

The Acts of Recovery conference began around 1998 when a few active members of AA in Baltimore were discussing options for filling a need that revealed itself in casual conversation.

The need identified was this: It seemed that AA had some awesome weekend conferences that were unintentionally excluding some people, specifically single parents and people new to the job market, possibly fresh out of jail or rehab, or recently “kicked from the nest” of their parents.

These two groups of people typically could not afford to pay transportation, hotel expenses and conference registrations. As for the single parents, even if they could afford to, who would want to leave their children for the weekend?

It was decided to try a Saturday afternoon mini-conference, which would start at Noon, so parents could prepare their children for baby-sitters...and then would end by 5pm so the parents could be home for dinner. The conference was made absolutely free, with a free light lunch served. This approach took care of the time problem and the money problem. The concept depended on the spirit of the seventh tradition...that if we are really fulfilling a need, the conference would be supported by the seventh tradition voluntary contributions.

Maintaining our emphasis on this stated primary purpose...to fill the need of the time and money problems, the only thing we ask when others choose to use the name of “Acts of Recovery” is that they stick to the same format. If they choose to change the format, the only thing we ask is that they give their conference a different name.

As a result of consistent adherence to maintaining our primary purpose, a few unexpected, but favorable, bi-products revealed themselves. We found that when these conferences attempt to adhere to our suggestions for choosing speakers, the conferences tend to bring together “Pockets of Enthusiasm” from different cities and also develop a pool of solid one-hour speakers. This was not the intention, nor the primary purpose, but was absolutely a welcome bonus from adhering to our ultimate primary purpose...to carry a message of hope to the hopeless.

Since 1998, the following cities have enjoyed Acts of Recovery conferences:

Alabama

Gulf Shores, AL

Connecticut

New Haven, CT

California

Chico, CA

Roseville, CA

Colorado

Denver, CO

Delaware

Newark, DE

Florida

Boca Raton, FL

Tampa, FL

Hawaii

Maui, HI

Maine

Portland, ME

Maryland

Baltimore, MD

Upper Marlboro, MD

Massachusetts

Boston, MA

New Jersey

Barnegat, NJ

Chatham, NJ

New Brunswick, NJ

Saddle Brook, NJ

Pennsylvania

Allentown, PA

Butler, PA

Clarion, PA

Philadelphia, PA

Reading, PA

Slippery Rock, PA

York, PA

Vermont

Burlington, VT

Virginia

Buckingham, VA

Charlottesville, VA

Falls Church, VA (Northern VA)

Richmond, VA

Washington, DC

Washington, DC