

NAATW 2019

TIAA-Forum Overview

Presented at 2019 NAATW workshop

Technology in AA

tiaa-forum.org

Presented at 2019 NAATW workshop

Keith Davis

laurinkeithdavis@gmail.com

214-906-5183

Area Delegate, Panel 67,
Area 65 (Northeast Texas)

- 20 years in I.T. professionally
- I.T. Director
- Web Developer
- Webmaster / Tech Support for various AA entities
- Admin for TIAA
- Attended all _____ NAATW's

What is tiaa-forum.org?

- Online community discussing use of technology and related topics in relation to AA's primary purpose
 - Born from NAATW - how do we continue the conversation?
- Both technical and non-technical members
 - We need non-technical to keep the nerds in check!
- Over 600 members
 - Growth has been slow, but steady
- Supportive community for people who have questions, problems and solutions
 - Participation by GSO staff
- General discussions of how we do what we do in AA service
 - How do we stop reinventing the wheel?

Components

- Discourse - the forum software platform
 - Chosen because it was free and open-source, mature, has a substantial support community, and provided a feature set that fulfilled our initial requirements
- WordPress - front-end
 - Allows some “content” for non-members
 - Improved SEO
 - Improved new member process
 - Support for contributions
 - Resources useful to the AA community open to the public
 - Links to websites
 - Blog
- Digital Ocean & Docker
 - Hosting provider and deployment mechanism for both Discourse & WordPress

Demo

- FAQ / Blog
- Sign up
 - Process
 - Introduce yourself...
 - Updating profile
- Different viewing options
 - Categories / New / Latest, etc.
 - Watching topics / Mailing list mode
- Posting:
 - New topics
 - Replies
 - @references
 - Private messages
- Tags
- Search
- Likes
- Navigating longer threads
- Mobile

- Organization
 - Create structure and design for sustainable organization
 - Possibly merger with NAATW
 - 501(c)(3) application - Completed in August 2019
 - Board created in August 2019
- Front-end design / UI experience
 - Graphical and functional design support
 - Navigation choices
- WordPress experience
 - Plugin evaluations
 - Plugin development
 - General maintenance and security
- Rails/Ember/Docker programming and support experience
 - New functionality (plugins?) for Discourse
 - Improve platform operations
- Community support

Thank you!!!

- Forum administrators:
 - Adam, Keith, Lew, Lois, Ginger, Tim
- Dinner!