A Message from the organizers of the 9th Annual Peer Support Conference Hosted by the International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)

Hello! We look forward to seeing you this week at the Sheraton Gunter San Antonio Hotel on Thursday, August 20. Registration for the conference begins at 8:00 AM and the conference opening remarks begin at 9:00 AM.

We have a few things we wanted to share ahead of time to help make your (and our) time together go smoothly!

Location:

The Sheraton Gunter Hotel San Antonio is located at 205 East Houston Street, San Antonio, TX 78205 | Phone: (210) 227-3241

Reminder:

The registration fee covers conference workshops, a continental breakfast served from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM each day and an afternoon refreshment break.

Travel, hotel accommodations, and other meals are not covered.

Travel information:

Note: The hotel does NOT provide a shuttle service to or from area airports.

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<th>AIRPORT (CLOSEST)</th>
<th>Taxi from airport to the hotel</th>
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<tr>
<td>SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SAT)</td>
<td>Fee: $35-40 USD. Travel time ~ 20 minutes in normal traffic.</td>
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<td>Travel Distance: Approximately 9.0 miles</td>
<td>GO SHUTTLE from airport to the hotel</td>
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<td>Fee: $18-20 USD. ~ 30 minutes in normal traffic.</td>
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GO Airport Shuttle Phone: 1-844-787-1670 | info@goairportshuttle.com
Parking:
Parking at the hotel for one day is $16.00. There is a parking garage across the street that ranges from $10-15.00 depending on the hours. Overnight parking at the hotel is $28.00 per day + tax.

Dress Code:
Pack to dress for comfort and as you would for any regular meeting with peers. This week the outside temperature in San Antonio reached 108°. The hotel temperature should be reasonable, but it is wise to dress in layers with at least one warm layer handy as air conditioning can be chilly in some hotels, especially during hot weather to compensate for the heat.

Pre-Conference Workshop
There is a pre-conference workshop on Wednesday, August 19 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Introduction to Facilitating Learning: How to deliver Inspiring Classes Where Joy and Transformation Happen. This one day workshop is organized and offered by Recovery Opportunity Center (ROC) and will be held in the MAGNOLIA Room at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel the day before the National Conference. There is a $30 fee for the workshop, payable to ROC, separate from the National Conference registration. For more information or to register, visit: https://na4ps.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/roc_registration_v2.pdf To learn more, contact: terrence.smithers@recoveryopportunity.com

Evening Networking Session
Wednesday, August 19: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Join us for a free networking session on Wednesday evening in the ALAMO Room at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel. There is no fee and you do not need to be registered for the conference to join this fun evening networking session, which will be from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Exhibitor Set up / Take down:
Exhibitors are welcome to set up in the MAGNOLIA Room on Wednesday evening from 7-9 PM while others are attending the networking event or from 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM during the registration and opening session of the conference. Take down is between 5:00 – 6:00 PM on Friday.

Early Registration:
If you arrive on Wednesday, August 19, you can pre-register for the conference between 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the evening Networking Session scheduled to be held on the 3rd floor of the hotel in the ALAMO Room.

Main Conference Registration:
The registration area on the 2nd floor in front of the CRYSTAL BALLROOM will open at 8:00 AM and remain open until 5:00 PM on Thursday, August 20. Limited staff will be available to handle registration questions from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Friday, August 21.

Breakfast Consideration:
A continental breakfast will be served from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM in the registration area in front of the CRYSTAL BALLROOM and will consist of fruit juice, yogurt, pastries, and coffee / tea. The selection is limited and it is not intended as an “all you can eat” breakfast buffet, so please be considerate of others.

Important Note on the consumption of outside food:
The hotel restricts the consumption of food brought in from the outside in its conference meeting areas. You are welcome to order from the outside and eat in your personal hotel room, but we (the conference organizers) are under a hotel contract to offer only food purchased through the hotel catering service in the conference space. Thank you in advance for honoring the Sheraton “house” rules.
Opening Session:

The Opening Session will be in the **CRYSTAL BALLROOM** and will include a welcome, awards, and a short skit by our MC (mistress of ceremony). There will be two general sessions in the morning followed by workshops in the afternoon.

Lunch and Dinner Options:

There are a number of restaurants and markets near the hotel and you will have 90 minutes for lunch. The conference ends at 5:00 PM each day, so there is time to get out and explore the area.

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Notes from one of our organizers: “San Antonio is the Cultural Gem of South Texas, The Riverwalk is the Touristic heart of San Antonio and the Alamo is the centerpiece but there is an Open Air Market, which is very colorful and walking distance from the hotel. There is also a flourishing live music scene along the Riverwalk with everything from Mariachi to New Orleans Dixieland.”

