



IDAA

A Recovery Fellowship for Healthcare Professionals and Their Loved Ones

July 2024 Newsletter

[2025 Annual Meeting Information](#)

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IDAA Recovery News and Updates

Special Edition - Conference Recap

Not a member? Join Today!

If you are not a member of IDAA you are missing out on a number of services that are only available to IDAA Members through the **IDAA Member Portal!**

1st Year Discount, use code: *IDAA2024*

Join Today

IDAA Conference 2025

July 9-13 - Spokane:

- [Register Now](#) (Early Bird Rates!)
- [Spokane Merchandise](#)

A message from the Executive Director

We had an amazing time in Baltimore! A huge thank you to the 558 people who joined us. The energy during our 75th Anniversary celebration was incredible, and we owe much of it to the outstanding efforts of our LAC Co-Chairs, Corinne, and Adam S., and the entire Local Arrangements Committee (LAC). Your dedication made this conference truly special.

I also want to extend my gratitude to all the conference attendees who warmly welcomed me as the new IDAA Executive Director. While I had the chance to meet many of you in Tucson, this was my first conference in this role, and it was a deeply humbling experience.

A particularly memorable moment for me was meeting Gordi Hyde. Gordi served as the IDAA Executive Director from 2002 to 2008 and joined us this year to celebrate our

75th Anniversary. Gordi's first conference was in 1980, and during his tenure, IDAA achieved some of its highest conference attendance numbers, including 1,200 attendees in 2005. He also edited the book "IDAA: The First Sixty Years" ([learn more here](#)). Gordi, like so many IDAA leaders, worked tirelessly to shape the IDAA we cherish today. Thank you, Gordi, and your lovely daughter, for being with us!

The magic of IDAA continues throughout the year. Be sure to check the member portal, attend a new meeting, share IDAA with others, and nurture these connections.

With appreciation,
Michelle Van Alst
Executive Director



Gordi Hyde, IDAA Executive Director 2002-2008 and Michelle Van Alst, Current IDAA Executive Director



Dr. Aaron Rank

It is with deep sorrow that I share the news of the passing of our Conference Committee Chair, Dr. Aaron Rank. We will provide obituary details as soon as they are available.

We encourage members to visit the IDAA Bulletin Board to share their memories of Aaron.

Aaron was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by many.

Recordings



Recordings from the 75th Annual Conference are now available in the members-only portal. This includes CE recordings and slides from presenters. Click [here](#) to visit the member portal, membership is required.



CE Certificate

Did you purchase CE's at the Annual Conference?

The CE survey required to collect your conference CE Certificate was sent last week by CineMed. Please contact Central Office at info@idaa.org if you did not receive the email. CE Certificates must be claimed by the end of August, do not delay!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board Updates:

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Mel Warner as the Board Chair of the IDAA Board of Directors.

Dr. Melissa Lee Warner is a champion of recovery who believes that every patient can achieve a lifetime of sobriety. A graduate of Eastern Virginia Medical School, she served for several years as a general medical officer in the US Navy, and then completed a **Family** Medicine Residency at Case Western Reserve, University Hospitals of Cleveland. This was followed by an Addiction Medicine fellowship, with a concurrent faculty development fellowship in family medicine at UNC Chapel Hill.

Dr. Warner is a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Addiction Medicine. Passionate about health, wellness and spiritual development, she has special interests in non-intoxicating approaches to pain management, treating eating disorders with an abstinence-based **12-Step** approach, nicotine sobriety; and LGBTQ populations.

"Mel" joined IDAA in 1990; bringing her family along in 1992 as ala-tots, ala-dudes, Jery Moe's, ala-teens, and ala-twenties. She was honored to join the Long Range Planning Committee to hold institutional knowledge and to participate in the vision and direction as IDAA grew. Co-chairing the Norfolk 2015 meeting was a true gift for her, and she was pleased to join the IDAA BOD following that. Mel said "yes" when asked to step into the Board Chair-elect position in 2021; and now recognizes that she sits on the shoulders of giants in her new role. She understands that it is imperative to bring the IDAA message of family recovery to more and more healthcare providers and their loved ones.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. David Cram as our Board chair-elect.

