



# Spring Newsletter 2025 Ohio Valley Intergroup



## Editor's Corner

As we are greeted by the warm, sunny days of spring, it seems as though life begins to speed up for us almost as fast as the buds on the trees, the flowers, and those darn weeds that pop up everywhere. Some of the busy details could be the spring cleaning, like the garage with barely enough room to hold your car or the closet that almost caves in on you when you open the door. Yeah, that kind of busy.

For those of us working on the newsletter, the “busy” is all the things happening which we want to talk about. So here is a summary of all those items to get us started:

- This quarter we want to start by sharing some very important information from the ISO to help keep your meeting safe.
- Next, as always, we express gratitude to those giving monthly donations to the ISO via Lifeline Partners and give information on how to get started as a regular donor to the LP.
- Next, plan to “Go Batty for Recovery” at the 2025 SAA Convention this May. The time for registering to attend this convention is quickly running out.
- Following this, you will find the last reminder for the SAA Spring retreat in Columbus with the details regarding the workshops offered.
- After the short note about the retreat, please read about the recent request from the ISO regarding the writing of new stories for the Green Book. Consider this your big chance to offer your experience, strength, and hope to the future reader of our main fellowship document.
- Last, we present the usual list of highlights for the Ohio Valley Intergroup.

Read On!  
The OVIG Newsletter Team

## ISO Note #1:

### Please Read This! – Information for Group Contacts and Others

This notice is for all SAA group contacts and others as well. What follows this introduction was copied directly from an email sent from the ISO. To be honest, we really can't say it better.

Dear Meeting Contacts for SAA,

We recently learned that a social media account posted a video on how to use SAA as an easy way to meet sexually vulnerable people, especially women. After three days, this video has gained over 150,000 likes (and was reported to the platform).

In addition to this, there has been a rise in "Zoom bombing" incidents, including a recent effort by multiple individuals.

The ISO is committed to our groups being safe, secure, and sober. With that being said, we ask that you review this email carefully.

We learned this after investigating suspicious emails and texts that had been arriving at the ISO office.

You may have, or may yet, receive similar emails, calls, or texts.

Some of the key words and phrases include:

- Someone asks about the "**boy to girl ratio**" or otherwise try to ascertain how many women are in your meeting.
- They may say they are "**shy**," "**do not like crowds**," or are "**uncomfortable around women**."
- They ask how many people attend the meeting.

The purpose of these questions is to determine the number of women at the meeting and to gain access to the meeting.

#### What should I do?

There are different ways to respond to these messages, but however you do so, **remember that the people who are calling for this purpose might one day end up back in our rooms for a legitimate reason.** Be kind and, if possible, offer SAA as hope for recovery from sex addiction.

Possible actions:

1. Hold an emergency group conscience as soon as possible.
2. You may ignore the email, call, or text.
3. You may give generic SAA and meeting information, but explain that gender makeup is not tracked, varies, is not relevant to recovery, or is inappropriate to share.
4. For Zoom meetings and Zoom bombing, please review the attached document.

#### What if I already responded to one of these messages?

If you think you already received and responded to one of these messages, consider the following steps:

1. Hold an emergency group conscience as soon as possible.
2. Make an announcement at your next meeting(s), paying special attention that any women present are aware of the contact.
3. **DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY DISTRUST ANY NEWCOMERS** but do pay attention if their behavior is out of the ordinary, is overly focused on a woman in the room, or becomes predatory.

4. Review the pamphlet "**Safe and Sexually Sober Meetings: Helping Women Feel Welcome in Your Meeting.**" Although this pamphlet does not necessarily deal with issues like these, its principles may help guide your group conscience.

Thank you for your willingness to be the point of contact for many newcomers to SAA. Your willingness to work Step Twelve in this way has undoubtedly helped many lives, making SAA a welcoming, safe, and sober place for all.

[This is the end of the email copy from the ISO.]

Anyone wanting to receive a copy of the ISO document regarding how to deal with "Zoom bombing," just contact the newsletter Editor Chris J. at [crispyj4@gmail.com](mailto:crispyj4@gmail.com).

Also, if you do not have a printed copy of the pamphlet "Safe and Sexually Sober Meetings" available, you can read a copy for free at the link below.

