

WCNA-32

PRE-CONVENTION NEWSLETTER



Greetings! We are pleased to provide you with the following information about how to prepare for the 32nd World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous. The world convention is always a unique opportunity for the fellowship to come together and celebrate recovery in Narcotics Anonymous, and we hope this information will help you plan for the best convention yet.

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REGISTRATION

You're registered, but what about your friends?

Chances are that if you are getting this newsletter you are already registered. Many of us who are already registered understand why registration is important. We hope the following information answers any questions you or your friends may have about why registration is important and why the cost of registration at the world convention seems higher than it is at most regional or area conventions.

Why the Cost of Registration at WCNA Is Higher Than at Other Conventions

In our ongoing efforts to make the world convention an even better experience we continue to take your input and make changes to the convention. This year you may have noticed, in response to your input, some distinct advantages for pre-registering and an increase in the availability of pre-registration merchandise. We have continued to provide increased events and services at the convention including a kickoff festival that is open to all registrants. However, the prices at the world convention are set to cover direct expenses, and in fact registration alone does not cover these expenses. We made pre-registration \$65 for this event and raised onsite registration to \$90. The simple fact is that guessing how many people might come to a world convention requires us to make commitments to facilities, shuttles, registration, and other items that cost money. The onsite registration fee is actually much closer to what it costs us to put on a world convention. What has become a typical world convention costs more than a million dollars to produce!

This year you may have noticed, in response to your input, some distinct advantages for pre-registering and an increase in the availability of pre-registration merchandise.

Twenty-eight percent of all registration dollars goes to cover the costs of special events like the kickoff festival, dances, coffee houses, and Rocky Recovery. Thirty-eight percent goes to facility costs for the dome and the convention center. A large portion of this expense is to accommodate those who have not registered yet or may never register. Twenty-two percent of registration covers program-related costs such as travel for nineteen funded speakers from around the world, translations, translators, and adequate audiovisual support so a great number of people can see and hear the main meetings. Finally, twelve percent goes to shuttles to move people from their hotels to the San Antonio Convention Center (SACC) and Alamodome. This includes special shuttles for those with additional needs.

And why are we telling you all of this? Because we need your help. It seems irresponsible to spend the fellowship's funds on costs for those who choose not to register. We try to accommodate those who are new by providing thousands of newcomer registrations for those with thirty days clean or less. But we plan to enforce the requirement for registration badges in order to ride the shuttles or to gain entry to any of the special events. You can help us enforce this. If you have a child under thirteen who needs a badge in order to ride the shuttles, please come to the convention information booth.

To help assist you in planning your days during WCNA-32 ahead of time, we will be posting the schedule for WCNA-32 meetings, workshops, and events before the convention for the first time.

Log on to <http://www.na.org/WCNA32/index.htm> and check the "Updates" section for the schedule.

And the Most Important Question...What's in It For Me?

Your convention registration badge gives you admission to the kickoff festival at Sunset Station, the coffee houses, and dances, and is required to board all shuttle buses. All other events require a ticket to attend. All workshops and main meetings are open to addicts or anyone interested in finding out more about Narcotics Anonymous. And as we mentioned earlier, you must wear your badge both to enter any of these events and to participate in them. Anyone not wearing a badge during special events covered by registration will be asked to leave.

If you are receiving this newsletter directly, it means you have pre-registered. At this convention we are offering access to the merchandise room in Ballroom B of the SACC for **pre-registrants only** from 3 pm to 8 pm on Wednesday and from 10 am to 1 pm on Thursday. The merchandise room will be open for all others beginning at 2 pm on Thursday. There will be three different registration badge colors for WCNA-32: gold for pre-registrants, green for onsite registrants, and blue for those with under thirty days clean.

Jewelry Sales

NA World Services contracts with an independent and licensed jewelry vendor for the world convention. This vendor sets their own hours of operation that are usually the same as our merchandise hours. While only pre-registrants will be able to access the WCNA-32 merchandise room on Wednesday and Thursday morning, jewelry sales will be open to all, and those hours will be listed onsite.

