

Next stop, Los Angeles



**Nicole
Rhine**

As you know, the 74th Biennial Convention of the NALC will be held this August in Los Angeles.

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 was held in Boston in 1890 and, at the time, NALC held annual national conventions. It wasn't until 1903 that the convention went to a biennial format.

It was in 1946 that the 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 like clockwork 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 third time that the national convention has been held in Los Angeles, which previously hosted national conventions in 1941 (the 33rd biennial convention) and 2016 (the 70th biennial convention).

I can attest that many employees at Headquarters, as well as officers and members of Branch 24 in Los Angeles, the convention's host branch, have been working very hard for many months now 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 four conventions. As was reported in the Convention Call sent to all branches and state associations last fall, all delegates to the national convention 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 at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Saturday, Aug. 1, from noon to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. There will be signs at the Los Ange-

les Convention Center directing delegates to the registration area.

As has been the practice in the past, once the registration area closes on Monday, delegates may still register at the NALC Headquarters office located in the convention center.

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 also 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 also 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 to the convention their letters of authorization to be presented at registration. Under the *NALC Constitution*, before an alternate delegate is registered as a replacement for a regular delegate, 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 Los Angeles Convention Center 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 Los Angeles Convention Center 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.

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