

World Service Conference Report

World Convention Corporation

Over 8000 addicts from at least twenty countries attended WCNA-26. Our unofficial totals are as follows:

Total Paid Registrants	7116
Comedy Show	2713
Concert	1768
Jazz Breakfast	1628

While the attendance at WCNA-26 fell short of our projections by 2000 people, the convention was actually a big success for us in many ways. The America's Convention Center in St. Louis allowed us to accommodate the entire convention in one site. We have not been able to hold the convention in one building for the last couple of conventions held in North America. Both WCNA-23 & WCNA-24 used multiple facilities for various events and meetings. The only WCNA-26 events held outside the convention center were the Saturday night concert and the marathon meetings. Holding the convention in one facility helped create a more intimate atmosphere for our members to fellowship together throughout the event.

WCNA-26 was our first convention to fully incorporate the WCC internal guidelines in all aspects of planning the event. Operating from written guidelines which clarified the roles of the board, the staff, and the host committee made it possible for WCC to more effectively plan, coordinate, and manage the convention. We also experienced much less difficulty in our communications as a result of integrating these guidelines. Now that the WCC has utilized the internal guidelines for a full year, we have begun to look at what parts of the document need to be fine tuned in preparation for WCNA-27.

At WCNA-25 in Paris, the convention program included forums on a variety of topics facilitated by the World Service Board of Trustees. The WCC and the WSB received many requests from attendees of WCNA-25 to continue this interaction at future world conventions. The WCNA-26 program included forums on topics such as, "What is Abstinence?," "HIV & Recovery," "Diversity: Overcoming Prejudice," and "Handling of NA Funds," and world service workshops on H&I, PI, and literature, among others. Once again, the positive feedback we have received from attendees about these workshops seem

to affirm our belief that the convention provides a good opportunity to interact with large numbers of our members about issues that impact our fellowship as a whole.

For the first time ever, the WSO set up an on-site office at the convention. Convention attendees were able to register their NA group or update their group registration. WSO staff were on hand to provide attendees with information on services available from the WSO, answer their questions about world services, and discuss NA's growth around the world. As WCNA-27 is to be held in San Jose, California, from 3-6 September 1998, is expected to be the largest world convention in our history, the WCC anticipates that additional WSO staff will be needed to provide direct services to our membership, as well as to assist the board in the management of the event.

The Unity Day celebration planned each year by the WSC Administrative Committee was held during the Saturday night meeting. The Sunday main meeting, consisting of eight speakers from around the world, has become a tradition at the world convention in the past several years. Simultaneous translations equipment was available to assist the growing number of members attending the convention from outside the United States in all the main meetings and for all workshops held throughout the convention in the main meeting hall.

We provided pre-registrants the opportunity to purchase special convention merchandise for the first time. All feedback we have received indicates that the sale of pre-registration special convention merchandise was appreciated by all who participated in the offer. The WCC will need to evaluate how the pre-registration merchandise sales fits into the overall merchandise plan. For the first time since WCNA-21, we had unsold merchandise left to send back to the WSO. We are currently developing a plan to make this merchandise available for sale to the fellowship by mail order. Details on how to order leftover WCNA-26 merchandise will be made available before the end of the year.

For the first time ever at a world convention, we organized an NA art gallery. In recognition of the many talents embodied in our fellowship, WCNA-26 provided an opportunity for members to display examples of their artwork. This turned out to be a very nice event and the response we received from our attendees was quite positive. We would like to thank those members who displayed their works for sharing their talents with us.

The WCC would like to especially thank the Show-Me Region and all the members who served on the WCNA-26 host committee for their unselfish commitment and hard work in making WCNA-26 a very special world convention.

With WCNA-26 behind us, we will now be turning our attention onto the two-year rotation cycle. This new cycle brings with it new planning, forecasting, and financial challenges that the board will begin addressing at their next meeting in January. We will also begin our planning for WCNA-27. The WCNA-27 host committee already has a chairperson, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer in place.

