



November 2011 Convention Information Mailing

Worthy Regent:

The 54th Biennial National Convention of the Order will be held in Omaha, Nebraska July 18-22, 2012. The Headquarters for the Convention will be: the Hilton Omaha Hotel, 1001 Cass St., Omaha, NE 68102. You may call for toll free Reservations: 800-321-3232 and mention Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

This preliminary Convention Mailing gives you complete information regarding election of delegates to the Biennial National Convention. **Please read it carefully.** Your cooperation in adhering to the dates indicated in this letter will be appreciated by all.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Bylaws, ARTICLE VII NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Sec. 4 VOTING BODY

- A. The voting body for National Conventions shall be National Officers, National Directors, Past National Regents, State Officers, Immediate Past State Regents, Local Court Regents, and delegates from each Local Court who are in attendance at the convention.
- B. State or Local Courts shall be entitled to representation at the National Convention only after their National and State obligations prior to December 1 of the previous year have been paid. State and Local Court obligations shall be due and payable to the National Office by June 15 of the National Convention year.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION- In accordance with Bylaws Article VII Sections 5, each Local Court shall be entitled to elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention on the following basis:

ARTICLE VII NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Sec. 5 LOCAL COURT DELEGATES

- A. Local courts shall elect delegates to the National Convention at a business meeting preceding deadlines for submitting delegate registration to the National Office.
- B. The number of delegates shall be determined by dues billed by the National Office as of November 15 of the preceding year.
 - 1. Representation shall be:
 - a. One delegate, the Regent who is in office at the time of the convention, if she attends.
 - b. And an additional delegate for each seventy-five (75) members or major fraction thereof.
- C. The Local Court may elect up to two (2) times the number of alternates for elected delegates.
- D. Expenses to the National Convention may be paid by the Local Court.

Please note: If you have a state officer in your court do not elect her as a delegate, as she is an automatic delegate as a State Officer. State Officers represent the State at meetings of the National Court, expenses to be paid by the State Court. (Bylaws (Article IX State Courts Sec. 7A).

Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) states: "Alternates normally are elected with a designed order in which they will be called to serve; if available, as vacancies arise in the delegation of their constituent unit. When a unit has more than one delegate, an elected alternate is not associated with any particular delegate. The vacancy that occurs first in point of time is filled by the first elected alternate or the ranking one available, and so on."

Even though it is unlikely that all alternates would be called upon to serve, we urge that each Court elect the total number of alternates to which it is entitled. A Local Court may elect up to two (2) times the number of alternates for elected delegates. **Alternates MAY NOT be appointed after elections have taken place.**

We have included the number of Delegates and Alternates that your court is entitled to on the attached form. Please elect your delegates and alternates then send the form back noting the number of delegates and alternates for your court. Please note that we would also like this form back if you are not sending anyone to the National Convention. Be sure to indicate the date on which the election took place in the space allotted.

PLEASE NOTE: A form for the use of State Regents is enclosed in their envelopes only.

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

ARTICLE VII NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Sec. 1 A-C NATIONAL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- A. A member who intends to run for office shall submit a statement of qualifications, a current photograph, a statement of endorsement signed by a majority of the State Board of the candidate, and a consent to serve signed by the candidate. Seven copies of each shall be received by the Nominating Committee Chairman no later than March 1 of the convention year.
- B. Candidates may make known their intentions to run for office to their State and Local Court.
- C. Candidates may respond honestly when asked if they intend to run for office.

ARTICLE VIII NATIONAL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 3 A DUTIES OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- A. The Nominating Committee (elected at the 2010 National Convention) shall consider the qualifications of all candidates for the National Board of the ORDER which shall consist of five (5) Officers and nine (9) Directors.
 - 1. Names submitted for the consideration of the Nominating Committee must be accompanied by a statement of qualifications, a current photograph, a statement of endorsement signed by the majority of the State Board of the candidate, and a consent to serve signed by the candidate. Seven (7) copies of each shall be received by the Nominating Committee Chairman no later than **March 1** of the convention year.
 - 2. A State Board may endorse more than one candidate.