Additional Needs

If you or anyone you know has an additional need or requires special assistance, please go to www.na.org/wcna32 and read the information available there. You will also find a form that may be filled out so that we can better assist you. As always, we will be providing a special shuttle bus that can accommodate wheelchairs and scooters for transportation to and from your hotel and the convention center. We will make every effort to assist you in obtaining a scooter or wheelchair, but you **must** fill out the form online before making a reservation. We are not providing wheelchairs or scooters ourselves but are making reservations for you with an outside vendor. There is limited availability in San Antonio, so please help us by filling out the form as soon as possible, and absolutely no later than **5 August. Scooters and wheelchairs will not be available onsite unless you have made a reservation in advance.**



SAN ANTONIO CLIMATE, WEATHER, AND DRESS

The average high temperature in San Antonio at the end of August is 95 degrees Fahrenheit, so take heed of these suggestions from physicians and the local Red Cross to help you avoid heat exhaustion, dehydration, heatstroke, and sunburn:

DRINK WATER

At least eight to fifteen eight-ounce glasses of water or fruit juice (with a 50 percent water-juice concentration) during the day.

WEAR COOL FABRICS

Natural fibers in light colors work best. Wear a wide-brimmed hat or cap. Avoid dark clothing that can absorb heat.

USE SUNSCREEN

A minimum SPF of 15 at least twice a day.

SHADE YOUR EYES

UVA sunglasses.

BE CAUTIOUS

If you take antihistamines or diuretics, remember that they can rapidly deplete your body of fluids.

TRANSPORTATION GETTING FROM THE AIRPORT TO YOUR HOTEL

Following is information about the two ways to get from the airport to your hotel:

SATRANS Airport Shuttle

For reservations call (210) 281-9900 or (800) 868-7707.

Website: www.saaairportshuttle.com

Service between the airport and downtown hotels is \$12.00 each way with purchase of a round-trip ticket, or \$14.00 one way. Services are also available to other area destinations, and there are ADA-accessible minibuses.

Taxicab Rates

Approximately \$22.00 to \$27.00 per taxi. Taxis are easy to get, and if you're sharing a taxi with someone it can actually be cheaper than a shuttle.

WCNA-32 HOTELS

After the reservation cutoff date of 13 July 2007, our housing bureau, ConferenceDirect, will continue to assist you with modifications and cancellations to your reservations until 21 August 2007. They can be reached at (888) 351-8967. After that time, please contact the hotel directly.

Marriott River Center	(800) 648-4462
Marriott Riverwalk	(800) 648-4462
Hotel Contessa	(210) 229-9222
The Emily Morgan Hotel	(210) 225-5100 / (210) 225-7227
Hampton Inn	(210) 225-8500
Hilton Palacio del Rio	(210) 222-1400
Hyatt	(210) 222-1234 / (800) 233-1234
La Quinta	(877) 777-6528
Marriott Plaza	(210) 229-1000
The Historic Menger Hotel	(210) 223-4361
Omni La Mansion del Rio	(210) 518-1000 / (888) 444-6664
Red Roof Inn	(210) 229-9973
Sheraton Gunther	(210) 227-3241
St. Anthony	(210) 227-4392
Valencia	(210) 227-9700
Westin	(866) 917-4073

Usual check-in time is 3:00 pm and check-out is 12:00 pm.

The housing bureau will also have a housing desk located next to convention information during the convention to handle last-minute reservations.

WCNA-32 GENERAL INFORMATION

This section of the newsletter outlines some of what you can expect during the actual convention. Please note that the primary locations for the convention are the Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center (which we call the San Antonio Convention Center or SACC), the Alamodome, and Sunset Station.

For all those who will be arriving early, local meeting directories will be available at all WCNA-32 hotels. Call the San Antonio area hotline at (210) 434-0665 for information on meetings in the city and surrounding areas.

Registration

You will be able to pick up pre-registration packages and pre-registration merchandise or to register onsite in Hall C, located on the lobby level of the convention center.

