



SSWAA Conference Policies

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About

Conference Mission

It is SSWAA’s mission to provide quality professional development for School Social Workers.

Location

In an effort to make travel as accessible and equitable as possible, each year SSWAA chooses a conference location in a different region of the United States. SSWAA’s National Conference rotates through four regions: Northeast, Southern, Midwest, and Western.

SSWAA understands many school districts and individual professionals have limited funding for professional development. SSWAA makes every effort to provide a comfortable and affordable conference for its attendees. While SSWAA works to provide adequate amenities during the conference event, SSWAA keeps the professional development training as the ultimate focus.



Presenters

SSWAA publishes a call for proposals typically 10-12 months in advance of each conference. SSWAA's conference committee reviews each proposal with names omitted to limit bias or personal relationships with presenters. SSWAA aims to provide variety of topics and a diverse body of presenters/viewpoints that effectively represents our profession. We strongly encourage practitioners of color to submit proposals. Please see our Speaker Disclaimer Act below for additional information.

Hotels and Flights

SSWAA strongly encourages individuals to register for the event before booking hotels and flights. SSWAA cannot guarantee that an event will not sell out. SSWAA is not responsible for any hotel or travel arrangements made by the individual attending. Additionally, a flight reservation or hotel reservation does not guarantee registration to the event.

In the event the event hotel runs out of accommodations, SSWAA will make every effort to identify/facilitate alternative lodging. Alternative lodging is not, however, guaranteed. SSWAA strongly encourages guests to coordinate their registration, lodging and additional travel arrangements as soon as possible.

Registration

SSWAA strongly recommends the conference attendee register for the event themselves, rather than a third party, such as a supervisor. Doing so will ensure information (such as email and license number) is entered correctly as well as any member discounts are received. Individuals are able to register for the event themselves and request an invoice which can be sent to their district for payment. Correction of registration errors made may result in an administrative fee.

If a third party is registering an individual, it is up to the third party and individual to confirm registration confirmation and communications have been received via email to the appropriate email address.

Registration typically closes 17 days prior to the start date of the event.

Communication

SSWAA sends frequent communications to registrants leading up to the event with important information. It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure they receive a confirmation email as well as all additional communications. SSWAA recommends registrants check their spam/junk folder in case any emails are redirected there, and mark @sswaa as a safe sender.

Payment & Purchase Orders

When registering, individuals may make online payment at the time of registration. Additionally, individuals will be given the option to select "invoice me" when registering.



This option allows individuals to mail check payment to the SSWAA address noted on the invoice. Additionally, individuals may use the "invoice me" option if they will be submitting a Purchase Order.

Purchase Orders are allowed as a "promise of payment" from a school district. Individuals submitting a PO must allow adequate time for the processing of payment. A Purchase Order secures registration; however, check payment must be received by the event date. **Purchase Orders will not be accepted within 30 days of the event start date as this does not allow adequate time for actual payment to be received.**

Payment for a registration must be received when the service is rendered (start of the conference event) or entry may be denied.

No Shows

No shows occur when an individual registers for the event but does not show up for the event. No shows create complications for the event. Individuals who register but do not show up, take up a conference space for another individual who would like to attend the event. In an effort to keep "no shows" to a minimum, SSWAA reserves the right to cancel any registration which has not been paid 17 days before the event begins. SSWAA will make every effort to contact individuals with an unpaid balance in the weeks leading up to the event to confirm attendance and payment. Individuals who have submitted a Purchase Order, will not be cancelled since the PO is promise of payment, however, confirmation of payment may be requested.

Sold Out Events

In the event a conference sells out, a wait list may be created. SSWAA staff will do their best to address any cancellations or non-payments to make room for individuals on the waitlist. If a waitlist is created, the waitlist will be closed 17 days before the event. Start date is noted as the pre-conference date.

On-Site Registration

On-site registration will be allowed in the event a conference is not sold out. If an event is sold out, registration on-site is prohibited despite the possibility of another individual not attending the event. In the unique event of an attendee conflict with registration, all final decisions on attendance will be made by the Executive Director with feedback from appropriate staff and board members taken into consideration.

Refunds / Cancellations

All cancellations MUST be in writing. Individuals sending written requests postmarked four weeks before the start date of the event will receive a refund minus a 25% administrative fee. There will be no refunds within four weeks before the start date of the event. Start date is noted as the pre-conference date.



Americans with Disability Act

Please advise the Executive Director, Rebecca K. Oliver, at r.k.oliver@sswaa.org, at least 8 weeks prior to the event if you need any auxiliary aids or services to participate in the conference. Attendees who register after the published deadline will be invited to participate with the schedule in place at that time which will include all keynote speakers and select meetings & workshops.

Speaker Disclaimer Statement

Views expressed by presenters are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of SSWAA.

Beliefs or Rationale:

SSWAA welcomes a diversity of viewpoints expressed in a respectful manner. SSWAA also recognizes that social workers can agree to disagree agreeably, and still remain professional.

Some speakers may express views that are inconsistent with good self-care, competence, or ethics. When this occurs, the NASW Code of Ethics specifically states that the colleague should be professionally approached and communicated with directly, before escalating the conflict or disagreement to another level. This may not always be possible or the colleague may be unresponsive to feedback. In these circumstances, SSWAA recommends addressing it with leadership of the organization or the proper authority.

CEs

Obtaining CEs

Please see our updated CE document by [clicking here](#).

Transcript Fees

Any CE transcript documents not downloaded by the user by the cutoff date are subject to a \$25 transcript fee per event.