**ABOUT WoVOcon UNconference**

* **Our Objective and Guiding Principle**

Get What You Need, Share What You Can.

**FAQ**

* **What is the WoVOcon UNconference?**

Did you ever notice when you attended a conference how the BEST conversations happened BETWEEN the sessions, when everyone got together for drinks, or after the conference was over when everyone was just sitting around?  Imagine an entire weekend of those kinds of conversations... THAT is what WoVOcon UNconference is all about!

At an unconference, you move from spectator to participant. Discussion within a session is welcomed with leaders providing moderation. You are also free to float between sessions if you find there is more than one you wish to attend, or you find you just aren’t where you need to be.

* **Why is it called "WoVOcon UNconference"?**

The name WoVOcon UNconference is comprised of several elements.  “WoVO” meaning World Voices, or voices from around the world. “Con” meaning an argument against. “UN” a prefix meaning “not.” And “conference” meaning an expensive formal gathering where participants must weed through massive information dumps to find the vital material needed.

Therefore, “WoVOcon UNconference” is a Global argument against spending time doing unimportant time (and money) wasters, especially where our VO career is concerned.

*(Disclaimer: That answer was completely made up for entertainment purposes)*

* **No, really, why is it called “WoVOcon UNconference”?**

The idea for and term “unconference” came to being in the early 2000s through the IT world as a way for professionals to share peer-to-peer information and avoid the hierarchical aspects of a conventional conference. It springs from the knowledge that everybody who attends has a valid contribution and by each sharing our “Secret Sauce” we make our work, and our industry, better.

* **How is this different from other voiceover events?**

WoVOcon UNconference is something we create instead of witness.  It's peer to peer lead, unscripted and no one's trying to sell you anything. Participants make the sessions happen instead of hoping they will cover material of interest.

 If there is something you need to learn, you are invited to ask, and if you have something to share there are others who need what you’re willing to give.  Egos and sales pitches are set aside in order to share our wealth of knowledge with one another.

* **Ok, I’m intrigued. How does it work?**

Days begin and end with a group circle for planning and wrapping up. We start with a short orientation on “Participant-driven Agenda Creation” and introduction to the “Agenda Wall” where instructions on how to post a session will be given.

The Agenda Wall is WoVOcon UNconference’s hub.  It stays up all weekend so you can choose sessions you’d like to attend and add any sessions you’d like to lead. There is also a place to post topic suggestions and “burning questions.”

People who have something to share will announce their session and post it on the wall or request a topic and post it as well.  Then the topic sessions begin in designated spaces with lots of fascinating conversations in between.

*WoVOcon UNconference contributes a portion of each registration to a local charity in our host city.*

* **Who is WoVOcon UNconference for?**

WoVOcon UNconference is an event by and for Working Voiceover Professionals, Voiceover Adjacent Professionals, and Industry Hopefuls.  Who each have something to share with their peers.  The goal of each WoVOcon UNconference event is for participants to “get better at this and make more money doing it” by focusing on three key areas:

Business & Marketing

Performance & Improving Your Booking Ratio

Audio Tech Skills

* **How does WoVOcon UNconference define “Working Voiceover Professional”?**

WoVOcon UNconference defines a VOICEOVER PROFESSIONAL as a voice talent (or other professional in the voiceover-adjacent community like: audio producer, engineer, casting director, or talent agent) that may have his/her own voiceover web site or agent, with professionally produced voiceover demos, who is hired and paid on a regular basis by people who aren’t relatives, to record voiceover work. You can work part-time as a voiceover talent and still be considered a professional voice talent. VOICEOVER itself is defined as: Providing the service of recorded voice for use in Radio, TV, Internet, Toys, Gaming, Trade Show, Telephone Systems, Entertainment or Instruction Mediums. You are a voiceover PROFESSIONAL if people pay you to do this service. (If you are involved in the voiceover industry in the many support areas, we ask you to put on your ‘voice talent’ hat while interacting at WoVOcon UNconference)

* **I'm just getting started in voiceover. I have a demo, but I haven't been hired yet. Can I come?**

Certainly! World Voices accepts Working Professional members as well as Associate members who are just starting out, and so does the WoVOcon UNconference. The UNconference is as much about what you can bring to share with other VO peers as what you will learn, and everyone has something to share.  World Voices also offers its members mentorship programs that can help you initiate your career.

