

Addendum C

Proposed World Convention Guidelines *for A Guide to World Services in NA*

WORLD CONVENTION GUIDELINES

Purpose

Unity is the foundation of everything we do in Narcotics Anonymous, and the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous (WCNA) is a living expression of that principle. This event brings together members from around the world to celebrate recovery from the disease of addiction.

Just as our symbol makes space for every manifestation of the recovering addict, WCNA highlights the extraordinary diversity, wisdom, and spirit of our Fellowship as we rise together in freedom. It is a chance for NA members to share the joy, hope, and freedom found in recovery.

Beyond being a powerful experience for members, WCNA also serves as a unique opportunity for public relations—allowing professionals, local communities, and the wider world to witness firsthand that “an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live.”

WCNA is ultimately a celebration of our Fellowship: a vibrant, growing, international community united in carrying a message of hope to the still-suffering addict.

World Convention Zone Rotation Plan

Beginning in 2028, WCNA will be held every five years. The 2028 convention, which will mark NA’s 75th anniversary, will be hosted in Europe. After that, the event will be scheduled to be held every five years. As world conditions allow, the event will rotate, with the World Board responsible for considering locations. (See below for more information.)

Traditionally, WCNA has been scheduled on the first weekend in September, coinciding with the Labor Day holiday in the USA. However, the World Board retains the right to set the convention dates as appropriate for each event.

Site Selection

The World Board is committed to planning conventions that highlight the global nature of NA while ensuring the prudent use of Fellowship funds. Sites will be considered that allow for rotation to the extent that is prudent and possible based upon the current geopolitical and financial circumstances in the world, while at the same time remaining, at a minimum, “revenue neutral.” Planning an event where income covers expense may require capping attendance. Given the rising costs and increasing complexity of international travel for large events, the greatest flexibility in selecting locations is essential.

A rigid rotation plan established far in advance would make this impractical and create a framework that may not be possible. When the site selection process begins for a convention, the World Board will notify the Fellowship through NAWS publications and report the continent(s) under consideration for that event. Regions and zones may also request that the board consider a specific city by sending an email to wb@na.org. All proposed sites will be subject to the standard site selection process, which typically uses external resources to facilitate the initial site consideration.

The World Board is responsible for researching, negotiating, and approving all potential sites. The planning timeline may vary depending on the event. Eligible cities will be contacted with a standardized request for proposal (RFP), allowing for evaluation of feasibility, cost, and capacity. Based on these studies, cities may be identified for negotiation. Reports on these negotiations are developed for board review, after which the board makes a final decision or continues negotiations as needed. Final decisions are reported to the Fellowship.

Prudent planning requires that the board establish and communicate event capacity in advance. It also means some sites may be eliminated due to excessive cost or feasibility.

WCNA Workgroup

While the World Board holds ultimate responsibility for WCNA, the WCNA Workgroup plays an essential supporting role. Its purpose is to assist the board in specific areas of planning and implementation by providing input, volunteers, and other support.

The World Board, through World Services, sets the direction and focus for each convention and provides the WCNA Workgroup with a clear list of responsibilities.

An Expression of Fellowship Unity

The World Board, with the support of the WCNA Workgroup and the Fellowship as a whole, strives to ensure that each World Convention is more than a large event. It is a manifestation of our spiritual principles, showing how addicts from every background can come together in recovery, celebrate freedom from active addiction, and carry a message of hope to still-suffering addicts.

WCNA is one of the most visible expressions of our Fellowship's unity, diversity, and recovery. Through prudent planning, transparent communication, and global participation, WCNA continues to serve as a beacon of hope for addicts everywhere.