PLEASE NOTE: ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE

ARTICLE VI NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Sec. 3 ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for National office, a candidate shall be a member in good standing, available to handle all responsibilities the office entails. She must be a current or past National Officer or a current or past National Director and a Catholic who publically obeys the laws of the church and in accordance with these can licitly (in accordance with Church Law) receive the Eucharist.

- B. To be eligible for National Director, a candidate shall be a member in good standing, available to handle all responsibilities the office entails. She must be a current or Past National Director, a current or Past State Regent, and a Catholic who publically obeys the laws of the church and in accordance with these can licitly (in accordance with Church Law) receive the Eucharist.
- C. Not more than two (2) members of the National Board shall be from the same state, with one as a National Officer and the other as a National Director.

Sec 4 TERM OF OFFICE

- A. National Officers and Directors shall be elected by ballot at each biennial convention of the National Court. They shall assume office thirty (30) days after the election.
- B. The term of office shall be for two (2) years.
 - 1. No National Officer shall serve more than one (1) term in the same office.
 - 2. No National Director shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms nor more than three (3) terms, six (6) years in a lifetime as a National Director.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you plan on running for an office on the National Board please be sure to make your **air reservations to return home on July 22th in the mid-afternoon.** The immediate past board members and the newly elected board members will be meeting Sunday morning following the Mass. **This will be a breakfast meeting and should be over by Noon.** Be sure to allow sufficient time to be at the airport after the meeting.

At the National Convention in Buffalo, NY July 2010, the following were elected to serve on the 2012 National Nominating Committee:

Penny Martin, Chair
 Box 32
 New Russia, NY 12964

Linda Colleti, MA
 Carolyn Malik, TX

Irene Duda, OR
 Della Santos, IL

Daphne Bernestine, CA
 Nancy Bambenek, MN

NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES

National Convention registration forms and instructions for payment of registration fees will be sent at a later date. Registration fees are included in this letter merely for your information.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION
 (Prior to June 1, 2012)

LATE REGISTRATION
 (After June 1, 2012)

Delegates	\$110.00	\$150.00
Non-Delegates	\$100.00	\$135.00
Chaplains	No Charge	No Charge
*Daily Registration		\$ 50.00

***All one-day registrants are non-voting**

Any Courts sending registrations post-marked later than June 1, 2012 will be subject to late registration fees as shown above. This late registration also applies to those registering at the Convention.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND REGISTRATION FEES UNTIL DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORMS ARE RECEIVED.

RESOLUTIONS AND BYLAWS:

See attachments for the proper format for submitting a Resolution or Bylaw change as well as deadline information. This is your opportunity to suggest changes to our rules as well as help direct the actions of our order.

HOTEL RATES

Room Rates for the Hilton Omaha, Omaha, NE are as follows:

Single/Double Occupancy \$139.00 + 18.16% Tax (At the present time)
Triple/Quad Occupancy \$139.00 + 18.16% Tax (At the present time)

*** PLEASE NOTE:** These rates **CANNOT** be guaranteed after **May 31, 2012** or once the room block is full **whichever comes first**. **PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY.** Please have **ONLY ONE** person make reservations for you and your group. Please check with the hotel regarding cancelation fees. The hotel will charge an early departure fee of \$50.00 if you change your departure date. Any duplicate reservations or non cancellations will be the responsibility of the person making the reservation. Due to strict attrition rules, National will not be responsible for rooms booked but not used.

PRE AND POST CONVENTION TOURS

Pre-convention tours to areas of interest in Omaha, as well as a post convention trip have been planned. Attached you will find information on the Pre Convention Tours as well as the Post Convention Tour to the Black Hills of South Dakota. See attached flyer.

We have made arrangements with **All American Travel Agency** to be the official CDA agency for this convention. You may contact them at **1-800-732-7075**. More information will follow in the March Convention Mailing.

