

# **WORLD CONVENTION BID PROPOSAL**



**WORLD CONVENTION OF NARCOTICS  
ANONYMOUS XXIV**

**SUBMITTED BY:  
PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL BID COMMITTEE**



# History of Narcotics Anonymous Conventions in Philadelphia Region

World Convention Committee  
of Narcotics Anonymous  
16155 Wynadote Avenue  
Van Nuys, California 91406

Dear Members,

We held our first conference in 1983, the first regional gathering that attempted to work on a "convention." The weekend was put together by a small committee in a period of thirty days. We decided that we would continue this process and call it our regional convention. In 1984 at the Philadelphia Hershey Hotel we had our first functional regional committee that supported the convention. Our efforts were directed on unifying our local fellowship. In 1985 our convention was held at the Franklin Plaza Hotel and we were beginning our effort to spread the NA message throughout our region. We hoped at this time the funds raised would help our RSC grow. We also began to talk about a RSO or incorporating the convention. The growth in our fellowship we were experiencing was attributed to the success of the convention. In 1986 we chose a theme "Together We Grow" and we were able to further support our areas through the efforts of the convention committee. In 1987 we were forced to move to a larger hotel. At this point the foundation of our convention corporation was still in the planning stages. In 1988 we needed an even larger facility as we experienced enormous financial and spiritual growth. Our success with carrying the message to addicts in our region through our conventions was enabling us to better serve our region. We were able to open and incorporate the Greater Regional Service Office. We hosted 2200+ addicts in 1989. Part of this sharp increase in attendance was due to the astronomical growth of NA within the Inner City Area of our region. In 1990 the committee formed was able to put together a convention for NA that had better than 3000 addicts in attendance with some 1300 seated at the banquet. Again due to the experience of growth within the region we were forced to move to a bigger convention facility. This year we hosted 4500 addicts in two hotels and seated 1500 for dinner.

In the beginning we had very little service involvement and even less experience with the type of business needed to run a convention. By the third convention we had begun to unify and solidify our service structure. The experience we gained increased proportionately as the number attending grew. In closing, we would like to thank you for your time spent in reviewing this effort.

Sincerely

Bid Committee  
Philadelphia Region



World Convention Committee  
of Narcotics Anonymous  
16155 Wynadote Avenue  
Van Nuys, California 91406

Dear Members,

The World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous 24 Bid Committee of the Philadelphia Region would like to take this opportunity to present the reasons we feel WCNA-24 should take place in Philadelphia. We realize the enormous nature of your reviewing task and therefore will make an attempt to be brief and concise. Please do not confuse our attempt to adhere to the restrictions of time and space as an underestimation of the seriousness of our needs.

The words "Baby Blue" bring different reactions to each members' hearts. We here in Philadelphia are no exception. From the beginning this region was the center of the controversy surrounding the conception and distribution of the illicit text. Our Regional and Area Service committee meetings suffered greatly due to such close exposure to distrust and disunity. Our service structure has had to bear the brunt of worldwide contempt caused by a few misguided trusted servants. The far-reaching damage caused by these servants is impossible to assess, the internal strife and resentment is only beginning to lessen. Which brings us to one of the main reasons we are requesting WCNA-24 to be held in Philadelphia. In the spirit of the comments of the Honorable Louis H. Pollak, J., United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, who said, "I feel that the auspices are very good for moving forward in a constructive way, with efforts which are of such enormous consequence to the society...", we need help moving ahead.

In the Fall of 1990 an addict serving on the Convention Program committee in our region stood up and suggested we have a meeting with the topic "Prejudices in Recovery". The mere suggestion of such a topic sent addicts screaming into the various local groups, boasting self-righteousness. These members maintained prejudice in recovery did not exist. Others maintained the problems of race would simply take care of themselves. Yet convention fund-raising dances, which had been held in the same section of Philadelphia for years, went from predominantly white to racially mixed to predominantly non-white. Conversations turned into accusations. In the winter of that same year an ASR addressed this issue at a



regional service meeting, stating, "It's no different in NA than it is in society. The black man moves in, the white man moves out." The impact of this statement touched the hearts and souls of many in attendance that day. As a result, we began our search for a solution to a problem of great magnitude; prejudice. Our efforts to date include the themes to the 1990 and 1991 conventions, holding a meeting at the 1990 convention named, "Working through Prejudices in Recovery", and now asking WCCNA for help by holding WCNA-24 in our region.

In addition to these areas of need, there are obviously others. We share the problems of most major cities in this fellowship: unprecedented growth and the need for more structure in these newly forming areas, financial hardships as the region tries to support socio-economically disadvantaged sections of the city, weakened lines of communication due to the incredible size of the region, not to mention the enormous task of battling the disease of addiction in the city. All these topics deserve further consideration, but as mentioned earlier in this letter our aim is to be concise.

In closing we would like to briefly step away from our needs and put forth a few positive notes. The city of Philadelphia is steeped in both American and Narcotics Anonymous history and tradition. It is the birthplace of our nation, a nation founded on freedom and individual responsibility. Along with this letter are various highlights and attractions of our city compiled by The Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. As a part of the second oldest region in the fellowship, The Greater Philadelphia Region of NA is celebrating twenty years of recovery this year. It is our sincere hope that in 1994 we will be able to share all we have with the fellowship as a whole at WCNA-24 with open arms and open hearts.