WCNA-28, 29, 30

At our June 1996 meeting, we had an extensive discussion regarding the initial sites being considered for WCNA-28, to be held in Latin America in the year 2000. As was reported earlier this year, members of the board joined the world services fellowship development trips to Latin America to conduct site visits. These directors, along with WSO staff, developed a WCNA-28 site comparison chart, so that the board would have the ability to make an informed decision about WCNA-28. Some of the factors discussed in this comparison chart were the local NA community, availability of facilities for convention activities, and the costs to be incurred by members for airfare and lodging. After reviewing all of the information, the directors decided to focus our attention on Panama City, Panama, and Cartagena, Colombia. The board has authorized the WCC manager to formalize final bids from these cities.

We are currently in the process of initial site selection for WCNA-29, to be held in the Eastern North America Zone in the year 2002. Utilizing the site selection criteria outlined in our "External Guidelines," the cities we are considering are Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington DC, Charlotte, Atlanta, Miami Beach, Orlando, and Montreal, Canada. The WCC manager is currently conducting site visits in these cities and will prepare bids for initial review by the board at its January 1997 meeting. The board will most likely make a final decision for this convention in the first half of 1997.

WCNA-30, scheduled outside of the regular rotation in order to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of Narcotics Anonymous, will be held 3-6 July 2003. San Diego, California, has been selected for this special and historic celebration of recovery.

Corporate Overview

For the past year, the board has been preparing for the onset of the two-year planning cycle. With no convention scheduled for 1997, the WCC will reduce its meeting schedule, decrease travel expenses, and begin to hold the line on all other administrative expenses. In our the "1995 WCC Annual Report," we projected that we would have approximately \$175,000 cash on hand at the end of 1996. We are still in the process of reconciling the accounts from WCNA-26, but it is clear that with approximately 2000 less paid registrants than was projected, our cash on hand will be less than was previously reported. Smaller numbers of paid registrants affect not only our registration income, but all other convention income sources decrease as well. Budget projections for the Saturday night concert, merchandising, as well as the income generated from taping and jewelry sales are all based on attendance projections. However, we believe with careful planning, our cash on hand should be sufficient to cover anticipated expenses for 1997. Of course, our complete financial report including WCNA-26 will be in the 1996 annual report to be distributed to conference participants prior to WSC '97.

Downsizing of the WCC

At the WCC board meeting held prior to the convention in St. Louis, the board implemented the last step in the downsizing plan as required by the "External Guidelines"

adopted at WSC '95. This provision requires the WCC to choose one past chair (from three chairs currently on the board from WCNA-24, 25, 26) to serve through 1998. The board selected Rhonda Richetta to this past-host chair position. Rhonda came onto the board as host chair of WCNA-24, served on the work group that wrote our guidelines, and has been the secretary of the WCC board for the past year.

We understand that this process of downsizing has been confusing. Therefore, we are offering the following chronology of events and explanations in order to clearly communicate to you what has occurred over the past three years as we have proceeded to reduce the board from fifteen to ten directors:

Year Action Taken

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1993 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WCC announces downsizing plan• WCC vacates host treasurer position on the board |
| 1994 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WCC asks WSC not to elect a WCC director at WSC• WCC begins writing new guidelines that include downsizing of the board• WCC asks BOD not to fill vacated seat |
| 1995 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "WCC External Guidelines" adopted by WSC• One WCC director elected by WSC as required by guidelines• WCC bylaws changed to reflect conference action |
| 1996 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One WCC director elected by WSC; "Guidelines" require two directors be elected• WCC reduces past host committee chair positions on board from three to one• BOD reduces number of directors serving on WCC from three to two |

1993

In 1993 the WCC reported to the WSC its intention to reduce the size of the board in order to enhance its effectiveness. The plan was to implement a downsizing of the board from fifteen members to ten. This downsizing was to be accomplished in several steps. First, we chose not to seat the treasurer from the current host committee as required at that time by our guidelines.

1994

At WSC '94, the conference abided by our request not to fill the WCC conference-elected position. This action reduced the number of directors to twelve members. The next step was to ask the WSO BOD not to fill a vacant seat left on the board after WCNA-24 by reducing the BOD component on the board from four to three members. This action reduced the number of directors to eleven.