Registration and pre-registration merchandise hours (these hours are subject to change during the convention):

Wednesday	11:00 am to 8:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am to 7:30 pm*
Friday	10:00 am to 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Saturday	11:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Note: Registration will not reopen between the Thursday night main meeting and the kickoff festival, and you must have a badge to get into the festival.*

Registration packages will not be split up. For example, if you register three people, all three registrations must be picked up at the same time. The person picking up the package must be the person listed at the top of the confirmation unless you are one of the "guests" listed on the confirmation and have the confirmation letter in hand. **It's important to remember that we are not responsible for the replacement of lost convention registration badges, and we will not give you another badge if yours is lost or stolen. There are no refunds on registrations or special events.**

Hotel Credit Card Charges

If you made your original reservation using a credit card, please know that the hotels have not charged your credit card yet and may not do so until you arrive. You will need to present the card at check-in, regardless.

A note about credit cards and ATM/check cards: Some of us have grown accustomed to using an ATM/debit card instead of a regular credit card. Please note that the hotel will charge your ATM or check card for the FULL amount of your stay upon check-in and hold an additional amount to cover anticipated incidental charges (phone, movies, etc.) for all the nights you are staying at the hotel, potentially tying up funds you might have been relying on for food, shopping, or recreation.

For those of you using regular credit cards, be sure you have enough credit to pay for your room and cover any additional deposits the hotel may require to cover your incidental charges. If you do not have a credit card, the hotels require you to pay the full cost of the room upon arrival, and to put down a refundable security deposit for incidentals (phone, movie charges, etc.).

Hotel Cancellations

Any reservation canceled at any time after the reservation is made will incur a cancellation fee (deducted from cash deposits or charged to the credit card used to make the reservation) based on the following schedule:

- Hotel reservations canceled on or before 13 July 2007 will be assessed at a \$50.00 cancellation fee.
- Cancellations made after 13 July 2007 will be assessed a \$175.00 cancellation fee. If you do not cancel at all, and just do not show up, the same fee of \$175.00 will apply. Some hotels in San Antonio may charge you for your entire stay.





Events

WCNA-32 has some of the best entertainment yet...

There is no better welcome to Texas than **ZZ Top** at the Saturday night concert at the Alamodome. Laugh until you hurt with your friends as you see **the legendary George Carlin** like you have never see him before at the Friday night comedy show at the Alamodome. All of us (those who are registered, anyway) get to come together and dance to the new sounds of **Ozomatli** at the kickoff festival on Thursday night at Sunset Station. If you missed him in San Diego (he was the talk of the convention), back by popular demand will be **Kenny Wayne Shepherd** at the Thursday blues luncheon in Ballroom C at the convention center. Gerald Albright, Kirk Whalum, Tim Bowman, Jeff Golub... Need we say more about **"Guitars & Saxes 2007"** at the Friday jazz luncheon in Ballroom C at the convention center? One of the most popular roots rock bands in the '70s and '80s, **Little Feat**, plays at the Friday night coffee house. One of the number one hit-makers of the '80s, **Jeffrey Osborne**, has just been added to our entertainment line-up and will be performing at the Saturday night coffee house. And after the convention on Sunday you can't leave Texas without experiencing the Sunday afternoon dance hall and rodeo! Plus there are dances, Rocky Recovery, and more...

*There is no better welcome to Texas than
ZZ Top at the Saturday night concert at the Alamodome.*

A limited number of tickets will be made available for sale onsite at the convention on a first-come, first-served basis in Hall C of the convention center when you pick up your registration package. Don't be left standing around just hearing about how awesome the events are going to be this year. Be a part of the experience. Be there.

For reserved tables, all ten tickets will be in one envelope. Your table number will be on your tickets and put in the envelope of the primary registrant who bought the table. The tables will be preassigned based on your registration date, so you do not need to wait in line for the meal events for which you have purchased a table. If you have reserved a table for yourself and your friends for the Saturday night banquet or the jazz and blues luncheons, please know that you don't have to rush to be seated. If you run into any problems, just grab an available usher to assist you in finding your seats. We will separate the lines for those with preassigned tables from those without to help make this easier on everyone. Those who have not reserved tables will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have reserved a table, help us out by not lining up to be one of the first seated, as this causes more traffic at the entry to the event.

