

What did you like best about the convention?

- Your PI display and all the ,all the take away art items, all were fantastic. Great job. Also really enjoy having the notebook for notes. Speakers were excellent.
- All good
- Everything in one room.
- Helping to organize the convention, watching fellows spontaneously offer help with set up on day-of-event, meeting fellows from nearby intergroups.
- I loved the timing of the sessions and the 15-minute breaks in between. Since I traveled from out of town, I liked having time to chat with my friends. The days felt full but not overcrowded.
- The speakers
- Everything. Speakers were excellent. Camaraderie was great. Made new friends. The hotel rm was comfy. The reception people were slow in getting people registered. Needed extra hands.
- Wonderful variety of recovery stories. Really trying to stay on time with the workshops. The booklet is amazing! Appreciated everyone's hard work and talents to put them event together.
- The connections with my fellows; all the speakers; the workshops; the materials.
- schedule pacing
- speakers, dance, location, i.e. NC
- Loved the location so that I could see my OA friends from all over. Loved the workshops. I actually liked that there was only one workshop session instead of several at the same time. I know that our Region 8 conventions are smaller these days, but it made it easier to stay in one place and see friends and really take part in the workshops. I used to get a bit overwhelmed in the past with the different workshops and locations. made it feel cozier!
- I was very impressed with the programming.
- I enjoyed hanging out with everyone. I liked being at a face to face event. I loved the recovery.
- lots of speakers, great buffet lunch
- I did not have to choose a workshop from two others. I was able to hear it all
- face to face
- The speakers were awesome! I think the format of having 20 mins for them to speak allowing time for Sharing and have a break is good
- Speakers and sharing, Booklet Good
- Definitely the speakers, being genuinely welcomed and the calmness with which the committee members went with the flow to solve some technical issues. Also enjoyed meeting most all of the members in person.
- The speakers and fellowship.
- Talking to others
- The quality of the speakers; the comradery; the intimacy re: the size of the group; getting to know people; well organized. Experiencing the assembly

- The variety of topics for each of the sessions. A very convenient location for me.
- Fellowship
- Speakers
- The dance was fun. The food was great. It was welcoming and well organized. I always felt comfortable and accepted.
- Personal stories
- The Dance
- The speakers and being with other fellows.
- Speakers
- I attended the Recovery Convention. I enjoyed all of the workshops I attended. I also attended the Regional 12th step within committee meeting and benefitted from it.
- Meetings
- Speakers and socializing with other attendees.
- Great workshops. Speakers and fellowship.
- I thought the Business assembly was very well run and the recovery part had interesting speakers and good topics
- Meeting my friends
- being face to face

What would you like to see improved?

- More meetings per hr. In the past there were at least two per hr that you had a choice of attending. I know its hard but food costs for meals was very high. In the past there was also a room for a boutique and sales of items as fundraisers and raffle items of literature etc. (another way to raise funds for hosting IG/Region)
- All good.
- Nothing.
- n/a
- Needed a pot of hot water for tea!
- Can't think of anything!
- Meal Cost and quality.
- Nothing I can think of. Loved the hotel and affordability and location.
- The hotel was not the best, I'm guessing the committee went with that venue, because it helped with the cost of the event.
- The hotel staff was very kind and worked to accommodate us. However the staffing levels were not adequate at times. The registration desk was overwhelmed on Friday and the restaurant team always seemed short staffed at meal times.
- Door to meeting room was locked during meetings so you had to go around more people to get out to bathroom etc. more disturbing. Soar 8 have more items to sell. Ie. Question jar or tee shirts

