
- The guest room rates are $129.00/night, regardless of whether single, double, triple or quadruple occupancy.
- Guest Room Block: We guarantee a total or at least 314 Contracted Room Nights between Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, and Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020. (That is a cumulative total; there is no minimum nightly requirement.)
- The Total Contracted Minimum Room Nights of 314 translates into a Guest Room Revenue Minimum of $40,506.
- We have a complimentary suite and a complimentary “office” room from Thursday through Sunday of the Conference Weekend.
- Our Food and Beverage Revenue Commitment” is $40,000, plus services charges, taxes, audio visual, parking or other associated expenses (total net ~ $50-53,000). For this amount, we will be able to provide breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and lunch (buffet) on Saturday.
- Any billing that is required will be done after the conference.
- Audio Visual will be contracted separately, but the hotel has several reputable recommendations.
- We can determine after the conference how to use the World Of Hyatt frequent sleeper points that the conference will generate.
ICSAA 2018
International Conference of Secular AA
Toronto, Ontario
Aug. 24 – 26, 2018

Conference Survey

The Third Biennial International Conference of Secular Alcoholics Anonymous (ICSAA) was held at the Toronto Marriot Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel from August 24 through August 26, 2018.

If you attended that conference, we need your help in offering feedback. The more we learn about what was good, bad or missing in Toronto, the better our planning can be for ICSAA 2020 in Washington, D.C. (at the Bethesda Hyatt Regency).

Please fill out the following survey, which will help the planners of future ICSAA events. The results of the survey will be published at a later date on www.secularaa.org.

Overview: ICSAA 2018 (Toronto) had 268 paid attendees. The events on Friday night, Aug. 24, were free. The conference ended by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 26. At ICSAA 2016 in Austin, there were 420 registrants.

Survey

How satisfied were you with the Toronto ICSAA event?
___Very satisfied, ___Somewhat satisfied, ___Somewhat dissatisfied, ___ Very dissatisfied.

How would you describe your current belief system? Agnostic, Atheist, Free-thinker, Deist, Spiritual, Religious, Other

What religious or spiritual tradition were you raised in, if any?
When did you adopt your current belief system?

Was that before or after you became a member of AA?

Have you been active in AA General Service work? If so, please describe.

Would you be willing to represent your secular AA group to ICSAA?

Would you be willing to be an ICSAA contact for your home group?

How did you become aware of Secular AA?

How many years have you been attending secular AA meetings?

Have you attended previous ICSAA Conferences? If so, how did Toronto compare with them?

Do you attend traditional AA meetings?

If so, do you identify your secular or nontraditional beliefs?

How often should there be an International Secular AA Conference?
Would you like to see more Regional conferences of Secular AA members? If so, how many and where?

What did you like most about the Toronto Conference?

What did you like least?

How can we make ICSAA 2020 in Washington, DC (Bethesda) better attended?

Do you have any suggestions for the program for ISCAA 2020? If so, please share!

What would you like to see at future International Secular Conferences?

Coffee stations have proven to be very expensive. Would you pay $15 more for the ICSAA Registration Fee if it included free coffee stations in or
directly outside the meeting rooms? (FYI, there is a Starbucks in the basement of the ICSAA 2020 site.)

**Demographic Analysis:**

*Where are you from:*
(City/State or Province/Country)

*Gender Identification:*
(Male/Female/Trans)

*How old are you?*

**Length of Sobriety:**

- __ Under One Year
- __ 1 to 5 years
- __ 5 to 10 years
- __ 10 to 15 years
- __ 15 to 20 years
- __ 20 to 25 years
- __ 25 to 30 years
- __ 30 to 35 years
- __ 30 to 40 years
- __ 40 to 45 years
- __ Plus 45 years