There will be assigned seating for the comedy show with George Carlin and the Saturday night concert with ZZ Top. Seat assignment is based on your registration date, so the earlier you have registered, the closer your seat to the stage. This also applies for onsite registration, so make sure you register as soon as you can upon your arrival in San Antonio!

Newcomer Badges

In line with the belief that we can only keep what we have by giving it away, we offer the opportunity for members to make a special donation to pay for the convention registration of newcomers with thirty days or less clean time. Newcomer registration packages are only available to members with thirty days or less clean who cannot pay all or part of the registration fee. We ask that each member requesting a package make some contribution toward its cost, if able. We do not offer indigent packages or any other "discounted" registration package to any members with more than thirty days clean. We extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to those who make it possible to share the gift of recovery through your donations, as the number of newcomer packages offered is contingent on the donations received. Hours for newcomer badge pickup will be posted in Hall C, located on the lobby level of the convention center.

Convention Information (CI)

The CI booth will be in the hallway on the right as you enter the street level of the convention center. This is the place to go if you have any questions, need to be pointed in the right direction, want restaurant information, or just need a hug! For those who have traveled to San Antonio, the CI booth will also have information such as local meeting times and locations, local attraction information, and directions. CI will also make ADA shuttle arrangements for those who require it. There will be a phone connected directly to the CI booth. Beginning Wednesday, 29 August, **the WCNA-32 convention information phone number will be (210) 582-7015.**

Children

Please note that there is no day care for children. Parents need to monitor their children at all times. Children can attend events, but please keep in mind that events are geared toward members. For events that require a ticket, everyone must have a ticket except for children under the age of two or who can sit on your lap (same as the air travel rule). For badge-only events, all children twelve and under must be with someone who has a badge at all times. Special visitors' badges are available at convention information for those under thirteen. All children over the age of thirteen must have their own badge to gain access to those events requiring a badge.

Meetings, Workshops, and Forums

WCNA-32 meetings will officially begin with two speaker meetings on Wednesday night, one at 7 pm and one at 8:30 pm at the SACC. Meetings on Thursday begin at 2 pm in the convention center. All main meetings—Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights as well as Sunday morning—will take place at the Alamodome.

The World Board will be hosting their usual assortment of workshops, and we encourage you to attend. Also, for the first time we will be hosting two workshops about creating cooperative relationships with those whose profession touches the lives of addicts. These workshops will be held on Friday. One workshop will have invited professionals from corrections and drug courts, and one will have professionals from the medical and treatment fields.



Marathon Meetings

Marathon meetings will be held throughout the convention at the times listed below. Unlike convention workshops and meetings, marathon meetings are closed meetings, i.e., open only to addicts or those who think they may be addicts.

MARRIOTT RIVERWALK ALAMO BALLROOM 1000*

Wednesday 7:00 pm to midnight

Thursday midnight to 9:00 pm

SUNSET STATION DEPOT 1*

Thursday 9:00 pm to midnight

MARRIOTT RIVERWALK ALAMO BALLROOM 1000*

Friday midnight to midnight

Saturday midnight to midnight

Sunday midnight to noon

**Please verify all room numbers in your WCNA-32 program guide when you arrive.*

Getting Around San Antonio

San Antonio is a tourist town, and both walking and driving traffic are typically heavy during weekends. Unfortunately, this traffic is made worse by construction and the lack of parking downtown. All of this is to say that you are going to want to minimize your driving. The easiest way to do that is to just park your car for the weekend. You can easily walk to the dozens and dozens of restaurants along the Riverwalk. If you want to venture beyond the Riverwalk, downtown travel is a breeze on the VIA streetcar, an open-air, authentic reproduction of a rail streetcar that traveled the streets of San Antonio more than fifty years ago. There are four streetcar routes to downtown locations including the Alamo, the Spanish Governor's Palace, La Villita, Sunset Station, the Southwest School of Art and Craft, the Institute of Texan Cultures, the King William Historic District, and downtown shopping. There is convenient access to all routes from the downtown streetcar station at Convention Plaza. Fare is \$1.00. We're sure you'll find San Antonio to be a very convention-friendly city!

