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West Virginia Elks Association

February 6, 2026

TO: Exalted Rulers, Lodge Secretaries, District Deputies Designate, State Officers and all interested Elks

Dear Members:

Arrangements are now complete for the 161st Grand Lodge Convention to be held July 4 -July 8, 2026 in Chicago, IL. West Virginia has been assigned to the **Headquarter Hotel the Hilton Chicago Hotel** located at 720 South Michigan. The room rates, as negotiated by the Grand Lodge Convention Committee, will be **\$159** per room per night plus tax for single or double occupancy. With tax the room rate will be **\$186.67** per night. This rate applies to anyone wishing to stay three days before and after the convention.

IMPORTANT

All housing reservation requests for the West Virginia Elks **MUST** be made through the office of the West Virginia Elks State Secretary. The enclosed reservation form must be completed in its entirety and mailed or emailed back .
Room Reservation cutoff is June 8, 2026.

2026-2027 DDGER's must use form as well

Mail or email reservation form to:
Howard D. Boyd, WV Elks Secretary
7 Hogan Court, Shallotte, NC 28470
vamudder@gmail.com

I must have it in hand by June 8, 2026

NOTE: Transportation to Chicago, IL is the responsibility of each individual. It is recommended to make your flight reservations as early as possible. There will be bussing for the delegates between outlying Hotels and the convention center. We are about 1/2 mile from hotel to the Convention Center.

HEADQUARTER HOTEL

West Virginia has been assigned to the **Headquarter** hotel, the Hilton Chicago Hotel. There are only four hotels being used. They are Hilton Chicago, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago, Marriott Marguis Chicago, and The Palmer House a Hilton Hotel.. We will co-share the Hilton Chicago with Arizona, California/Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Virginia. The Hilton Chicago is about a 1/2 mile from McCormick Place where the convention will hold its sessions.. Grand Lodge will provide shuttle service.

OPENING SESSION

Sunday, July 5, 2026 – 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday afternoon opening ceremony and celebration, daily business and closing session will take place at the **McCormick Place West Building Skyline Ballroom located at 2317 S Indiana Ave, Chicago, IL.**

Additional Information

The various Committee Seminars will be scheduled on Sunday 9am and following the General Sessions on Monday and Tuesday. Please check program or signage at convention to confirm times/locations of these Grand Lodge functions.

1. Daily Business Session Schedule:
 - a. Monday and Tuesday 8am-12pm (estimated end time)
 - b. Wednesday 8am-11am
2. Registration and Exhibits will be at the **McCormick Place West Building..**
3. Ritual Competition will be held at the **McCormick Place West Building**, room locations to be determined.
4. District Deputies Designate Seminar will be held on Monday July 6 and Tuesday, July 7 at 12:45 pm in the **McCormick Place West Building.**
5. State Housing Chairperson Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 7 at 2pm. In the **McCormick Place West Building.**
6. A Shuttle service will be provided to all Grand Lodge functions. (Watch the website for a shuttle schedule by the middle of June 2026.)
7. The varying Committee Seminars will be held at the **McCormick Place West Building** and scheduled on Sunday as early as 9am and following the General Sessions on Monday and Tuesday. These will be listed on the website after April 2026.
8. Convention Pre-Registration will open at the beginning of April.
9. Event reservations will open on May 1. Reservations are not required currently but are recommended to help ensure adequate space allocations.
10. 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Elks National Memorial Building will be held Saturday, July 4 at 9:30am limited seats available. Tickets will be required for the event. More information to follow, watch the Elks.org website for updates.

11. Memorial Building Shuttle Service will be available from all hotels. More information to follow regarding times, cost etc.
12. Remember Grand Lodge Statutes specify that all Lodges send their Exalted Ruler or a designated representative to the National Convention.
13. **Please consider Pre-Registration for the Convention. Pre-registration will be the best way to avoid lines and safely receive your credentials and other critical attendee information.** Watch the Elks web site for updates.

The **Hilton Chicago Hotel** is located about 35 to 40 minutes by taxi or Uber from the either O'Hare or Midway airports. Taxi fares range from \$70-75 based on traffic. Uber Rates are \$37-65.

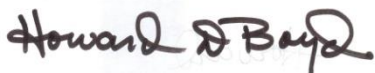
Amenities include complimentary high speed internet, indoor heated pool, 24-hour fitness center, restaurant and bar. You will have the ability to choose one King size bed or two Queens. Check-in is at 3pm and checkout is at 12 noon. If you need to cancel, you can do so without penalty 72 hours before your arrival date. If you cancel your reservation after this date, you will be obligated to pay the first night's deposit. The same applies if you do not show for your reservation.

Overnight self-parking is \$70/car/day during the conference Valet is \$75 per night stay. There are nearby parking venues ranging about \$30 for overnight..

All Hospitality space will follow Center for Disease Control and hotel room capacity guidelines. I am positive Heidi Hubbard and Wayne Martin will have your refreshments and entertainment ready when you arrive.

On behalf our state sponsor, PGER James L. Nichelson, Special Deputy Rick Romino, and myself, we hope all our delegates have a successful, and enjoyable convention in Kansas City..

Sincerely and fraternally



Howard D. Boyd Sr, Secretary
West Virginia Elks Association

Enclosures (1)

Cc: James L. Nichelson, PGER
Rick Romino, Grand Lodge Special Deputy to Grand Exalted Ruler
Kevin Blosser, State President

WEST VIRGINIA ELKS—HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
(PLEASE FILL IN ALL INFORMATION)

ELKS NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 4-July 8, 2026
Chicago, IL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: __ (____) _____ E-MAIL: _____ (for confirmation number)

LODGE NAME: _____ LODGE NO. _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ ARRIVAL TIME: _____

DEPARTURE DATE: _____ DEPARTURE TIME: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ROOM: _____. One (1) or Two (2) Beds _____

SPECIAL REQUEST: HANDICAP: _____ OTHER: _____

ALL ROOMS ARE NON-SMOKING

COST OF ROOM (FOR EITHER CHOICE) IS \$ 186.67, INCLUDING TAX

Am. Exp. _____ MC _____ Visa _____ Discover _____

Full Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Please fill out this form with one (1) night's lodging and return to be received in hand no later than June 8, 2026 to:

**Howard D. Boyd
7 Hogan Court
Shallotte, NC 28470**