

World convention growth brings exciting new changes and challenges

WCNA-32 to expand benefits offered to pre-registrants

Over the last ten years, the World Convention for Narcotics Anonymous has tripled in size. We continue to strive to make each world convention a unique celebration of recovery, and it's exciting to share that celebration with so many recovering addicts. At the same time, this extraordinary growth makes it increasingly challenging to plan and stage the event.

This article is meant to provide information about our three overarching goals in planning and staging the convention:

- 1) We design the convention with no intention of generating income for NA World Services.
- 2) We strive to enhance the convention experience for registrants.
- 3) We try to make the convention accessible to as many members as possible.

Sometimes these goals work against one another, however, requiring us to perform a very delicate balancing act in responsibly handling the fellowship's funds.

Did you know that the world convention is not designed to generate profit or revenue for NA World Services?

We carefully consider historical data to project potential attendance at each event. We are always mindful not to unduly risk the fellowship's funds in the planning of the event. For example, we purposely plan to sell out of merchandise before the event ends so that we don't spend money producing merchandise no one will purchase. Similarly, we project attendance conservatively, building only a small "pad" into the number of registration packets we order. These are just two of the many areas of convention expense that demand careful scrutiny and accurate planning in order for us to be responsible with the fellowship's funds.

Did you know that one of our primary goals is our constant focus on convention registrants?

We do all we can to enhance a registrant's experience at the convention. Today, your WCNA registration includes more events planned during the convention, and we look for ways after every convention to improve our processes and procedures. In 1996, we started offering pre-registration merchandise as a way to make sure that those who registered in a timely fashion would have access to merchandise without having to stand in line. In response to requests for WCNA-32, we will be significantly expanding the range and quantity of pre-registration merchandise offered for sale. In the past we have typically offered three to four items, but for WCNA-32 we will offer twelve different items, and we will expand the women's apparel offering wherever

possible. We will also open the merchandise store sometime Wednesday afternoon—the first time it will be opened so early in the convention—and for an initial period we will provide first access into the store for convention pre-registrants only.

Along with these benefits, we are making it easier for pre-registrants by eliminating the late registration fee that was previously imposed if you registered during the last sixty days before the convention—but we will still have a more expensive fee for on-site registration. This extended pre-registration period will give members eight and a half months to register for the convention and to purchase pre-registration merchandise. Pre-registering for the convention is the biggest way you can help us plan for your participation in the convention, by allowing us to accurately project attendance and costs in advance of the event. Pre-registering will also save you money by avoiding what will be a significantly more expensive on-site registration fee than we have charged at previous world conventions.

Note: One way to afford paying for your registration before the cutoff date would be to save just \$2 a week over the course of the pre-registration period.

Did you know that we have always strived to make the convention as accessible to as many members as is logistically and financially possible?

We encourage all attendees to register, but we have never yet required registration to attend recovery meetings. As we grow, however, this presents new challenges. Actual attendance at our world convention is at times up to 33% higher than the number of paid registrants. For example, in San Diego our attendance was around 22,000, but only 14,000 chose to pay for convention registration. Our continuing growth has meant we are outgrowing many convention centers and arenas—and the larger the convention gets, the more our meeting-related costs increase. In San Diego, only two-thirds of the attendees absorbed these costs. Currently, convention registrants cover approximately \$300,000 in expenses to offset the cost of providing access to meetings for those who choose not to register.

We realize that the registration fee for a world convention is higher than the registration fee for a local convention, but these are not equitable comparisons. A world convention held in North America costs almost \$3 million to produce. We spend more money on sound, video, translations, and facility-related fees for WCNA recovery meetings than most regional conventions spend on their entire event. Convention registration is used to cover most of those costs. Additional expenses, like the cost of unplanned shuttle buses or last-minute printing of registration badges, are incurred when more people show up at the event than the number we have planned for. Please help us make WCNA-32 an enjoyable and memorable event for you by pre-registering for the convention as early as possible.