Shuttle Buses

For all registrants, shuttle buses will be provided between the convention center, Sunset Station, the Alamodome, and all official WCNA hotels operating on four bus routes. Once you check into your hotel you may board a bus at the designated pickup locations that will be posted at the hotel to head over to the convention center and either pick up your pre-registration package or register onsite. Shuttle schedules will also be posted at all the hotels and available at the front desks. Please be sure to note registration hours. While a badge is required in order to board shuttle buses, if you let the driver know that you have just checked in, you will be allowed to board a shuttle to get to the convention center your first time. As an additional reminder, if you have a child under thirteen years of age, please go to convention information for a badge for them.

Speaker Check-in

We ask that upon arrival at the convention, all main and workshop speakers check in as soon as possible at the program office in room 209 on the concourse level of the convention center.

Convention Center and Alamodome Parking

If you are staying in one of the convention hotels, simply park there and take the convention shuttle throughout your stay. For those of you driving into the convention, there is absolutely no public or handicapped parking at the SACC because it is currently under construction and will be during WCNA-32. The parking structure at the center was torn down completely, and they are in the middle of building a new hotel that will house the new parking structure for the center. Our primary parking lot for folks not staying in any of our hotels for the convention is located at the Alamodome. **There will be a limited number of handicap parking spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis.** Upon request, wheelchair access shuttles will be made available to transport you from the Alamodome parking lot to the convention center by calling convention information at (210) 582-7015 or by speaking to an attendant at the Alamodome parking lot. There is also one public parking lot near the convention center with a few handicapped spaces.

Alternative Merchandise

The alternative merchandise store will be open on Sunday, 2 September 2007, from 9 am to 10:30 am only at Sunset Station. Those wishing to sell items must complete the WCNA-32 Alternative Merchandise Letter of Agreement and must obtain a Texas Sales & Use permit. These forms and information for selling alternative merchandise can be found online at www.na.org/WCNA32/index.htm. **Please note that no onsite applications will be accepted.** There will be light breakfast items at Sunset Station to eat before the closing meeting, so come by and get some breakfast and check out alternative merchandise before the closing World Unity Day meeting.

Sunset Station

Rocky Recovery, coffee houses, a couple of late-night meetings, the gay and lesbian dance, and the kickoff festival will be held at Sunset Station. You can also stop by Sunset Station for something to eat in between the events, or on your way to main meetings. The WCNA shuttle will drop you off right in between the dome and Sunset Station.

Thursday Night Kickoff and Registration

Please be sure to register before the Thursday night main meeting. The main meeting is at the Alamodome, and the kickoff festival that directly follows is right outside the dome. **In order to get into the festival you must have a registration badge, and you will only be able to register at the convention center in Hall C. There is no satellite registration.** We're hoping to avoid having upset members who are turned away from the festival because they haven't registered yet. This means that if you don't have registration materials and come out of the main meeting to go into the kickoff festival at Sunset Station, you will be turned away and have to walk back to the convention center. Event staff will be working that entrance, and they are not in a position to make any exceptions—so please remember that no badge means no entrance!

First Aid/Paramedic

A room each in the convention center, Alamodome, and Sunset Station will be set aside for first-aid needs during the convention. If you have a problem during the convention, please see that facility's staff who will be available to assist you. The program guide will have additional information about how to get first-aid attention during the convention.

Nar-Anon

In the spirit of cooperation rather than affiliation, Nar-Anon will be present at the convention center with their own activities and area. They can be found in room 001 on the river level at the SACC.

Speakers and Speaker Tapes

Speakers must check in at the program office in room 209 of the concourse level of the convention center, and speaker tapes will be available in room 103 next to convention information.

Support Committee

The support committee is responsible for coordinating all of the thousands of volunteers needed to make WCNA a success. If you are interested in volunteering for the world convention once you are onsite, please go to convention information for more information.

Barcelona, Spain (WCNA-33) and San Diego, California (WCNA-34) Booths

There will be booths at the convention center where you can get information on the future locations of WCNA! Be sure to stop by and check out the most recent info on future world conventions.

You can check our website regularly for convention updates. Your program guide will have all the details you need when you pick up your registration. **See you in San Antonio!**