1995

The downsizing was formalized by its inclusion in the "WCC External Guidelines" adopted at WSC '95. With the adoption of the guidelines, the board began a transition period that would bring the WCC membership to ten directors by 1998. The new board would be comprised of four members from world service boards and committees, one past and one current host committee chair, and four WSC-elected seats. The conference would elect one new WCC director to serve a three-year term to complete the transition from three WSC-elected directors under the old guidelines to the current plan of four WSC-elected directors.

1996

The new guidelines asked the conference to elect two seats on the WCC at WSC '96 for the first time ever. The WCC nominated three board members for the conference to consider electing to these two positions. In anticipation of the required downsizing of the past host chair position on the board, Rhonda Richetta and Suzie Longbottom indicated to the board their interest in being nominated for the conference-elected seats. After a lengthy discussion of all interested candidates who submitted service resumes to us, we nominated Suzie, Rhonda, and our current vice chair, Donald Griffin, for election to the two seats to be elected at WSC '96. The conference chose to fill one position with Donald Griffin, and left the second WSC-elected position vacant.

The board then selected Rhonda Richetta to continue in her current position as a director through 1998, thereby providing the transitional reduction in the number of past host chairs serving on the board as described in our "External Guidelines." While we believe that our actions in the downsizing of the past host chair position fully comply with our guidelines, we also recognize that what has occurred may have created some questions. However, it must be emphasized that the election of the WSC seats to the WCC, and the downsizing of current WCC board members, are two completely different actions. We do not believe that the conference, by not electing Rhonda Richetta to a WSC-elected seat on the WCC, obliged the WCC to arbitrarily eliminate her from consideration in the process of downsizing the past host chair position on our board.

In order to be accountable to those we serve, and as a way of seeking input and guidance from conference participants regarding our decision, we decided to use this report as a means to explain the process of Rhonda's selection in the downsizing of the board. Please send the WCC your written input on this matter in care of the WSO no later than 17 January 1997, so that your comments may be factored into discussions that may occur during our upcoming board meeting scheduled for 24-27 January 1997.

WCC Workshop

The WCC and the WSO conducted a convention and service office workshop in Denver, Colorado, on 27-29 September 1996. For our part, we facilitated presentations on various issues facing convention committees, including accountability, finances, planning, the contract negotiations process, and event management. We also conducted an input session for the upcoming convention handbook project. During each session, workshop

participants were given the opportunity to share their experiences on each particular issue. We believe all the members who were present at the workshop came away with a better understanding of the management of a convention. The WCC looks forward to continued interaction with our fellowship's convention committees.

State of Corporate Operations

This being my final report to you as WCC chair, I would like to share with you where I believe the WCC is at today. WCNA-22 was my first convention as a director on this board. The WCC did the best it could to plan the convention, being a volunteer board with very limited WSO staff assigned to it. The directors worked with staff to negotiate contracts, as volunteers with limited human and financial resources available, there were times important decisions failed to be realized. The cities we were doing business with had full-time professional managers attending to their end of our business dealings. As a result, these cities maintained a negotiating advantage which did not serve us well.

Today I know the WCC is in considerably better shape. Having professionally trained WSO staff assigned to the WCC has given us the ability to negotiate on equal ground. It has also allowed us to use this staff expertise in all areas of the event. Today, when the WCC meets, we can focus our attention on creating the special celebration our members want in a world convention, and trust that our decisions will be realized through the work of our assigned special workers. To us, the proof of our success comes from the feedback we receive from our membership. We have received a lot of positive but no negative correspondence regarding WCNA-24, 25, or 26. The feedback received from other world conventions has not always been positive.

As chairperson of the WCC, it has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve with the many dedicated trusted servants and special workers. Our Basic Text states, "If we had written our list of expectations when we came to the program, we would have been cheating ourselves." When I volunteered at my regional meeting to serve as host chair, and consequently serve as a WCC director, I could have not expected to receive the gifts you have given me through this experience. The privilege of going on to being chairperson of the WCC has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my recovery. Participating in this level of service has given me skills that are of value to me not only in NA, but in all areas of my life. I have been given something in my recovery I could never repay. Thank you once again!

Cary Seltzer, chairperson
Donald Griffin, vice chairperson