- Venue.
- There was only 1 employee handling both the buffet and the restaurant. I ended up waiting until the 2:00 break to eat lunch in the dining room
- Hesitate even mentioning because there was no way of knowing ahead, however, the confusion around and delay of lunch buffet in a rather crowded location wasn't received well. Several of the front desk staff were curt and unprofessional. On the bright side I got to see how program has helped tremendously with acceptance and patience. Plus I got to meet some awesome fellows as we waited in line.
- The hotel. It was not well run.
- Location. Restaurant was closed often.
- Perhaps a few more breaks to stretch our legs. Better service by hotel staff- they were very unprepared for a group our size staff-wise.
- The venue staff seemed a bit overwhelmed. Perhaps a better site next year.
- Food. The dinner was very lacking.
- I have been to a convention with break-out rooms that had specific topics or activities. That is nice if there are enough to support it. It allows more voices to be heard.
- More movement in between
- My only complaint was the hotel needed more staff for the Friday night dinner, and have adequate food for all who ate that night.
- Food
- The hotel accommodations were not entirely satisfactory but no big problem, just a few small problems. A boutique would have been fun but no big deal one way or the other. Otherwise, can't think of anything.
- Location and or venue . Airplanes and high traffic area was not the best especially if you didn't prepay for food and had to leave to get food.
- I thought there was a lot of good attention to detail, and the speakers I heard and the flow were great. The bathroom facilities were poor, but nothing about the program itself.
- A better hotel, but the issues with them were not your doing.
- The hotel. Check-in in was disorganized and took 30 mins. When we called for the Shuttle we were told it was 15 mins away. When driver didn't come after half hour we were told it would be another 25 mins. The breakfast buffet was too expensive. I would not recommend this hotel in the future
- better direction to newcomers. I had many coming up to me explaining they were exhausted and had no time to rest. I did my best to explain that they could take time for themselves.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for us?

- Should have filled this out earlier. I know at the time I had thoughts (both pluses and suggestions) but don't remember now.

- Really enjoyed the dance. Have more literature available for purchase.
- You all did an awesome job with putting on the convention!! Everyone deserves an A-plus!! It was nice being given a little booklet to take home and I appreciate all the effort putting it together. It looks very professionally done and I like the words inside. The signs decorated in the lobby were beautiful! The table with the handmade recovery free items to take home was very special! I enjoyed volunteering at the literature table. Thank you for putting on such a fantastic convention!!!
- *Print the Serenity, 3rd & 7th step prayers and the OA promises Inside the program book . Sell t-shirts or something that has the convention logo on it that can be worn or used, like a keychain
- I would have liked a group meditation session in the morning, instead of a meeting on the topic of meditation.
- n/a
- Ironed kinks out Alice. It was a meaningful weekend. Thank you
- My only suggestion is, when stating the hotel rate, please specify the rate is for each night, (i understand that not everyone stays both nights), but my original roommate and I both understood the rate was for both nights. It was our misunderstanding, but stating nightly rate is \$**. ** per night would be helpful.
- I am a Region 7 member, but I love being with my Region 8 friends!!! Thank you for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. Your service is invaluable to me.
- None!
- I don't think so.
- Great convention.
- Maybe have prices for literature written in pencil, not ink. Lower prices on well worn/written in books. Card mentioned at free craft table available to sign, I looked several times and never saw it. Really wanted to thank him.
- I think the event was very well organized. It was one of the best I have been to. It was smaller which made it more intimate.
- It would be nice to have a breakout session for a men's meeting and a meeting for people in program for less than 2 years.
- It was truly a wonderful experience.
- No.
- No, thank you for a wonderful weekend.
- Well planned.
- Soooo very proud of Piedmont Intergroup!!!!
- Many thanks to all who collaborated to make this event very successful. I so appreciate your service.
- You did a great job. Everything was very well done except for the hotel
- I wasn't there at the closing, but I hope it was explained how important it is to show love and care to those who were at home while we were at convention getting what we need, and also how important it is to get to a meeting asap to reconnect with self-care.

Why you would attend another convention?

