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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.

We are circulating petitions to identify women who have an interest in helping us. Please add your name to the list provided to you. Below you will find information about the Conference’s mission and history.

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 Alcoholic 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/>

International Women's Conference Des Moines, Iowa Bid Proposal: February 12-15, 2026

We, home group members and attendees of _____, a virtual women's meeting in Iowa, commit to the following in support of the Des Moines, Iowa bid to host the International Women's Conference in 2026.

First Name, Last Initial Email address	Sobriety date	I endorse this bid. (mark X)	Have you been to an International Women's Conference before? Yes/No	If Des Moines were to win the bid, I am committed to serve during the conference. (mark X)	If willing to serve, what service experience do you have in AA?