

North/South Connections Virtual Special Forum – A.A. in Remote Communities

July 16, 2022, 11 am – 6 pm EDT

Beyond Language, Culture and Geography: Sobriety Within Everybody's Reach



We need your short videos to show during this virtual special forum focused on how A.A.'s carry the message to remote communities. This is a special international event with members from Argentina and Chile in participation with members from Canada and the U.S.

The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2022. Videos submitted will be shown at this special virtual forum only and will not be publicly streamed or published on any other platform.

- ✓ Individuals submitting videos must be at least 18 years of age.
- ✓ Submissions should be in ASL, English, Spanish or French, and *10 seconds up to 2 minutes* (approximately) in length.
- ✓ Submissions should reflect and adhere to the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. Videos will only be shown at this special virtual forum; while this is an A.A. event, and full anonymity protection is not required, as it will not be streamed on a publicly broadcast platform, we do suggest that videos focus on their message rather than individuals. *Be sure to ask permission before taking anyone's photo and explain how you plan to use the images!*

Suggestions for content

- Share your hometown, your community, the view from your window.
- Your group's meeting places.
- The meeting, after or before, the meeting; social gatherings, could include images from anniversaries, informal images taken during breaks at events- food, décor, art ...ways we express our cultures and customs.
- Service Committees that participate in reaching out to remote communities could share about their committee's projects.

See the program overview on the next page for ideas and a better understanding of this event.

Be creative and have fun!

continued

Technical specs, how to submit, and all that stuff:

In general, videos should be shot in HD format (just use your smartphone) - please shoot in horizontal (landscape mode), do your best to keep your videos steady and give the audience a good view of A.A. from your perspective. Videos may be edited. If you're recording Audio, please be sure things can be heard clearly. All music used in this project must be royalty free; videos that include popular music must have explicit written permissions for usage. For more details and information on how to submit your video digitally, please contact the Regional Forums Coordinator at G.S.O. via northsouthconnections@aa.org or by phone at 212-870-3120. The deadline is June 1, 2022.



Important Legal Notice:

If your video is chosen to be used by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. at this event, appropriate permissions will need to be signed. You will grant permission for your video to be used at this event and verify that any persons appearing in the video have given permission for their image to appear. All music used in this project must be royalty free; videos that include popular music must have explicit written permissions for usage. Additionally, the A.A. member making the submission must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. Submitters will not be paid for their videos.

Beyond Language, Culture and Geography: Sobriety Within Everybody's Reach ***Program overview***

Panel One: Language

A.A.'s Language of the Heart:

Language of the heart portrayed through literature, member experience, and beyond. We may have differences in color, creed, or background, but we all share in the language of the heart.

Finding Solutions to Language Barriers:

Members who have helped carry and or received the A.A. message share their stories about how we can overcome language challenges, as well as tools they used, and advice on locating resources and starting translations projects.

Panel Two: Culture

Re-Discovering Culture Through A.A. Participation

We alcoholics come in many shapes and forms, but we share a common problem and a common solution. Alcoholism caused us to be disconnected from our families and cultures. We recognizing we are alcoholics of varying ethnicities, abilities, genders, languages, education, neighborhoods, socioeconomic backgrounds and ages. Opening our minds and hearts to the diversity in our world, starting locally, we reconnected with our roots.

Hidden Communities – Unexpected Opportunities to Carry the Message

Rethinking Hidden Communities: What actions can we take so that all seeking help with a drinking problem, know A.A. is for all cultures? How have we found unexpected opportunities to carry the message? How do we reach alcoholics in populated areas who have yet to find us - staying mindful of who's not in the room, and then widen the conversation as to why. What actions can we take so that A.A. is here for all who seek help with a drinking problem?

Panel Three: Geography

Carrying Our Message: Near and Far, In Person and Online

The global pandemic caused A.A. members and groups to greatly expand use of technology, such as video conferencing, to carry the A.A. message.

How do we break new ground in terms of carrying the message, and stay united despite great distances?

Strengthening our Structure Through Service:

How can our service structure help in carrying the message? Can we tailor our structures to meet local needs, rather than focus on "the manual?" Sharing opportunities to bring information and experience to loners, fledgling groups, or service entities. How can we unite service committees separated by distance?