We also have a growing problem with people making multiple room reservations and cancelling them at the last minute. This puts the fellowship's funds at risk because it makes it more difficult for us to fulfill our contractual obligations to the hotels and reservations company. Reducing the proliferation of multiple reservations also makes more rooms available to members on a first-come, first-served basis. It is like not saving seats in a meeting and allowing those who show up first to have the best seats. You will see a new room-cancellation policy for this convention.

All of these realities must be carefully balanced against our commitment to be responsible with fellowship funds while striving to provide a unique, high-quality celebration of recovery that is inviting to everyone. We are committed to continuing to look for ways to improve our staging of the convention so that we enhance your convention experience with each event.

Note: For the most updated WCNA-32 information, to request a registration flyer, or to volunteer for service at the convention, please visit www.na.org/WCNA32/index.htm. Convention registration and hotel reservations will open 1 December 2006.



We're looking to lasso speakers for WCNA-32

Howdy y'all! As we start preparing for our worldwide celebration of recovery in San Antonio, Texas, 29 August to 2 September 2007, we need your help identifying potential convention and workshop speakers.

Clean time requirements are ten years for main meetings and five years for workshops. Workshop speakers will be selected from the convention's pre-registration list. So if you know a member who meets the requirements, has a great message, and is planning on going to the convention, submit their name for consideration!

To submit names and/or tapes, complete the form below and send it to the WSO via mail, fax, or email. Recommendations/tapes for speakers must be received no later than 31 December 2006.



Person to be considered as a speaker _____
First Last

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

Daytime Telephone () _____ Evening Telephone () _____

Email _____ Clean Date _____

Person submitting speaker _____
First Last

Telephone () _____ Email _____

Please fax or email completed submission form to 818.700.0700 or renee@na.org.
 Mail to: NA World Services; WCNA-32 Speakers
 PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409

PLEASE NOTE

While tapes are not required in order to be considered to speak at the convention, they are very helpful. All members are encouraged to submit one if possible.

WCNA-32

Speaker tape evaluators needed...

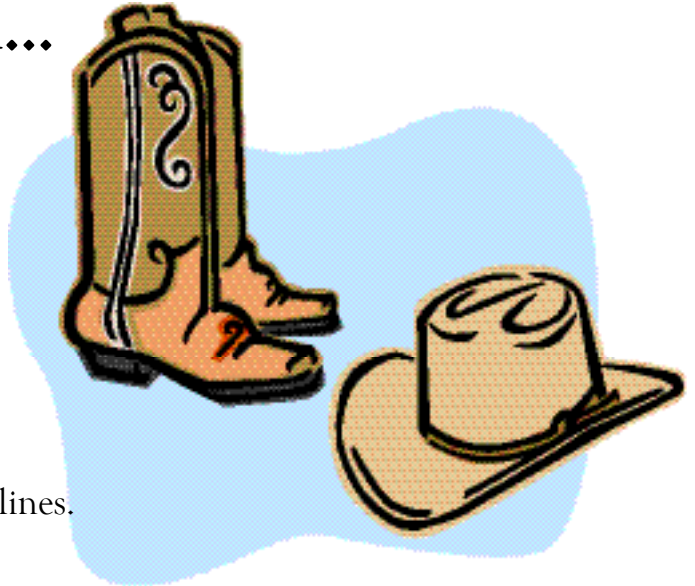
One of the many parts of the speaker selection process for the world convention includes a name/tape submission from members of the fellowship. You can help the World Board identify possible speakers for the world convention by listening to and evaluating about 100 tapes between January and May 2007.

Qualifications:

Five years clean time, willingness to serve and commit the necessary time, and ability to work with short deadlines.

To Be Considered:

Please complete and submit the attached form by 31 January 2007. You **MUST** also have submitted a World Pool Information Form that is available on our website at www.na.org.



Name _____ Clean Date _____

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

Day Telephone () _____ Evening Telephone () _____

Email Address _____

Please Note: If you have submitted a tape and/or request to speak at WCNA-32, you may not serve as an evaluator.

Send completed forms to:

NA World Services
Speaker Evaluators
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
Fax: 818.700.0700 Email: events@na.org

If you have additional questions, please call 818.773.9999