* **What credentials do I need to submit to prove eligibility to attend?**

If you’re a WoVO member, that’s all the credentials you need. If you’re not a member, we’re happy you’re here! Please submit the name of the WoVO member who sent you to us.  All submissions are reviewed by an independent committee.

* **What’s the dress code?**

Wear whatever makes you comfortable within reason, we don’t suggest Lady Gaga’s Meat dress or SCUBA gear, you’re going to be moving between conference spaces and may or may not need to take a chair with you.  Sometimes there will be groups of WoVOers who decide to go exploring during free time, so keep your options open!

* **What should I bring?**

Come armed with laptops, ideas, cameras, storyboards, questions, opinions, gadgets, and hare-brained schemes — anything that will help you interact, share and inspire!

A great attitude

Enthusiasm

A couple of changes of clothing, we suggest comfy clothes (no banquets here) and dressing in layers because conference room temperatures can be fickle

Emergency contact information

Business cards

Your thoughts of what works for you and why

Your questions of what doesn't work or what you're unsure of

Lots of paper and pens for note taking

 An open mind, your experiences, a willingness to share your time and talents and some patience probably wouldn't hurt either.

Please leave your ego at home

* **What time should I plan on arriving?**

Come early/Stay late!  It depends on the freedom of your schedule.  There are always WoVOers who come early to explore the area we’re UNconferencing around, and sometimes new friendships forged make parting such sweet sorrow...

* **Why don’t you expand the attendance allowance for the number of people who want to come to WoVOcon UNconference?**

WoVOcon UNconference isn’t like other conferences you may have been to. There’s a limit to how many people a participant-lead format can accommodate and still retain the characteristics that make it work.   Personal interaction in an informal atmosphere makes WoVOcon UNconference effective.  By limiting participants to around 150, we hope to prevent diluting this rich condensation of peer interaction.

* **Can I get a discount on my registration if I volunteer to help with something?**

 Volunteers give their time, energy and efforts before, during and after each WoVOcon UNconference, as well as sign up for registration the same as other WoVOers.  However, they do get the UNconference hotel discount ...oh wait, so do the other WoVO UNconfrencers.

* **Who’s speaking?**

Hopefully YOU are!  What makes WoVOcon UNconference successful is the individual elements each participant brings to the table.

* **Do I need to submit anything special to lead a session at WoVOcon UNconference?**

No. Most of the agenda gets set collaboratively in the first hour on Saturday morning. Between now and then, just jot down Topic Session ideas as they come to you.  Decide which one would really be something personal you could speak about in a targeted and specific way to benefit your peers.

* **How do I submit a proposal for the weekend agenda?**

The “how to” portion will be covered in the opening circle to insure everyone is on the same page for the weekend.  Briefly, though, you would write down a quick title and summary of what you hope to pass along and present it to the group at the Opening Circle before placing it on the Agenda Wall.  So, you may want to plan beforehand how you could tell someone in :30 or less what you hope to teach!

* **I have several great ideas, can I lead sessions in them all?**

WoVOcon UNconference depends on the volunteer spirit of our peer-lead discussions, and we are happy that you come with a lot to share!  That being said, please come just as willing to learn, because others have much to share with you as well.

* **Where is the schedule?**

Topics covered at WoVOcon UNconference will be decided on by the participants.  The schedule is set at the event.  Sometimes there will be discussion topics set online prior to the event due to participant request. However, filling in too much prior to the event ruins what we feel is the unique flavor that is WoVOcon UNconference.

* **How do I sign up for a session?**

Sign up to lead a session? Or sign up to attend a session?  To lead one, there is a process that will be explained in Opening Circle.  To attend, be where you’re supposed to be. You just have your body in a chair at the time the session starts.  If the session turns out to not be what you needed, or there is another at the same time in which you’d like to participate as well, feel free to float!  No egos here!

* **Do I need to pre-register/register online?**

Space is limited to 150 participants, so there is no same-day registration. Please register online and pay for the weekend (everyone does).  We recommend booking your hotel through our website too, so you’ll be guaranteed the conference hotel rate.

