
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION 2018 ADVENTIST EDUCATORS' CONVENTION CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – August 6-9, 2018

November 20, 2017

Dear Central California Conference Educators:

In August of 2018, Adventist educators from across the North American Division (NAD) will be joining together in a collaborative effort to support and challenge each other through their spiritual, professional, and social experiences during the Educators' Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

- Educators will be able to enjoy a spiritually enriching atmosphere while attending worship services every morning and participating in breakout sessions from well-known speakers.
- Educators will also be able to enjoy rich opportunities for professional growth as they attend the many breakout sessions and daily meetings, as well as visit the exhibit hall.
- Educators will have ample opportunity for social networking as they attend planned events such as the NAD Buffet and the Central California Conference (CCC) Special Event.

This letter will outline some important information you need to know prior to attending the NAD 2018 Adventist Educators Convention in Chicago and hopefully give you a glimpse of what to expect. The convention starts on Monday, August 6, at 7:00 p.m. and concludes on Thursday, August 9, with lunch. A daily schedule will be communicated to us very soon by the NAD Office of Education.

➤ **Where will the Convention be held?**

The venue for the convention is the McCormick Place Convention Center located at 2301 S. King Dr., Chicago, IL 60616.

➤ **What is the theme for the Convention?**

"Encounter Jesus, Experience Excellence" has been chosen as the theme for the convention.

➤ **How do I register for the Convention?**

Please complete the employee registration form provided by your principal (also available online) and submit it to your principal by Thursday, December 7, 2017. If you wish to bring your spouse/family, please also complete the family registration form and submit it to your principal by Thursday, December 7. The deadline for family registration payment to the CCC Education Department is Monday, January 8, 2018, with a full non-refundable payment by check. Note to Principals: Please return the attached registration form per school to Premilla Willmott at either fax 559.347.3054 or email by Monday, December 11, 2017 at pwillmott@cccsda.org. The Central California Conference Education Department will take care of submitting your registration.

➤ **What are the accommodations and room reservation procedures?**

The NAD Office of Education has contracted five area hotels close to McCormick Place Convention Center for housing educators. We are hopeful that the CCC educators and guests will be staying in one hotel; however, because of the large number of people attending, some conferences will be spread out in various contracted hotels. All CCC educators must stay at one of the assigned hotels.

- **Will I need a credit card?**

Yes. The hotels require a major credit card to bill any incidental expenses such as room services, etc. **Please note: A debit card or cash will not be accepted at hotel check-in and check-out.**
- **How will I know who I will be rooming with?**

You will find out who your assigned roommate will be at some time prior to leaving for Chicago. For the most part your roommate will be from your school or another educator from a CCC school. Families and spouses will be able to stay in the same room.
- **Am I required to follow a certain dress code while attending the Convention?**

Yes. We are asking that you wear business casual to the meetings.
- **How can I get to Chicago?**

Please work with your principal for all travel arrangements. Your administrator will have details on travel, whether by airline or, if you choose, driving independently.
- **How can I get to my assigned hotel from the Chicago Midway International Airport?**

All hotels can be accessed by the Chicago Transit Authority trains - http://www.transitchicago.com/riding_cta/how_to_guides/ridingthetrain.aspx. The Orange Line connects from the Chicago Midway International Airport to all of the contracted hotels. The cost is about \$3.00 for a single ride.
- **What procedures do I follow if I am driving my own car?**

You must go directly to your assigned hotel and check in. There is a daily parking fee at each of the hotels and McCormick Place Convention Center. Please understand that parking fees will not be reimbursed except for a one time reimbursement of \$6.00.
- **Will there be an on-site registration booth for my union or conference?**

Yes. The Pacific Union Conference (PUC) and the CCC will have a booth where you must check in and where you will receive a convention program, schedule, meal tickets, etc. The booth will be located in the Convention Center and easily identified.
- **When is the first meeting?**

Tentatively, the first meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening, August 6. Please be on time so you will not miss Dr. Elizabeth Talbot as the keynote speaker for the opening session.
- **Will I have to make my own meal arrangements?**

The CCC Education Department will provide meals and per diem as follows:

The NAD has made arrangements for breakfast and lunch to be purchased at the McCormick Place Convention Center. All meals are vegetarian and will require meal tickets to be purchased in advance.

In lieu of per diem for Tuesday and Wednesday, we are purchasing meal tickets for all convention attendees (family members are to be paid for by the employee if selected) for three breakfasts (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) and two lunches (Tuesday, Wednesday).

The Tuesday evening NAD Buffet and the Wednesday evening CCC Special Event are also paid for by the Conference for each employee.

You will receive a combined per diem for Monday and Thursday in the amount of \$66.00 plus \$6.00 for round trip train tickets to and from Midway International Airport, which will be included in your July 30, 2018 paycheck.

- **What do I need to know about the North American Division Buffet and Entertainment?**
The meal will be a delicious vegetarian buffet on Tuesday, August 7, followed by an evening of special entertainment and awards. The dress for this special occasion will be business casual.
- **What do I need to know about the Central California Conference Education Department Special Event?**
On Wednesday evening, August 8, the CCC Education Department will be hosting a special event for our educators and their families. We are requiring attendance at this event for all educators which as it will provide an opportunity for you to gather with your fellow CCC colleagues as well as enjoy a very special planned event—details to be shared at a later date.
- **Will I need to register for the breakout sessions?**
You will not have to register for any of the breakout sessions you choose to attend.
- **What else do I need to know about the breakout sessions?**
There will be a vast variety of scheduled breakout sessions throughout the convention. Some of the areas of interest include pre-school, elementary, secondary, administration, small schools, technology, and more. Most of the sessions will be held in rooms adequately large enough to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend. There will also be a few mega-sessions. You will be able to obtain a complete listing of the breakout sessions on the NAD website at www.nadeducation.org as the schedule is developed. Beginning in January of 2018, breakout sessions will be solicited.
- **Will there be an exhibit hall?**
Yes, there will be an exhibit hall as part of the Convention with registered exhibitors, including education product vendors, technology, fund raising ideas, teaching materials, fun stuff and much more. Free gifts are also available.
- **Can I get certification credit for attending the Convention?**
Academic and non-academic (CEU) credit will be available. Two Continuing Education Units will be available for attendance at the convention.

For further questions and information regarding the NAD Convention please check the following:

- The North American Division website at www.nadeducation.org
- The Central California Conference website at www.cccedu.adventistfaith.org

The CCC Education Department is requiring all K-12 principals and full-time teachers to attend the convention. If there are extenuating circumstances that warrant your absence, late arrival or early departure, please request clearance from Ken Bullington (cell #559.352.8787) by Thursday, December 7, 2017.

I trust this letter is helpful to you in preparing for the North American Division 2018 Adventist Educators' Convention in Chicago!

God bless you,

Ken Bullington

Ken Bullington
Vice President for Education