

Conventions and Events

NAWS conventions and events management includes a number of annual and biennial projects, which all require simultaneous attention. The World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous (WCNA) and logistical planning for the World Service Conference (WSC) are the two major events; however, we also participate in worldwide workshop planning and coordinate overall travel and housing relationships for the World Board and project workgroups. A growing part of our work is providing services to regional and area convention and event committees around the world on everything from contracts to committee structure and legal issues.

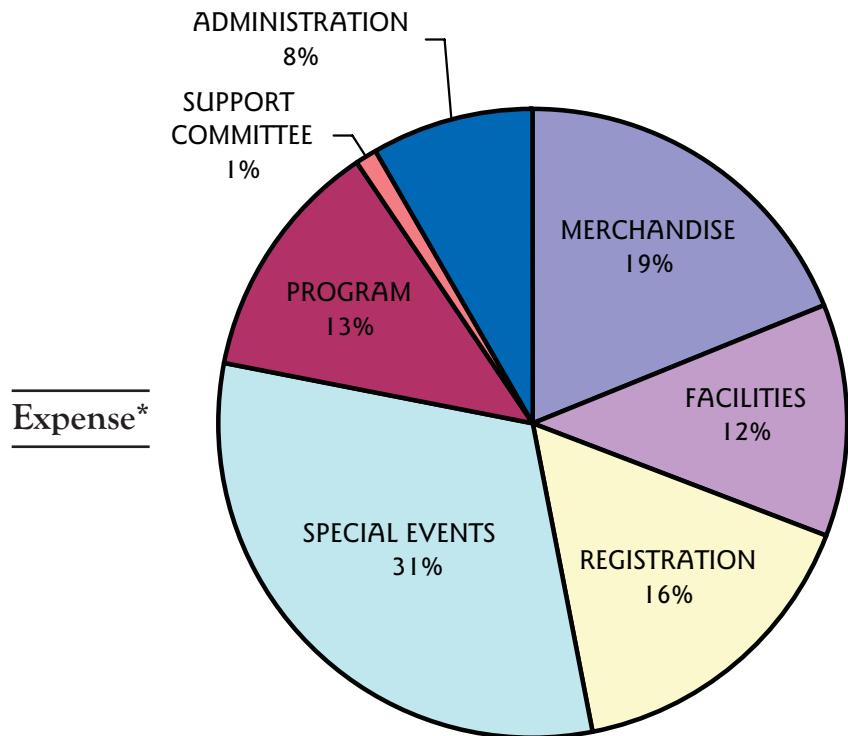
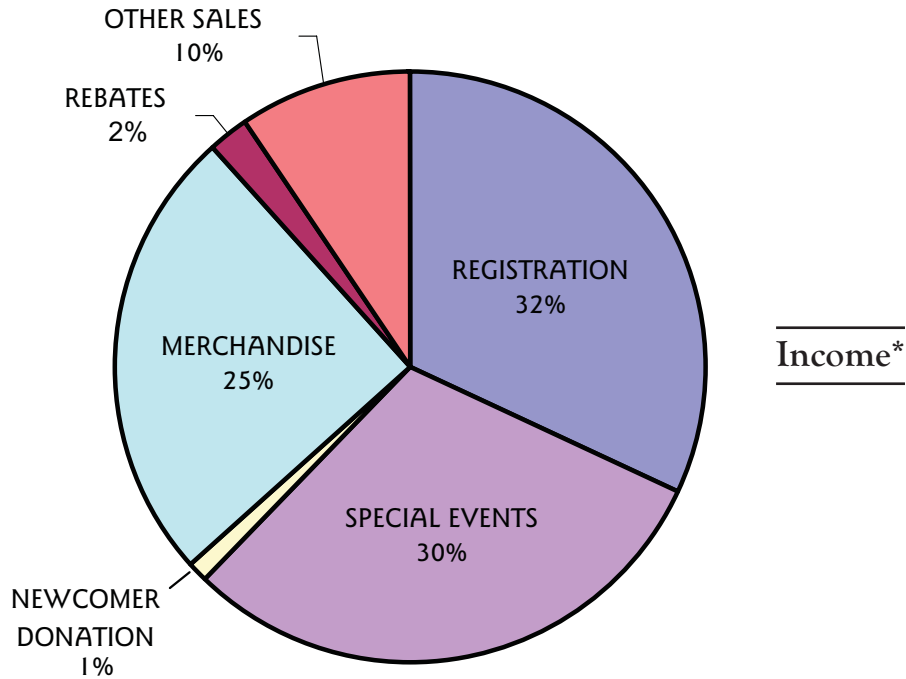
WCNA

Planning a world convention takes seven years. At any one time, we are simultaneously in some stage of planning and/or implementing four to five world conventions and usually one World Service Conference. WCNA-31, held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA in September 2005, was a huge success financially and in attendance. With over 8,600 members registered and about 9,000 in attendance, the convention exceeded our projections by about 2,000 people. With the exception of a few members who inappropriately pushed several convention center personnel, the convention went very smoothly from an operational perspective. It is unfortunate, however, that the acts of a few stand to leave permanent negative impressions of our fellowship. The additional challenge we faced in Honolulu was 2,000 attendees who did not stay in official convention hotels and did not preregister for the convention, which caused significant operational issues for us on-site, since we had no way of knowing they were coming to the convention. The board plans to discuss this issue in preparation for the upcoming convention in San Antonio.





WCNA-31, Honolulu, Hawaii



* Income and expenses for WCNA-31, held in September 2005, were not actually "earned" in this fiscal year; therefore, these dollar amounts will be reflected in the next annual report.



Future WCNA locations include:

- ◆ WCNA-32, 29 August–2 September 2007 in San Antonio, Texas, USA
- ◆ WCNA-33, 20-23 August 2009 in Barcelona, Spain
- ◆ WCNA-34, 1-4 September 2011 in San Diego, California, USA

We encountered several issues when we considered the WCNA-34 bids from Denver, Colorado, USA; Los Angeles, California, USA; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; and San Diego, California, USA. The primary challenge was finding a venue that can handle 25,000 people for a main meeting. The second challenge was finding enough nearby hotels with sufficient numbers of guest rooms and adequate meeting spaces. These issues effectively eliminated Denver, Vancouver, and Los Angeles. San Diego, however, could easily meet our needs, and the city made us an offer that the WB could not refuse—so San Diego it is, again.

WSC

As the programmatic goals of each WSC become more complex, we continue to seek new and innovative ways to execute the logistics of the conference. Much of this work involves constantly maximizing and evaluating our use of technology. Additionally, as the workload for delegates becomes more complex, we continually look for ways to create an environment that nurtures discussion, consensus building, and a plan-driven focus for conference sessions. We were pleased that several new elements tried at WSC 2004 toward this end were successful and that the feedback from conference participants was overwhelmingly positive. As we move toward WSC 2006, we hope to continue and improve upon this success.



...NA communities
worldwide and
NA World Services
work together in a
spirit of unity and
cooperation to carry our
message of recovery...