

SACNA Programming Subcommittee Policy

Membership and Voting Procedures

1. Members of this subcommittee must have a minimum of 6 months NA street clean time and willingness to serve. The waving of clean time is prohibited regardless of prior clean time.
2. Voting members are recognized as voting members of the programming committee at their second consecutive meeting. To remain a member you must attend 2 out of the next 3 meetings. Voting members must have 1 year clean. Members who have less than a year clean shall be allowed to have input but cannot vote until they achieve a year clean.
3. The Programming Chairperson should have 3 years NA street clean time and 1 year prior SACNA convention experience. The vice chair should also meet the same requirements as the chairperson. The reasoning behind the vice-chair having the same amount of clean time as the chairperson being the following. If the chair is unable to fulfill his commitment the vice chair or another proposed member of the subcommittee must go before the main body of the convention committee to be voted in just as the original chairperson was prior. The secretary of the committee should have 1 year and access to a computer and an e-mail address.
4. Any member including the chair, vice chair and secretary that misses 2 consecutive meetings may be asked to step down from the subcommittee without unforeseen reasons. Some examples are health related issues, hospitalization, accidents, etc. The following are not considered valid reasons, speaking engagements, attending anniversaries and parties. The committee can consider leniency and may not be overly rigid in certain cases. A member can bring to the body at a prior meeting a reason they may not be able to attend an upcoming meeting and in some cases a meeting can be rescheduled if the body comes to an agreement without disregarding another member. We must all keep into consideration that not 1 member is more important than the subcommittee and the business at hand.
5. All members of the SACNA executive body (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary and all other SACNA subcommittee chairpersons will not be recognized as voting members of the programming subcommittee, They should also allow the committee to fulfill their responsibilities without interruption unless the subcommittee disregards the SACNA Convention Policy.

Speaker Selection

1. When choosing speakers the programming subcommittee should try to choose a mixture of speakers based on ethnicity, gender, age, race, religion or lack of religion. In Narcotics Anonymous 12th. tradition in the It Works How and Why, it states, In fact our diversity is our strength. We should do our best to satisfy a diverse audience.
2. In choosing the Opening, Main and the Closing Speakers the committee should be strongly considered by tape selection if available. Special interest and panel meeting speaker should be selected by tapes if available. The final decision rest with the subcommittee in selecting speakers.
3. 50% of all workshop speakers should come from Suffolk Area. 75% of the group speakers will be chosen via group lottery system, the remaining 25% by the programming subcommittee and they all must have Suffolk area homegroups.
4. At the Friday Opening Meeting. 1 speaker must come from Suffolk Area and have a Suffolk Area home group. The other speaker should come from an area in New York, which may also be another Suffolk Area speaker.
5. The final date for speaker tapes should be 6 months prior to the convention. Speakers should never be selected prior to the final submission date on the registration flyer.
6. The order in picking the main meeting speakers should be as followed. The Saturday Main Speaker, followed by the Sunday Closing Speaker. The out of area, Friday Night Opening Meeting speaker followed by the Suffolk Area Opening Speaker
7. Clean time requirements for speakers are as followed. All main meeting speakers must have 5 years NA street clean time. Waving of clean time is prohibited. All workshop speakers must have 3 years NA street clean time and chairpersons should have 1 year NA street clean time.

8. No member of the programming committee, executive body, or convention sub committee chairperson is allowed to speak. If a member of a subcommittee is chosen by a group to share at a workshop please remind them to remove the committee tee shirt and change into non committee apparel before speaking.

9. When listening to audio recordings the following factors may eliminate a speaker from consideration. Endorsing other fellowships, usage of language that is not Narcotics Anonymous language, examples are clean and sober and sobriety.

10. Speakers should not name or endorse any particular religious figurehead, speakers should not endorse rehabs or therapeutic community.

11. Main meeting speakers may not share at another main meeting for 8 years.

12. Workshop speakers, including special interest speakers may not share more than once at the convention and cannot speak at the following 3 day weekend convention.

13. Friday night opening main meeting speakers will receive a registration package, either basic or full registration. The final decision lies with the admin body.

14. The Saturday night main speaker and the Sunday morning speaker will receive full registration packages. Request for lodging and traveling expenses must be presented to the admin body which will make the final decision.

15. After the committee chooses the main speakers they should immediately present their selection to the main body at the very next main body meeting.

16. The final program should be completed no later than 5 months prior to the convention to allow speakers to be contacted. 3 months prior to the convention at the SASNA meeting the programming committee will be present to allow group GSR's to submit their groups names to be chosen via lottery selection for workshop speaker selection. GSR's can only submit their group and only submit once. The GSR or alternate must be present and only one of them may submit. Groups chosen must have been recognized as a Suffolk area group for 6 months

prior to the convention, groups with less than 6 months must wait until the next convention to be selected.

17. The group will be given a form at the time they are selected and the GSR will give his or her contact information to a programming representative. After the next programming meeting the GSR will be contacted with the time and topic the group was selected to share on. This will give the group the opportunity to choose a speaker at their business meeting prior to the next month's area service meeting. The GSR may also contact the committee via telephone and make sure your selection is confirmed. As per the new policy change the group speaker cannot be someone who spoke at the prior 3 day convention. If a group deems they do not have a qualified speaker they may choose someone from another meeting or choose to decline. If the group needs more time they have until the next area to choose someone. Any group that declines or fails to report their group's chosen speaker after that time will relinquish the opportunity and the programming committee will choose a replacement for the workshop.

18. Mini conventions are considered fundraisers and speaking at fundraising events should not disqualify a speaker from speaking at the 3 day convention.

Conduct Statement

1. Menacing, intimidating and threatening behavior will not be tolerated and any member who displays such behavior may be asked to leave the committee. We all want our committee and its members to feel safe.

2. Cell phone usage, texting or talking during the subcommittee meeting is strongly discouraged, please refrain from doing so during the meeting unless it pertains to committee business like contacting speakers or acquiring information for the committee. If a member has an emergency situation and needs to monitor or use their phone let the committee know beforehand.

Responsibilities of Programming Committee

1. The programming subcommittee is responsible to the SACNA main body and must present accurate reports of their committee's business meeting, meeting scheduling and proposed changes to the policy.
2. Any proposed policy change must be brought before the main body for ratification by the SACNA executive body and then must be presented to the SASNA area business meeting on a motion form to be voted on by the groups of Suffolk area.
3. Any programming subcommittee policy change must be passed by a 2/3 vote.
4. The programming subcommittee is responsible for selecting speakers and scheduling time slots for speakers at fundraising events prior to the convention.
5. The programming subcommittee develops a schedule for the convention. This includes all workshops, special interest meetings, panel meetings and main meetings from the beginning of the convention to the closing meeting.
6. The programming subcommittee works with the Events and Fundraising committee throughout the convention. This includes prior fundraising events and the actual convention, because time schedules are important.
7. The committee should provide a scheduling grid for the convention.
8. A committee member should always be stationed at the programming table and a programming member should always be present at the start of a meeting of convention workshop to insure the meeting is opened properly. If there are enough programming representatives present they may stay and hopefully enjoy the meeting in its entirety. They are responsible for making sure the speakers, chairperson and audio equipment is present and that the meeting starts and ends as scheduled. The committee member should also make sure that the speakers are present and should be responsible for finding a chairperson to open the meeting and making sure that they are informed to follow the format.