<https://saa-recovery.org/literature/safe-and-sexually-sober-meetings-helping-women-feel-welcome-in-your-meeting/>

As you work to maintain your own sobriety, please continue to help others by providing a safe place to meet whether it is in person, Zoom, or telephone.

The OVIG Newsletter Team

## ISO Note #2:

### Donate to Lifeline Partners – It Really Helps the ISO!

This is getting to be a regular feature but there's a reason for that. Donating to the ISO via Lifeline Partners is the best way to support the SAA fellowship. As we mentioned before, your donation is automatically and safely given from your credit card or debit card as a monthly transaction. Being a regular donation, it is funds that the ISO can count on. You can sign up to donate as little as \$3 per month or your group could use "basket" donations to give a set amount of something like \$10 or more per month based on a percentage of monthly giving.

And while personal or group donations can still come in the form of an occasional one-time payment, regular monthly payments to LP allows the ISO consistent, predictable cash flow.

So, what are you waiting for? To become a member of Lifeline Partners:

Go to <https://saa-store.org/7thTradition> to find information on how to become a Lifeline Partner.

## The 2025 SAA Convention



*The 37th Annual  
International  
SAA Convention:  
May 23— May 26, 2025  
Austin, TX*

So, the annual Convention in Austin, Texas is rapidly approaching. If you want to participate in healthy recovery activities as well as making new friends from all over the USA and the world, now is the time to act!

By now you should have seen a brochure with convention information, but if you still haven't and are interested in going, please go to the following website:

<https://saa-convention.org/>

When you arrive at the site, click the "Enter" button, and type "goingbatty" as one word without the quotes into the password block and click on the "Login" button. You will then see information about the Convention. Scroll down until you see "Program of Events" and click on "brochure" to see the full document. You can download and print as many copies as you want. Also, you can click on "flyer" to see that document and print it.

Next, if you have not been to a Convention before, consider whether you want to attend the convention and partake of the meals or just attend the convention. To attend the entire convention from Friday May 23 to Monday May 26 costs \$260.00. To also partake of the three meals shown in the brochure, the total will be \$436.00. Note that these costs are for SAA members. It is also assumed that anyone registering is over the age of 18.

To register for the 2025 SAA Convention, you can fill out the brochure in the "SAA Member Registration" and "Registrant Information" sections and mail the brochure to the address listed no later than April 29th. An alternative method is to go to the website and enter it as presented earlier in this article. When you arrive at the site, and log in, click on "Pre-registration" in the "Important Dates" block. You should see "Register" inside a large yellow block. From this, scroll down until you see "Register Now" in a button. Click on that button and follow directions from there. You will need to have a credit card handy.

Please note that the time is past for getting the ISO hotel rate of \$179 at the Hilton Double Tree hotel in Austin. If you are still interested in staying at the Convention Double Tree, please note the address and hotel website are below.

Address of the Hilton Double Tree of the Convention: 6505 N Interstate 35 Austin, TX 78752

You can find the nightly price and book at this site: <https://www.hilton.com>

You will want to enter "Austin, TX" as your destination, May 23 to May 26 as your stay time, and select the "Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Austin" for the property. You should double-check that the address above matches what shows on the site after you select the specific hotel from the list.

**And once again, here are a few facts about this year's SAA Convention:**

- The 2025 SAA Convention and the 2025 ISO Business Conference both take place on Memorial Day weekend.
- So, what is this "Batty" business all about? A bridge in downtown Austin, TX known as the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge is the "hangout" for literally 1.5 million bats and thus hosts the largest single urban bat colony in the world. It is a great tourist attraction. When the bats fly out of the bridge at dusk, it is quite a spectacle.
- Running low on funds? Check with the OVIG to find out if any of the \$600 scholarship is still available.
- If you have more questions about the 2025 Convention, you can call the ISO office at (713)-869-4902 or email them at [info@saa-recovery.org](mailto:info@saa-recovery.org).

# 2025 SAA Spring Retreat



You could say that the upcoming OVIG Spring Retreat is getting large in the front windshield of our calendar. We arrive at this destination Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. and leave at 3:30 P.M.