If you would like to do advanced research on lunch and dinner options or fun things to do:

**Restaurants**

[https://www.google.com/maps/search/restaurants/@29.4254982,-98.490585,18z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1srestaurants!2sSheraton+Gunter+Hotel+San+Antonio,+Houston+Street,+205+E+Houston+St,+San+Antonio,+TX+78205!3s0x865c5f533ef1aac3:0x81b8417beed98dbb4m21ld-98.49096812d29.426798](https://www.google.com/maps/search/restaurants/@29.4254982,-98.490585,18z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1srestaurants!2sSheraton+Gunter+Hotel+San+Antonio,+Houston+Street,+205+E+Houston+St,+San+Antonio,+TX+78205!3s0x865c5f533ef1aac3:0x81b8417beed98dbb4m21ld-98.49096812d29.426798)

**Attractions**

[https://www.google.com/maps/search/attractions/@29.4257207,-98.490257,18z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1sattractions!2sSheraton+Gunter+Hotel+San+Antonio,+Houston+Street,+205+E+Houston+St,+San+Antonio,+TX+78205!3s0x865c5f533ef1aac3:0x81b8417beed98dbb4m21ld-98.49096812d29.426798](https://www.google.com/maps/search/attractions/@29.4257207,-98.490257,18z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1sattractions!2sSheraton+Gunter+Hotel+San+Antonio,+Houston+Street,+205+E+Houston+St,+San+Antonio,+TX+78205!3s0x865c5f533ef1aac3:0x81b8417beed98dbb4m21ld-98.49096812d29.426798)

**The RiverWalk**

The San Antonio River Walk is a network of walkways along the banks of the San Antonio River, one story beneath the streets of Downtown San Antonio [http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/](http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/)

[https://www.google.com/maps/place/The+San+Antonio+River+Walk/@29.4245945,-98.488585,17z/data=!4m12!1m9!2m8!1sriverwalk!2sSheraton+Gunter+Hotel+San+Antonio,+Houston+Street,+205+E+Houston+St,+San+Antonio,+TX+78205!3s0x865c5f533ef1aac3:0x81b8417beed98dbb4m21ld-98.49096812d29.426798](https://www.google.com/maps/place/The+San+Antonio+River+Walk/@29.4245945,-98.488585,17z/data=!4m12!1m9!2m8!1sriverwalk!2sSheraton+Gunter+Hotel+San+Antonio,+Houston+Street,+205+E+Houston+St,+San+Antonio,+TX+78205!3s0x865c5f533ef1aac3:0x81b8417beed98dbb4m21ld-98.49096812d29.426798)
The Sheraton Gunter hotel concierge will also be able to answer specific questions about available local options for lunch and dinner.

Certificates:

If you wish to receive a certificate of attendance for the sessions at the conference, a tracking form will be provided in the registration packets. A sign-in sheet for every session (required for credit) and an evaluation submitted at the end of every session (also required for credit) will be provided by the room monitors. The process will be explained on the tracking form and at the conference for using and submitting the form. A certificate of completion for the verified hours will be returned by email within 4-6 weeks after the end of the conference.

The conference sessions are not accredited for CEU credits, but most state certification authorities accept workshops for contact hours (CE) toward continuing education. [Each state is different, so check with your home state whether the conference certificate will be valid in your state.]

Creative Expression Session:

On Friday morning, there will be an open creative expression session. Do you have a story or something you would like to share about your personal experiences in recovery, in working with peers, in working in the mental health system, or other aspects of peer support that are funny, tragic, beautiful, or moving? Personal stories, poetry, comedy, dance, drama, art, photography or other creative expressions that can be shared in 5 minutes or less can be submitted for consideration.
Have you ever wanted to tell your story or share your experience in a creative way? Submit the following information:

- Your name:
- A title and brief description of your creative expression (50 words or less):
- Expression method (song, poetry, story, art, etc...)

The top ten selections for the Creative Expression Session will be made based on originality and diversity of expression among those submitted. To submit ideas, send email to: hugmeink@gmail.com and copy rita4naps@aol.com. Or, onsite, visit the H.U.G. M.E. Ink exhibitor table. Others can be shared during the ‘open mic’ lunch session.

**Door prize donations:**

Do you have something unique like a book you have written and can autograph or a colorful t-shirt for your program or service? Consider bringing it to be raffled as a door prize at the end of the conference. So far we have t-shirts with the logo, “Recovery Rocks,” posters, and autographed books to raffle. We also have colorful “bag lady” handbags crocheted out of recycled plastic bags that are waterproof and sturdy. Feel free to bring an item or two to contribute to the raffle prize drawing at the end of the conference and we will acknowledge your contribution as it is awarded to the prize winner.

Thank you for your attention to these details. We look forward to seeing you in a few short days!

Rita Cronise

iNAPS Coordinator (and conference organizer)

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Alternate contacts (Wednesday, especially):

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Ethel Sidney  ebsidney@gmail.com  |  520-780-9141 (cell)