We ask your cooperation in the election of delegates for the National Convention at the times requested and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

With best wishes, I am looking forward to greeting many of you in Omaha Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Joanne Tomassi
National Regent

NOTE: Forms for delegates and alternates to the National Convention have been sent to the Local Court Regents only. State Regents will receive delegate forms for State Officers. **DO NOT** include State Officers or Immediate Past State Regent on Local Court delegate forms as they are automatically designated as delegates of your state.

TIME TABLE FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION

- January 15, 2012 - Bylaw Amendments POST MARKED to National Chairman
- PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2012 - Elect delegates and alternates
- March 15, 2012 - Delegate and Alternate Forms **MUST** be POSTMARKED
We WILL NOT accept any forms after this date.
- PRIOR TO MAY 30, 2012 - Hotel reservations must be made in order to assure group rate
IF BLOCK HAS NOT YET BEEN FILLED.
- June 1, 2012 - Deadline for advance registration
- June 15, 2012 - Resolutions are to be POSTMARKED to National Chairman

RESOLUTIONS

FIVE (5) copies of each Resolution being submitted **must be POST MARKED** by **June 15, 2012**. Please mail them to:

**Mary Ann Kizer
National Chairman of Resolutions
P.O. Box 2753
Pine Bluff, AR 71613-2753**

Suggested Form for Resolutions

WHEREAS, in this paragraph state the issue of concern; and
WHEREAS, continue with reasons for consideration; and
WHEREAS, there could be a third and fourth paragraph to further illustrate; now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, sum up action to be taken and if the purpose is grave, a second resolved might be in order.

EXAMPLE

WHEREAS, there is a tremendous need in the world today for more vocations to the Priesthood and religious;
 and
WHEREAS, the future of the church is dependent upon these vocations; now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Catholic Daughters of the Americas initiate a program of prayer for an increase in
 vocations as part of their monthly meetings.

Submitted by: Name and number of Court
Date: Date of Meeting at which resolution was passed
Regent: Signature of Regent
Contact Information: Email address and/or phone number

(Please note: the above is just a "fictitious" example and is not something that is being proposed at this convention.)

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE BYLAWS

The National Committee on Bylaws shall receive and review all proposed changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws may be amended at any Biennial National Convention by a two-third (2/3) vote of the National Court present, provided written notice has been submitted to the Local and State Courts four (4) months prior to Convention.

Five (5) copies of each proposal and rationale (one on each page) MUST BE POST MARKED BY JANUARY 15, 2012.

Proposals to amend the **BYLAWS AND RATIONALE FOR THE AMENDMENTS** are to be mailed directly to the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee.

**Miss Emily Guilherme
National Chairman of Bylaws
14691 Walters Street,
Corona, CA 92880.**

All approved amendments must be in proper form, signed by the Local Court Regent and the Court Recording Secretary and include the court name and number and the date of the court meeting in which the proposed amendment passed. A copy of your proposed amendment and rationale should be sent to your State Regent for her records.

The following is an example of how proposed Amendments to the Bylaws are to be worded:

Present Wording

Article _____ Title _____

Sec. _____ State paragraph as it is currently in the Bylaws.

Amended Wording

Article _____ Title _____

Sec. _____ State new wording that you wish to submit for inclusion in the Bylaws. **(PRINT THE NEW WORDING IN CAPS AND IN BOLD PRINT SO AS TO STAND OUT).**

Rationale: (short explanation of why you are proposing the change)

Regent

Recording Secretary
- Name and No. of Court
- Date of Meeting in which the proposed amendment passed

EXAMPLE

Present Wording

Article VI National Court

Sec. 1 Composition

The National Court shall be composed of five (5) National Officers, nine (9) Directors, and members of the Local Courts.

Amended Wording

Article VI National Court

Sec. 2 Composition

The National Court shall be composed of five (5) National Officers, nine (9) Directors, **IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL REGENT**, and members of the Local Courts.

Regent

Recording Secretary
- Name and No. of Court
- Date of Meeting in which the proposed amendment passed

Rationale: The Immediate Past National Regent can be a tremendous help in providing continuity in the transfer of office.

(Please note: the above is just a "fictitious" example and is not something that is being proposed at this convention.)