

To: Exalted Rulers

Subject: Grand Lodge Convention – Hilton Chicago, July 5–8

Dear Exalted Rulers,

The Grand Lodge Convention will be held at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago. Buses will be provided, and our hotel will be the Hilton Chicago. The convention dates are July 5–8, and we will be sharing the hotel with Grand Lodge and the following state associations: Arizona, California/Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Room Rates and Reservations

Room rate: All guest rooms are 159.00 dollars per night plus 17.00 percent tax, for a total of approximately 190.00 dollars per night. Yes, that tax rate is correct.

Reservation deadline: All room reservations must be made with the Housing Chairman on or before May 25. Any requests after this date will be subject to hotel availability and are not guaranteed.

Deposit requirement: A credit card is required for all reservations and will be charged for the first night's room as a deposit. **No credit card, no room.**

No-show policy: If you do not arrive on the first night of your reservation and you have not contacted either the Housing Chairman or the hotel, your reservation will be forfeited.

The hotel will accommodate late-afternoon check-outs and early departures when needed. Timely registration is essential, as room nights are being closely monitored.

ADA and Mobility Needs

If you need ADA accommodations, including walkers or wheelchairs, you must indicate this on your registration form. I must inform the Grand Lodge Convention Coordinators in advance so that proper transportation and support can be arranged at the hotel and for convention events.

Transportation and Local Amenities

Uber and Lyft are available. Recent rates from O'Hare were around 80.00 dollars each way and can be even higher at peak times.

Buses to and from the convention center are provided by Grand Lodge at no charge. A schedule will be provided once it is available and will be in the Hospitality Room

Exalted Rulers you are Required to Pay \$50.00 for the Hospitality room and will be expected to bar tend for at least two Hours Sign up sheets will be in the Hospitality Room.

A light rail system is nearby and available, with fares ranging from \$2.00 to \$10.00 dollars depending on the time of day. The Blue Line provides service to O'Hare Airport; you should allow approximately one additional hour for this ride, and please note that it does not provide hotel drop-off. Various transit passes are available.

Nearby, you will find full-service CVS, Walgreens, and Super Target stores, along with numerous other shops and services within a short distance of the hotel. The Hilton Chicago is a beautiful property with an excellent staff and is well suited to our convention needs.

Special Event – Elks Day at Wrigley Field

For our baseball fans, July 4 will be Elks Day at Wrigley Field.

Grand Lodge Registration (Online)

All Exalted Rulers are strongly encouraged to pre-register online via the Grand Lodge website. Online registration is expected to open around April 1. Pre-registration will significantly speed up your check-in process at the registration area in Chicago and help reduce lines and delays.

After April 1, please visit the Grand Lodge website regularly for updated information. Select the "Grand Lodge" link, then the "Grand Lodge Convention" tab, and complete your online registration. This will save you considerable time and frustration onsite.

Information Packets for ERs

Each Exalted Ruler will be required to sign for a packet from me. This packet will include:

- Train maps and instructions on how to access the system
- Information on the light rail and bus system
- Maps for shopping, dining, and entertainment in downtown Chicago

If you plan to attend the convention and require mobility assistance, it is imperative that you clearly indicate this on your registration form so that I can notify the Grand Lodge office and ensure suitable bus and transportation arrangements during the convention.

Fraternally,

Steven Holland, PDDGER
Housing Chairman

cc: Kandi Barks, Housing

cc: Patty Holland, Housing