



Des Moines, Iowa Bid Proposal for the 62nd Annual International Women's Conference, February 2026

On behalf of the Des Moines Bid Committee, we're seeking your support to bring the International Women's Conference back to Des Moines in February 2026. The last time it was here was 1974! It is our hope is to not only touch the lives of recovering women in Des Moines, but throughout our state of Iowa, our region, and internationally through our virtual platform.

Below you will find information about the Conference's mission and history. On Page 2, you will find a sample letter of support to help in your drafting. **Please send your signed letter via PDF to meganrflynn@gmail.com on or before August 31, 2023.**

Mission

The International Women's Conference is the bridge to a better understanding of the Alcoholics Anonymous philosophy and way of life because of our special needs in sobriety as women. We as women members of Alcoholics Anonymous are survivors. We have found a way to obtain meaning, depth, and responsibility in our lives. This came about out of desire, decision, determination, and spiritual guidance. An elevated sense of belonging that is brought about by the special services and a special need provided by our Women's Conference is our goal.

History

In 1965, Bernadette O'K and other AA women in Kansas City held a conference just for women in AA. The conference became known as the National AA Women's Conference.

This forum aimed to provide:

- Sharing of experiences common to women alcoholics
- Discussion of problems of particular interest to all women AA members.
- Opportunities to hear AA women speakers from many areas.

Forty-five members attended our first conference in Kansas City. The reception was so enthusiastic that plans were laid to create an annual women's AA conference. February was chosen as conference month to commemorate Bernadette's AA anniversary, and because it is traditionally the month of love. It also seemed like a welcome break from the winter doldrums. Kansas City held five more conferences. Other cities then began asking to host one. After Bernadette's death, the International AA Women's Conference traveled around the country.

IWC Self-Supporting Statement

This conference is self-supporting through the money paid for by registration fees, banquet tickets, and donations. No 7th Tradition AA funds are used to pay for the event. Conferences and conventions are special events and require money, as well as months of planning and preparation.¹

¹ <https://internationalwomensconference.org/history/>

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT: Des Moines, Iowa bid for International Women’s Conference 2026

Please use your letterhead if applicable.

<<Date>>

Advisory Council
International Women’s Conference
www.internationalwomensconference.org

Dear Members of the Advisory Council:

Opening Sample

It is <<my/group name>> pleasure to write this letter in support of the Des Moines, Iowa bid for the 62nd Annual International Women’s Conference, February 11-15, 2026.

By this letter, <<l/group name>> we wish to express our strong support of the Des Moines, Iowa bid for the 62nd Annual International Women’s Conference, February 11-15, 2026.

<<l/group name>> was pleased to learn of the Des Moines, Iowa bid for the 62nd Annual International Women’s Conference, February 11-15, 2026. We share our full support in this endeavor.

Body Sample

- Explain why this important to your group, to women in recovery, or the local area. What will it contribute?
- Explain what you or the group can assist if this bid is awarded (volunteers, location for fundraising, outreach and communication, etc.)

Closing Sample

For these reasons, it is our sincerest wish this bid will be accepted by the Advisory Council. <<l/we>> would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

In closing, we ask the Advisory Council to strongly consider the bid for the Des Moines, Iowa location. <<Group name>> is dedicated to making this conference a success.

Therefore, the <<group name>> offers its full and on-going support for the Des Moines, Iowa bid. We look forward to a continued partnership with you.

Sincerely,
/signature/

<<Name (first last initial if member of AA)>>

<<Position/Title>>

<<Name of group>>