## **The planned activities are as follows:**

How it Works: Embracing the 12<sup>th</sup> Step  
Courtship Dimensions  
Radical Self-Care  
Turning Character Defects into Assets  
The Three Stages of Change  
Thoughts on Meditation  
Tools of Recovery  
Amends and Beyond  
The Exact Nature of Our Wrongs

The retreat will be at the Church of the Master at 24 North Grove Street in Westerville, Ohio and as always, breakfast, snacks and lunch are provided. You can register by going to [ohiovalleysaa.org](http://ohiovalleysaa.org) and clicking on “2025 Spring Retreat” to register. Hurry before the retreat appears in the rear-view mirror of our calendar!

## This is your Big Chance!

I remember thirty years ago as a “young” recovering sex addict hearing about a request for personal stories from the NSO (then the National Service Organization of SAA). At that time, SAA began sharing plans to create a fellowship text much like the AA Big Book and thus needed personal stories to accompany the standard recovery material. I considered that idea for all of two minutes. The first thought I had was “Could I do that?” which was quickly followed by “No way!” I simply didn’t feel that I had enough experience to write much about my recovery, not even close.

Time changes things. Ten years later after I had joined the Literature Committee, I had a copy of the first edition of the Green Book placed in my hands at the New Orleans Convention in 2005. It was a gift given to me for only a small amount of service work performed on behalf of the book as it was nearing the end of its journey to publication.

I also recall visiting the hospitality suite at the convention the morning after the banquet where the book was first presented. As I gathered some breakfast goodies in the suite, I couldn’t help



but notice a member of the fellowship crying as she held a copy of the Green Book in her lap. Another woman sat next to her, with an arm over her shoulder as if she was providing consolation. I could have left that situation alone but decided to voice the question that was rattling around in my head like marbles in a tin can. “Is she alright?” The answer returned was uplifting and powerful: “Oh, she’s fine. She just read her story in the book.”

*Wow!*

A French poet, playwright, and novelist, Victor Hugo, is attributed to the following quote: “There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.”

I not only understand that quote but feel it as I move forward another twenty years to 2025 and consider where I stand. My service opportunities have not only helped my sobriety but have also given me amazing gifts over many years. Now, amid all this, I saw a request from the ISO for new stories to help update the Green Book.

This is the idea whose time has come. This is my Higher Power giving me a more-than-gentle nudge to finally write my story.

But wait. This isn’t just about me. Why don’t **you** challenge yourself and write one too?

This is your Big Chance!

If you have experience, strength, and hope, or feel you have something to share about your recovery that you are comfortable sharing with others in a publication, please consider writing your story.

To help you get started, here are a few specifications from the ISO.

- The length should be between 1000 to 3000 words with 2000 to 2500 being typical.
- The new story can reflect the changing technology over the last twenty years (i.e. the internet).
- These stories can help the newcomer struggling with *today’s* issues.
- To submit your story, go to the following site: <https://saa-recovery.org/gbstories>

Maybe someday you’ll see your story in a future edition of the Green Book. It’s your chance to carry the message to the sex addict who still suffers.

Please consider that.

Chris J.  
OVIG Newsletter Editor

## OVIG Highlights

The Ohio Valley Intergroup (OVIG) is a cohesive assembly of single SAA groups in both Ohio and West Virginia. Our intergroup was formed to share resources, cultivate service talent, and offer activities that single groups may not have the wherewithal to provide.

With that in mind, the bullet list below shows things accomplished as well as future ideas or activities inside or outside the OVIG.

- The 2025 Spring SAA Retreat is getting close. We hope to see you on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The intergroup continues to maintain a supply of literature for outreach purposes or for special needs.
- A Venmo account will continue to be available for making electronic donations to the intergroup. The current account is @GearboxGuy
- If your group has someone interested in service work, tell them that Area-14 needs more Group Service Representatives (GSRs). Tell them this work takes no more than an hour or two per month and is a terrific way to maintain sobriety through service!
- Should you need information on just what a GSR does, contact this year's Delegate, Chris J. at [crispyj4@gmail.com](mailto:crispyj4@gmail.com) and he would be happy to supply you with information.
- This year's Convention theme is "Going Batty for Recovery." The above feature article gives all the details.
- The total scholarship for the Austin Convention will be \$600.00 for those needing assistance.
- It was recently announced that the Noble Correctional Institution in Caldwell, Ohio has about 800 inmates incarcerated for sexual reasons. We hope that SAA meetings may start there in the future.
- Funds continue to be collected and used for professional outreach purposes.

