



Detroit Areas Convention of Narcotics Anonymous(DACNA)
P. O. Box 32603 Detroit, Michigan 48232-0603

DACNA XXVII – Report to the Membership – July 21, 2018

Dear Family:

I joined DACNA planning in 2009 for DACNA XVIII. My time commitment has increased each year, as I have agreed to take on more planning responsibilities for the event. Now in my tenth year of service, I have been humbled with my election to DACNA XXVII Chair. This is an exciting time for DACNA, our Areas and NA in Detroit in general.

At the end of DACNA XXVI, trusted servants requested the Marriott to reserve Easter Weekend for 2019, pending the outcome of elections of service positions. The hotel informed us it was booked for Easter Weekend in 2019. Frankly, most weekends from Easter to Labor Day are booked at most large hotels downtown that could host a convention of our size.

Detroit is changing rapidly. Pressures from new development downtown and midtown have given rise to an ever-expanding convention and events business. This is driving up costs, such as hotel rooms and parking. Shopping for a convention site is becoming more of a challenge, but that has opened some new options for our membership.

In making our selection for DACNA XXVII we talked to four hotels – Renaissance Marriott (booked already), Crowne Plaza (meeting spaces too small), The Edward (former Dearborn Hyatt in sad disrepair) and the Motor City Hotel and Convention Center. In addition to looking at the four spaces in Detroit that could host a convention of several thousand people, we weighed annual member concerns about access to cost effective parking, Area offsets for hospitality suites, better food options and easier access for an older, and more physically challenged membership.

Motor City came out on top. The entire Executive Committee toured the facility, discussed casino enticement, sampled the food and unanimously voted to enter into a contract. After coming off a successful DACNA XXVI, which returned \$4,000 to each Area, we felt we had made a wise choice – we still do.

Motor City Hotel and Convention Center is a wonderful new venue for DACNA with 67,000 square feet of state-of-the art meeting space, complimentary (free) self and valet parking, six unique restaurants open to midnight (or later) and luxury rooms/suites that include –

- **Complimentary self and valet parking**
- **Complimentary Starbucks coffee and bottled water in each guestroom**
- **Complimentary wired and wireless internet in each guestroom**
- **Complimentary use of 24-hour business center**
- **Complimentary use of 24-hour fitness center**
- **10% off all products in Lacquer Gift Shop**
- **10% off spa services in D. Tour Spa**
- **10% off all in-room dining ordered electronically through TV in room**

Room rates are as follows –

- **Deluxe Double Rooms - \$159**
- **Deluxe King Rooms - \$159**
- **Deluxe Suites - \$299**
- **Tax on rooms/suites is 15%**
- **A charge of \$50 per room (not per night) is charged/held for incidentals**

Area hospitality suites for DACNA XXVII will be shared –

- **East Area and Central Area – one Deluxe Suite – no charge**
- **West Area and Tri-City Area – one Deluxe Suite – no charge**

Area packages for convention registration – \$15 per package as in previous years. We encourage Areas to purchase packages early and help promote our annual celebration of recovery.

All the PLUSES of a great convention BUT rumors and personal attacks are now running rampant. Let me address some of them –

- **The convention is NOT in the casino – that is a separate building**
- **NA conventions are hosted at casino centers regularly – they are common in New Orleans, Atlantic City, Las Vegas, Reno and many other parts of the country - we have even staged a World NA Convention in Columbia**
- **People that have banned themselves from the casino are banned from the gaming floor only, not the hotel, convention center, parking or restaurants – this per the Casino Gaming Commission**
- **This decision was made openly – we meet monthly, as we have for years, the third Saturday of each month and anyone is welcome to attend our planning sessions - we present updates and financials to GSRs every month at all Area meetings – and submit a full convention summary at the end of each event when checks are distributed to the Areas**
- **We follow our bylaws, which the Areas approved and amended, and have a Policy Chair whose sole duty is to make sure we follow them**
- **We manage DACNA funds prudently – our accountant-like bookkeeping, which is shared at Area meetings, shows what revenue we bring in and what we spend it on**
- **The contract for Motor City was finalized and signed on July 6th, 2018**
- **We have been open about the choices we were looking at – personally, I have been talking since January about exploring new possibilities, and what those might include, such as Motor City**
- **Motor City Hotel has hundreds of rooms – 896 dedicated DACNA room nights to be exact, about what our membership reserved at the Marriott for DACNA XXVI – and they will go FAST**

Our behavior as a fellowship has closed many doors over the years to some great convention venues. Cooking and selling food out of rooms, vending soft drinks and merchandise in public spaces, members leaving young children to roam, theft from stores and gift shops and at the Dearborn Hyatt several years ago, lining up all the computers from the offices to load into personal vehicles.

DACNA XXVI faced similar hostility from Detroit Areas. It centered on hospitality suites and dragged on for months. It poisoned many from attending and almost resulted in us not attaining our contractual obligation for hotel rooms. These controversies are led with misinformation and spread through our fellowship like snakes. This year, they have now turned into very personal and vulgar attacks that could put DACNA XXVII in the same boat as DACNA XXVI.

People by and large are supportive of our decision. It is a sad few that are spreading rumors and misinformation. They are driving conversations to exclude our promotional material from our meetings, attack DACNA trusted servants on Facebook and Twitter and trying to plan events to compete with our celebratory event.

Think about it people – we are a fellowship of love and support. We show that by taking hold of those struggling and offering hope. Hope that you can come to DACNA XXVII, even if gambling is a challenge, and know that our loving embrace will protect you and give you strength!

In Loving Service – Gary W. (Chair)