- Always want to come for the recovery and seeing old friends.
- Learned a lot
- It was great!!!!
- There's great recovery to be experienced at a convention. It gives me a boost to my program. I want to be where the action is happening,, in the middle of the herd.
- Need the fellowship of like minded OA people. Workshops helps u grow.
- I was most interested in the workshops, as I had not attended any sort of retreat in many years.
- I would come to a Region 8 event if all you were doing was sitting around reading the phone book.
- Recovery booster shot. Meeting (new and old) fellow travelers. Sharing recovery.New approaches
- Conventions - especially face to face events - always energize my recovery.
- I learned a lot.
- The speakers were so motivational.
- I totally enjoyed my time at the convention. I heard wonderful speakers and the fellowship was incredible. The night of dancing was fun and there were so many resources available.
- Great convention. Fantastic organizers.
- Connecting with members that I would not normally be able to due to proximity. I attend majority of virtual meetings so meeting in person is so much more personal. It also gave a boost to my program.
- Love the fellowship
- I'd like to be there if I can.
- I love going to conventions and retreats. Always great recovery and love being with other members.
- Just as there is no substitute (for me) for f2f weekly meetings, there is no substitute (for me) for larger gatherings of OA's sharing experience, strength, and hope. I will attend any and every larger gathering every time I have the opportunity. Well worth the investment of time, energy, effort and funds.
- It's a great way to have face-to-face contact when I go only to Zoom meetings. I love the fellowship there and hearing recovery from such a diverse group of people.
- The convention was very inspiring and I came back motivated. Really enjoyed it
- I'm always grateful to reconnect, and hear the stories/recovery of others.

Why wouldn't or might not you attend another convention?

- Location would determine if I am able to attend.
- Distance (Not interested in flying). Cost, esp for meals
- It would depend on where the next one was located,
- Traveling is too expensive for me.
- Depends on distance. And time
- Struggle with crowds.
- I find that my energy drops after a few speakers. Have you thought of doing it every couple of years instead of every year
- Purely my travel limitations.
- If it were close enough that didn't have to spend the night
- I am more heavily involved with Al-anon and Piedmont Intergroup. I volunteer heavily in other organizations and I am limited with time and commitment
- They are usually too far away.
- I was stuck in the airport overnight. Will not fly for a long time. Will attend closer to home.
- I only attend when the spirit moves. Not every year.

Suggestions for Improving Convention Preparation Process

- Someone on committee needs to be the volunteer coordinator. Some of their duties would be as follows: Prior to registration going out, make suggestions on areas of service that people can check off. While waiting for completed registrations to come in, start finding out the amount of volunteers and hours needed for each area at convention. Get ready to fill in these positions once registration forms come in. If needed, first, reach out to everyone and find out their available days and hours of giving service in that particular area or areas. * The schedule is figured out, send a confirmation along with volunteer instructions to fellows for their area of service at least one week prior to Convention *At event- as fellows check in, be there at the table to then check off the person for volunteer assignment. Or if Check-in person does this, have a system in place for assignments they can't do versus ones they'd be willing to do on the info board or however it can work out best * Have a list at the podium of who volunteered to do the service positions per meeting for speaker, facilitator, timer, reader, etc. *Assign someone the job of texting the people who signed up to do the above service job the morning of their duty .
- Pre- Convention correspondence between region 8 liaison and convention chair- Get a more thorough list from region 8 on their requirements /requests from the intergroup host so we are aware of what to expect far in advance. Some examples would be their need for and size of a PIPO table, A Ways and Means table, whatever volunteers they are requesting. Also, if they tell us what they are displaying on their tables we can be sure not to have the same items.

- Hotel happenings- Be sure they understand that, if our first session will begin at 4:00, then our people will descend upon the hotel at the earliest opportunity to check in. Please be fully staffed to have rooms cleaned and ready and to get our people checked in. As for restaurant hours, be sure, hotel understands that there will probably be 10 to 20 fellows wanting to sit down and eat at whatever time we get out at so that they will be staffed appropriately to handle restaurant guests as opposed to preparing the luncheon buffet that was ordered in advance. Explain how we are serious water drinkers and that we need a refill every few hours in the water stations. Review with a fine tooth. All of the requests for room setup and find out who the point person is to go over it on morning of to be sure everything is in place. For instance, if we're asking for 30 extra chairs at back of room make sure it happens.
- *Put the info board together before coming to the Convention. .
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