



National Conventions & Conferences Committee

Gregory Hunt
Director



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To: National Commandant, Wendell W. Webb
Membership of the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary

Subj: 2019 Annual National Conventions Committee Report

The 96th National Convention in Billings, MT is upon us, and a lot of great events and fellowships are planned. The 2018 National Convention in Buffalo, NY was a success with positive numbers at all events.

In preparations for the 96th National Convention in Billings, MT, I visited Billings for the final site visit by the National Conventions Committee in April 2019. During the final site visit we spent time with the host hotel's management staff along with the local host Detachment, to see where the planning stages were. The local host committee has been working with Visit Billings, CVB, and the host hotel to ensure everyone in attendance will have something to do and not spend a boring moment throughout the week. We toured the host hotel, and the overflow hotels and made sure all areas and aspects of the National Convention would be covered and taken care of. I've stayed in close contact by email and phone with the host hotel, and the local host Detachment to keep everyone on the same page and the preparations moving forward. We talked and discussed every aspect of the convention to ensure everyone has a memorable visit to Billings and the surrounding area.

I have started conversations with Daytona Beach, FL to get a head start on the 97th National Convention in 2020. I believe with their enthusiasm and eagerness to impress the Marine Corps League, we're sure to have another great convention in 2020. Reservations for the host hotel, Hilton Oceanfront Resort will open at 0801 Monday August 12, 2019. Remember, when you call to book your reservation, the hotel will require one-night advance deposit that will be charged to your credit/debit card immediately. This is a necessary policy to prevent over making of reservations by an individual, thus keeping others out of the host hotel and then cancelling some of the rooms at the last minute, thus causing the Marine Corps League to fall below its contractual room count obligation and having to pay a penalty. This one-night deposit is refundable upon cancellation according to the hotel's cancellation policy.

You have all been made aware of new Agreements we have with American Airlines, United Airlines, and Delta Airlines, where they are offering discounted fares to our Mid-Winter and National Conventions. Which means the link for the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA will be published in September, and in October the link will be published for the 2020 National Convention in Daytona Beach, FL.

We received 4 bids for the 2021 National Convention – Springfield IL, St Louis MO, Grand Rapids MI, and Wichita KS. The National Convention Committee conducted site visits to all four (4) cities. We toured the hotels that would be utilized for the convention, and got a thorough tour of the city and historical sites. The membership will be voting on the 2021 National Convention on Thursday, August 8, 2019. Remember the vote for the National Convention is done by warm bodies in the seats at the time of the vote. Daytona Beach FL will be giving a final presentation for 2021, and the four (4) bidding cities will be giving their presentations followed by a Q&A session starting at 1330. Immediately following the Q&A session, the vote will be taken.

Semper Fidelis,

Gregory Hunt

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