

## **Where does my contribution or registration purchase go?**

Our bylaws stipulate that all revenue that comes in as a result of conferences, must be spent only on conferences. This includes conference registration sales, on-site merchandise sales and any contributions that are clearly stated to be intended to support any current or future conference. Money that comes to us in these ways goes into our “ICSAA Fund.”

When you contribute to a specific conference (e.g., “Support Virtual ICSAA 2025” or “Support ICSAA Phoenix 2026”) your contribution will be used to support that specific conference, but if more contributions are collected than are needed for that conference, the excess will remain in the ICSAA Fund to be used to support future conferences. The reason we might set up a different contribution page for each conference is that this gives us a way to determine how much came in *because* of that conference, and we can say “Nice work!” to that committee.

In addition to contributions and registration sales to support all conferences or a specific conference, we also get contributions intended to support Secular AA's general operating costs. When you contribute to us via our general-purpose paypal or venmo accounts, or if you or your group treasurer send us a check, or for any other contributions that are not specifically stated to be intended to support conferences, that money goes into our “General Fund.” This fund can be used for anything consistent with our tax-exempt purpose, which especially includes general expenses like insurance and tax preparation and our zoom account, or any other project we may have.

Both the ICSAA Fund and the General Fund should always contain a “prudent reserve” which will be determined by the board. When we have an amount in the ICSAA Fund in excess of the prudent reserve, that excess must be used to reduce the registration price of future conferences. When we have an excess in the General Fund, that excess can be used for any legitimate purpose *including* reducing future conference registration prices. So, money can go from General to ICSAA—just not the other way around.

If this is confusing, I get it. I wasn't on hand when the bylaws were created and I can't speak for my predecessors, but my speculation is that the reason things were set up this way was to keep conferences as affordable as possible, and to avoid using conference registration sales as a general-purpose “cash cow” for everything.

I deeply hope that this explanation can serve to clear up any confusion about where our revenue goes, with respect to conference and non-conference expenses, but if that is not the case please reach out to me, and I will try to improve it.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Secular AA Treasurer  
seculartreasurer@gmail.com