

**From:** NAWS Update <nawsupdate@na.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 5:17 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Post-WCNA Myth Busters



Hello,

WCNA ended a little over a week ago, and social media is abuzz with questions. Some of the answers circulating are... not quite right. This email provides accurate answers to some of those questions.

Please forward this email to interested friends. If someone forwarded this email to you, you can stay up to date by signing up for any of World Services' free email subscriptions, which will add you to the list to get NAWS Update emails. To subscribe, click [here](#).

**Where and when will the next WCNA be held?**

We're not sure yet. The 2023 World Service Conference had consensus to pass the following motion:

As a result of the COVID pandemic, to suspend the World Convention of NA (WCNA) rotation policy after 2024, to allow the World Board to determine what is possible and practical moving forward and then seek approval from conference participants.

Intent: Given the disruption in the rotation of WSC and WCNA that has already occurred, the increases in event costs, and the other changes brought about by the pandemic, to allow an evaluation by the World Board and approval by conference participants for what is possible and practical in the future.

The World Board has had some preliminary discussions. The recent convention will help inform our thinking. Unfortunately, registration numbers at WCNA 38 were significantly below our projected break-even point, and as a result, we are not yet sure

what that lost revenue will do to the bottom line for the event. (Previous convention finances are included in the relevant Annual Reports, which you will find [here](#).)

Once we have an outcome summary from WCNA 38, the board may have a better sense of what seems possible, practical, and prudent moving forward. When we do, we will report our recommendations to conference participants and seek their approval.

### **Where can I get an NA Survival Kit?**

The NA Survival Kit is a new item that will be available in inventory going forward. The special edition, with the Power of Love slipcase, was only available at WCNA, and we sold out. We know how many people love special editions, but we will not be reprinting the Power of Love slipcase! The regular edition is available for only \$20, plus tax and shipping, from [our webstore](#). Search for “survival kit” or item #9425.

### **What was the deal with the chairs?**

No one likes to be told what to do, but sometimes guidelines like “don’t move the chairs” are put in place for very good reasons. WCNA 38 required extensive negotiation with the DC fire marshal. The layouts for many of the rooms, including the main meeting room, had to be revised over and over before they were finally approved.

As we explained at the convention, if WCNA 38 had been as well attended as we’d planned, the Friday night main meeting would have been shut down because so many members were moving chairs and disrupting the layout the fire marshal approved. As it was, many members with ADA needs could not access the spaces that had been reserved for them, and some members who worked or were of service to you, for long hours each day, beginning Monday up until the moment the meetings started, were unable to access their seats.

The vast majority of members were loving, cooperative, grateful, and focused on unity, but it only takes a handful to create a bad impression of NA for professionals, members, and potential members. No matter how much work goes into the production of an event like this, ultimately the experience people have is a result of interactions with each other. An atmosphere of recovery is not something we can buy. Each of us attending an event – or a meeting, for that matter – is responsible for creating and maintaining that atmosphere. Together, we made WCNA 38 an example for many of the Power of Love – but in a few instances, and especially in that main hall, a very different side of some of us was on display.

As a Fellowship, we can do better. When we focus on looking out for one another and for NA as a whole—all will be well.

### **Why is World Services asking members to contribute money?**

For decades, our literature has suggested that “groups send money directly to each level of service to help pay for the work done on their behalf.” ([IP #28](#)) The most sustainable form of financial support for World Services is direct contributions from members, groups, and service bodies. When members with time and resources are willing to step forward and contribute directly, the result is consistent, predictable fund flow that isn’t as vulnerable to changes outside NA – and that isn’t dependent on literature sales or events to make possible the work of carrying the message.

We’ve known this for a long time and have discussed it as a Fellowship for decades. During the pandemic, the global shutdowns made it clear how important member contributions are to sustain the work of World Services. And while we were able to weather that storm to some degree, we are still very much feeling its effects. We are still below our pre-pandemic staffing levels, and there is so much important work to be done.

Addicts in recovery make it a practice to learn from hardship. This struggle is no exception. As we come through this experience we want to ensure that our services are more resilient, more robust, more efficient, and more effective going forward.

NA members with time are living examples of resilience. Not everyone is in a position to give more than they already do, and we know that not everyone will choose to. There are no dues or fees associated with NA membership—ever. There are often costs associated with carrying the NA message, however, and we hope that some of our members will choose to help shoulder some of that expense through consistent, ongoing direct contributions.

Misinformation about World Services spreads like wildfire online and elsewhere. The actual financial data for each fiscal year is available in [our annual report](#). [This page](#) highlights some of the services member contributions make possible.

Many of us have committed to a monthly contribution in the amount of our clean time. You can sign up or make a one-time contribution [here](#).

**Note: Narcotics Anonymous does not accept outside contributions. Please do not contribute if you are not an NA member.**

### **Where can I get recordings of the workshops?**

NA World Services contracts with an outside vendor, Hope2Go, to offer recordings of all of the workshops and main meetings at the convention. It requires more staff, labor, and technical resources than World Services has available for this particular task. To order recordings, click [here](#). You will see options for individual recordings at \$5 each to stream, \$10 for CDs, the full digital set for \$200 (streaming, not downloadable), or a full CD set for \$500.

### **Will leftover merchandise be sold online?**

We hope to offer leftover merchandise online soon. [Subscribe](#) to any of our email lists to be kept in the loop.

### **Why do we do a membership survey?**

A Vision for NA Service reminds us of our hope that one day “Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.” The Membership Survey helps us collect data to share with professionals who can refer suffering addicts to Narcotics Anonymous, and with the researchers who measure what NA members already know through our experience: NA WORKS.

The survey also allows us to learn more about who has heard our lifesaving message and where we can better focus our efforts. Over the years it has helped us see ourselves with increasing accuracy. Our last membership survey was 2018. You can fill out the survey here in English, Farsi, German, Brazilian Portuguese, and Spanish: [here](#). Please tell your friends!

### **How can I stay better informed?**

[Subscribe](#) to [NAWS News](#) or any of our email lists. Follow us on Instagram: [@narcoticsanonymous](#). Explore the resources on [our newly designed website](#).

And you can always write to us with your questions: [wb@na.org](mailto:wb@na.org).

In loving service,

World Board

All NAWS subscriptions are free. We are able to provide this service due, in part, to the generous contributions of our members. If you are a member, you can make a contribution here:

Contribute

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