

Our Fellowship Comes Together to Celebrate Recovery

Your Conventions and Events Management Team

NA conventions, especially the world convention, help send the message that our new way of life in recovery can be fun and exciting. The enthusiasm and joy we share at these celebrations of recovery go a long way in enhancing the attractiveness of our message. The NAWS Conventions and Events Management team is responsible for planning a variety of annual and biennial projects that often require simultaneous attention. While the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous and logistical support for the World Service Conference are this team's primary responsibilities, the team also plays a role in the planning and execution of many of our worldwide workshops. The team works hard to develop and maintain travel and housing relationships to accommodate our service and recovery events all around the world. The team also works to provide services to regional and area convention and event committees around the world, assisting with everything from contracts to committee structure and legal issues.

The World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous

Held early in the July 2005 to June 2006 fiscal year, WCNA-31 in Honolulu was a greater success in terms of attendance and finances than we expected. The convention exceeded our projections by about 2,000 people, with over 8,600 members registered and about 9,000 in attendance. We are immensely grateful for the assistance from the support committee, as well as the hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteers who help to make every world convention very special. From an operational perspective, the convention went very smoothly, the only exception being an incident between





a few members and several convention center personnel. While it is unfortunate that the acts of a few leave negative impressions of NA for some nonmembers, we are quite grateful that the convention went smoothly, especially in consideration of another challenge we faced. Two thousand members attended without pre-registering and did not stay in official convention hotels, causing significant operational issues at the convention site because staff could not confidently anticipate their attendance. NA World Services operates on past convention projections as an indicator in order to try to make the most prudent use of valuable fellowship resources.

In preparation for San Antonio, we are making an effort to avoid similar issues by adjusting our approach. The pre-registration price, for example, will remain the same throughout the pre-registration period, instead of increasing when the convention approaches. The on-site registration price will also be significantly higher than the pre-registration price, both to encourage members to pre-register and to offset the costs of last-minute efforts to modify plans to accommodate larger crowds than expected. We are also encouraging members who plan to attend not to make multiple hotel reservations “just in case,” only to cancel the extra reservations later. Doing so makes it difficult for other members to reserve rooms and for hotels to be properly prepared.

It is important to keep in mind that the purpose of the convention is to celebrate recovery, not generate revenue. The convention is an incredibly expensive endeavor. When those who participate pay their own way, as early as they can, the convention can be more successful and enjoyable for everyone involved. Early registration helps to keep the cost down for everyone, giving people the most “bang for their buck.” This also makes it possible for all

of us to join together and send a message to newcomers and the general public: Recovery has given us a life worth celebrating!

Future WCNA locations

WCNA-32

San Antonio, Texas
29 August-2 September 2007

WCNA-33

Barcelona, Spain
20-23 August 2009

WCNA-34

San Diego, California
1-4 September 2011

WCNA-35

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
29 August-1 September 2013

In making a decision about WCNA-35, the World Board gave serious consideration to the five finalist cities—Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Toronto, Orlando, and Philadelphia. We conducted negotiations for each of the cities and thoroughly analyzed the benefits and drawbacks of each. Bids for Philadelphia and Orlando were virtually identical from a financial and operational perspective and were much stronger than the others. In deciding between the two, we considered the fact that the driving corridor between Washington, DC, and New York is one of our most densely populated membership areas in the world. A world convention in Philadelphia makes it possible and affordable for a large number of our members to participate in this recovery celebration. Congratulations, Philadelphia!

Get the latest news on WCNA-32

<http://www.na.org/wcna32/index.htm>