Sincerely,

Bid Committee

To: World Conference Committee of  
Narcotics Anonymous Corporation  
World Service Office  
16155 Wyandote Avenue  
Van Nuys, California 91409

From: Greater Philadelphia Regional Service Committee of  
Narcotics Anonymous  
6182 Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128  
(215) 483-5154

Re: Submission of Bid Proposal for WCNA-24 1994

Dear Chairperson,

The Greater Philadelphia Regional Service Committee wishes to inform you we will be supporting the efforts of the Bid Committee to host WCNA-24. Our region consists of 14 areas and we have been involved with regional conventions for the past nine years. We trust you will find the reasons presented in the proposal sound and assist us in our effort to move forward in a constructive way. Additionally this committee would like to extend our thanks at this time for your consideration.

In loving service,

Steve L.  
Chairperson  
G.P.R.S.C.



Greater Philadelphia Regional  
Service Committee of  
Narcotics Anonymous  
6182 Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128  
(215) 483-5154

June 25, 1991

World Conference Committee of  
Narcotics Anonymous Corporation  
World Service Office  
16155 Wyandote Avenue  
Van Nuys, California 91409

Submission of Bid Proposal for WCNA-24 1994

### **BID COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**J.R. Friel**, Qualifications: 11 years abstinence, Knowledge of 12 & 12., Attended WCNA-15, Washington, D.C., WCNA-19, Florida. Served G.P.R.C.N.A. I-IX, including Hospitality, Registration, Treasurer, Merchandising, Registrar, Information, etc.

**Gary Feldman**, Qualifications: 9 years abstinence, Knowledge of 12 & 12, Attended WCNA-13 & 19, Served G.P.R.C.N.A. I-IX, including Fund Raising, Hotel Liaison, Chairperson, etc..

**Brian Williamson**, Qualifications: 6 years abstinence, Knowledge of 12 & 12, Attended WCNA-15, Served G.P.R.C.N.A. VII & VIII, including program chair.

**Vanessa Swanson**, Qualifications: 8 years abstinence, Knowledge of 12 & 12, Attended WCNA- 13, 17, 18 & 19, Served G.P.R.C.N.A. IX.

**Danny Martino**, Qualifications: 5 years abstinence, Knowledge of 12 & 12, Attended WCNA 18 & 19, Served G.P.R.C.N.A. VI-IX, including Information, Arts and Graphics, Program, Chairperson.

**Steve Leckerman**, Qualifications: 5 years abstinence, Knowledge of 12 & 12, Served G.P.R.C.N.A. IV, V, VI, including Co-chair, Chairperson.

**John Swanson**, Qualifications: 12 years abstinence, Knowledge of 12 & 12, Attended WCNA 13, 14, 17, 18, & 19, Served G.P.R.C.N.A. V-IX.

# ***History of Narcotics Anonymous Conventions in Philadelphia Region***

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1983

## **"CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AND UNITY"**

Although membership was low the focus, as indicated by convention meeting topics\*, was service.

1984

## **"TIME TO COME TOGETHER"**

Here we have the first appearance of special interest coinciding with the formation of Addicts Anonymous in our region.

1985

## **"CELEBRATION OF LIFE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP"**

The focus of this convention was a combination of previous years, including topics of special interest and service.

1986

## **"TOGETHER WE GROW"**

The importance of literature, including the Basic Text, is reflected in the various step and book chapter meetings.

1987

## **"STEP UP TO RECOVERY"**

We began to talk about our history and the importance of sponsorship.

1988

## **"SPIRITUAL CONNECTION"**

The Philadelphia Regional Convention started to experience unity, consistency and maturity.

1989

## **"THE MIRACLE CONTINUES"**

Paradoxically, regional membership dramatically increases and we begin to experience racial disunity.

1990

## **"THROUGH PRINCIPLES WE UNITE"**

The theme of this convention marks the beginning of our efforts to counter racial tension in our region.

1991

## **"TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER"**

Our focus is to unify the various cultures in our region

\*See page two for a listing of convention meeting topics.



## *History of Narcotics Anonymous Conventions in Philadelphia Region*

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### SELECTED TOPICS OF MEETINGS FOR THE CONVENTIONS

1983-1991

#### **1983**

1st Region. Workshop  
Update on the Book  
Review World Policy

#### **1984**

World Agenda  
Mens/Womens Mtg.  
Gay Meeting

#### **1985**

M/W/Gay Meeting  
Basic Text Meeting  
Fellowship Agenda

#### **1986**

Steps 1-12 (4 mtgs)  
What Can I Do?  
M/W/Gay Meetings

#### **1987**

NA History Meeting  
Sponsorship  
M/W/Gay Meeting

#### **1988**

What Is A Home Group?  
Recovery vs. Clean Time  
Traditions

#### **1989**

What is Group  
Conscience?  
Step/Tradition Mtgs

#### **1990**

Working Through  
Prejudice in Recovery  
Selfless Service

#### **1991**

Disease not Substance  
Unconditional Love  
Fear of Change



## PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