Dave was born and raised in rural Manitoba, attended medical school in Winnipeg, and specialized in family practice and anesthesia. He has served as a country doctor in a rural community for 38 years, working in an ER hospital office in a town of 1700. Over the years, he's been a board member of provincial and national medical associations, as well as a member of the regional Medical Advisory Committee.

Dave has a passion for cars, enjoys looking after his large yard, and loves playing

poker. He and his wife Liz have three boys. His recovery began in 1990, and he attended his first IDAA in Portland in 2008. He joined the board in 2018 as a member at large and serves as a member of the admin committee.

Dave is very excited to pass on the message of recovery to those still suffering.

New Board Additions Include:

Susan Park – Family Recovery Representative

Ben Murphy – International Member-At-Large



VIRTUAL BASKET DONATION



Virtual Basket

Many have asked for a virtual basket that can be shared during a meeting. Please click the photo to the left to download a QR code.

All proceeds collected via the virtual basket QR will support the IDAA General Fund.

**Thank you to our
2024 Exhibitors:**





75th Anniversary Campaign

This year marks an important milestone in IDAA history - our 75th Annual Conference of International Doctors in Alcoholics Anonymous. To support this event and our broader mission, we invite you to contribute to our 75th Anniversary Campaign. Your donation will help us host the conference, offer scholarships, and expand our services beyond this event. Your contribution will also ensure the longevity and impact of IDAA for years to come. I hope you will join us in

celebrating this achievement by making a donation [here](#).

[Donate Now](#)



IDAA Ambassador

Become an ambassador for change with the IDAA Ambassador Program! If you're a member passionate about spreading the message of hope and recovery, this program invites you to represent IDAA within your network. Equip yourself with informative materials designed to make a meaningful impact. Join hands with us in reaching out to those in need, fostering a community of support and understanding. Ready to be a beacon of hope?

Learn more about the IDAA Ambassador Program by reaching out to info@IDAA.org. Together, let's make a difference!

[Click Here for Resources!](#)

Upcoming International and US

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL & US MEETINGS

HAVE A MEETING TO ADD?
EMAIL
EXECUTIVE@IDAA.ORG



Meetings:

October 10-13, 2024

- **British Doctors + Dentists Group (BDDG) – Annual Convention**
- Venue: TBD
- [Click Here for Details](#)

November 7-10, 2024

- **46th Annual New England Professionals Group (NEPG) Conference**
- Venue: The Nonantum, Kennebunkport, ME
- [Click Here for Details](#)

February 20-23, 2025

- **Western Doctors in Recovery (WDR)**
- Venue: Hyatt in La Jolla
- [Click Here for Details](#)
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July 9-13, 2025

- 76th Annual IDAA Annual Conference – International Doctors in AA
- Venue: The Davenport Grand - Spokane, Washington
- [Click Here for Details](#)

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What is IDAA?

IDAA is a nonprofit organization committed to empowering healthcare professionals and their families in their journey to recovery from substance abuse disorder. We connect individuals struggling or in recovery from substance abuse and loved ones to supportive communities, both online and in person. Here, they can find inspiration, strength, and hope as they hear personal stories of recovery from addiction as told by fellow healthcare professionals. To further our mission, we gather annually for a conference, delving into the educational depths of addiction as a disease and providing invaluable spiritual support to one another.

Get In Touch

International Doctors in Alcoholics Anonymous

5123 W 98th St., #1110,
Minneapolis, MN 55437
651-299-3452

Contact Us



Mission Statement: The mission of IDAA is to carry the message of recovery to healthcare professionals and their families.

Vision Statement: IDAA envisions recovery for all healthcare professionals and their families impacted by addictive disorders.

IDAA Inclusivity Statement: IDAA envisions Recovery for all health care professionals and their families impacted by addictive disorders. We celebrate Diversity and are committed to Equity and Inclusion of people from all Racial, Ethnic, Cultural, Sexual/Gender and Spiritual identities. Many Recovery Pathways in addition to AA are represented at the IDAA Annual Meeting, Regional Meetings, and on our virtual and email meetings.

International Doctors in Alcoholics Anonymous | 5123 W 98th St. #1110 | Minneapolis, MN
55437 US

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