

## Boston bound



**Nicole  
Rhine**

**A**s you know, the 73rd Biennial Convention of the NALC will be held this August in Boston.

What you may not know is that ever since our founding meeting held in Milwaukee in August of 1889, NALC members have met in national convention to set the policy and direction of the national union. The first national convention also was held in Boston in 1890 and, at the time, NALC's conventions were held on an annual basis. It wasn't until 1903 that the convention went to a biennial format.

In 1946, NALC went to even-numbered years for the biennial convention. The 1946 convention was held in Detroit and was three years after

the 1943 convention held in Denver. As you may have already guessed, the NALC skipped one year during World War II.

Biennial conventions have been held every two years from the 1946 convention in Detroit to the 2018 convention in Detroit, until the 2020 convention had to be canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This will be the fourth time that the national convention has been held in Boston, which—in addition to the first national convention—hosted national conventions in 1968 (the 46th biennial convention) and 2008 (the 66th biennial convention).

I can attest that lots of folks at Headquarters and at Branch 34 in Boston, the convention's host branch, have been working hard for many months to put together the convention.

I want to remind all delegates of a few important items concerning the national convention:

**Registration:** The registration procedure at the national convention will be the same format as the last three conventions. As was reported in the Convention Call sent to all branches and state associations last fall, all delegates will be required to register individually. All delegates will also be required to show a photo ID when they register.

Registration of delegates will be held on the Exhibit Level of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) on Saturday, Aug. 3, from noon to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 5, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. There will be signs at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center directing you to the registration area.

As has been the practice in the past, once the registra-

tion area closes on Monday, delegates still can register at the NALC Headquarters office located in the BCEC.

**Delegates:** Delegates are reminded that the credential cards sent to branch secretaries must be signed by both the branch president and branch secretary before being presented at registration. Delegate-at-large credential cards must be signed by the state president and state secretary before being presented at registration.

Branch secretaries (or another branch officer if the secretary is not attending the convention) should bring their delegate eligibility list and any correspondence related to delegate registration with them to the convention.

Alternate delegates who replace registered delegates need to bring their letters of authorization to be presented at registration. Under the *NALC Constitution*, before an alternate delegate is registered as a replacement, written evidence must be presented stating that the duly elected delegate they are replacing is unable to attend the convention.

Article 4, Section 3 of the *NALC Constitution* reads in part:

An alternate delegate before being admitted to the National Convention shall present either their certificate of election or written evidence from the Secretary of their Branch, or from the delegate for whom they are elected alternate, that the elected delegate is unable to attend the meeting of the National Association.

**Convention sessions:** Business sessions of the national convention are scheduled at the BCEC from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and then 8 a.m. to noon on Friday.

**Workshops:** Workshops are held at the BCEC from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday through Thursday prior to the business sessions and from 3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday after the business sessions. (A full list of workshops begins on page 25.)

**Metal detectors:** The BCEC requires everyone entering the facility to pass through metal detectors. While the convention center's Evolv Express scanners will allow most attendees to enter without removing their bags, a separate check may be deemed necessary by security personnel. Delegates are encouraged to plan ahead and build in extra time for this process.

**General wisdom:** If this will be your first national convention, welcome! You should know that most delegates dress casually. But be aware that it can sometimes get cold on the convention floor and in workshops—so you may want to bring along a light jacket, sweatshirt or sweater. Also, seasoned delegates will tell you to wear comfortable shoes, as you will do a lot of walking.