* **Will there be soundproof booths and technicians available in case anyone needs to record anything professionally?**

Many WoVOcon UNconference participants are working voiceover professionals, a lot of whom carry portable recording gear along when they travel.  We will do our best to make arrangements to help you find suitable recording space should the need arise.

* **What is the policy for taping our workshop?**

Think of UNconferencing like Vegas… What happens at the UNconference stays at the UNconference. Your materials belong to you, but we ask that you honor the spirit of WoVOcon UNconference and not share anyone else’s intellectual property.

* **Can I bring a guest? My spouse? My children? My pet?**

Far be it from WOVO to limit your traveling companions!  However, keep in mind that hotel policies differ on pets, so that will be up to each individual site.  You may bring a guest, but all WoVOcon UNconference sessions are limited to UNconference attendees.  Your spouse or guest is more than welcome to avail themselves of the lovely accommodations and sight-see while you, dear WoVOer, are filling your head and notebook with wondrous voiceover nuggets!  There may be occasions for special WoVOcon UNconference outings where family and friends are invited along, however unattended children will be given away to the first marauding band of whirling Dervishes available.

* **Do you have any tips for first time UNconferencers?**

Seabiscuit in the third. Seriously, come expecting great things.  UNconferencers who come expecting something great, leave with something great.  Be prepared to participate in discussions and recognize that you have something to give as well as learn.

* **What, if anything, should I do to prepare for the event?**

Please, no canned speeches, presentations, stealth shilling, etc. Just jot down some notes on what you are proud of in your VO career- what areas do you really kick butt in? Are there things others would benefit from seeing firsthand? Marketing, tech, client contact juggling, invoicing, voice acting, self-motivating, etc. software you could bring, pictures of booth set ups, etc. Think “Show-and-Tell” all grown up!

* **I can only come for part of the event. Can I get a discount?**

Unfortunately, no.  Because WoVOcon UNconference is limited to 150 attendees, we would still have to eliminate an entire attendee for the portion you would be attending.  Perhaps we can figure out how to do a WoVOcon UNconference timeshare some day, but as of this date, it’s just not possible.

* **I’ve been to WoVOcon before, do I automatically qualify for this one?**

If you have remained a working voiceover professional, or are still aspiring to be, you still qualify.  However, if you have left the ranks of the voiceover industry and are now a used car salesman in Cleveland and just want to come hang, you will no longer qualify. **(Please see the entry above re: “Working Voiceover Professional”)**

* **I’m a VO coach. Can I apply to be a guest speaker at WoVOcon UNconference?**

In order to preserve the delicious flavor of the WoVOcon UNconference, aside from our KeyNote Speaker, we have no special guest speakers because every participant is a potential speaker.  However, if you feel you have something to contribute as a potential KeyNote Speaker at a future UNconference, you are welcome to submit your materials for consideration by the WoVOcon UNconference Organizing Committee.  There will be no fees or expenses covered for you by the event if you are invited, and sessions will not be allowed to be used as a method to market any materials or services.

* **I represent a company that sells a product or service to VO professionals, how can I share this with WoVOcon UNconference attendees?**

We would LOVE to have you as a paid sponsor!  Sponsors make a huge difference, and we’d like to thank you by helping spread the word about your company, product, and services, before during and after WoVOcon UNconference!  **Please check out our Sponsor link!**

* **Is there anything that might disqualify a “Working Voiceover Professional” from being allowed to attend WoVOcon UNconference?**

In certain very rare instances, an otherwise-qualified VO may be ineligible to attend. But this takes something pretty extreme, like...

* behavior that is violent, extremely disrespectful, or disruptive.
* gross misrepresentation of your professional qualifications.
* being asked specifically by WoVO members not to do something, but doing it anyway;
* or running naked down the hotel corridors.
* **Last words, what’s in it for me? Why should I come?**

WoVOcon UNconference is the only conference for Voiceover Industry professionals whose content is 100% created BY and FOR the participants. The WOVOcon UNconference is a forum to talk to your peers, learn new things, and build new collaborative networks that will send you out into the shifting landscape of the real world energized and ready to lead. A working retreat of sorts in which various VO topics are explored in peer-led groups, …an unconference!