



## **NAPWA will host pre-conference program for consumers – November 15**

The National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) will host a Regional Meeting & Dinner for people living with HIV/AIDS on Sunday, November 15, preceding the World AIDS Day Leadership Conference. This Regional Meeting will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Columbus and will be for people living with HIV/AIDS who are registered for the World AIDS Day Leadership Conference (November 16-17, 2009).

For years, NAPWA followed traditional models of HIV/AIDS organizing – using national conferences as a platform to reach constituents. After more than two decades of HIV, NAPWA has recognized that funding and constituent needs have changed. Advances in treatment and networking technology have profoundly affected our constituent needs. While treatment, care services, and health are still vital concerns, social networking opportunities can be more localized. In fact, NAPWA believes it is most effective when regional concerns of people living with HIV/AIDS can be articulated at a national level.

The NAPWA Regional Meeting has two goals:

1. to increase knowledge about health, including treatment and care services
2. to increase social networking opportunities

The Regional Meeting model has the advantage of being responsive to issues particular to our community around stigma, access to care, and health legislation education. In addition, this Regional Meeting provides a way for NAPWA to reach out to our community and make sure that our voices and concerns are recorded in a timely and accurate manner.