

Illinois, Lambda State Organization

To: State Leaders and Chapter Presidents From: Debbie LeBlanc, Illinois President

Re: April Mailing Date: April 1, 2018

It is no April Fool that I am excited for the Lambda State Convention April 20-22! The last-minute details are being reviewed to bring you a thoughtful and inspirational experience. Friday promises to be a great day for many of us with our opening event, the Powered by Teach to Lead Summit. Sixteen teams of educators from around the state will spend the day working with a "Critical Friend/Coach" who has experience with the problem they wish to study. Teams will be exposed to the "Logic Model" to organize the details of the problem and then brainstorm solutions and develop a timeline of completion. Bev Johns and her EEC team have organized a terrific afternoon outing to the Odeum for one of the largest craft fairs in Illinois. Later, our opening session features a conversation with Gwen Simmons, our Society Representative, who will address the proposed amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules. Gwen invites you to submit questions in advance, so she can be prepared with rationale and answers. Please email to me so I can share with Gwen. The evening continues with workshops to meet everyone's personal and professional needs and concludes with our Illinois Social celebration. All are invited.

Saturday morning begins at 8:00 a.m. sharp with our Lambda State General Session and Executive Board meetings. The Membership Luncheon allows us to recognize the accomplishments of so many of you and then we continue with more workshops, the Art Mart, Hospitality Suite, shopping with local exhibitors, and much more. The Lambda State Social will begin our evening with adult beverages and conversation. Presidents are asked to line up outside the Banquet Room *at 6:20* in chapter number order where at 6:30 they will process in for recognition and applause for their past years of service to our organization. Katherine Bassett is our keynote speaker and will address leadership at all levels in any organization.

Sunday morning is our beautiful and moving Celebration of Life where we remember our sisters who are no longer with us. Please let me know if families or friends of the deceased will be attending the ceremony so I can have special badges for them. Our convention concludes with the Awards Breakfast where we meet our Florence A. Cook Award and Grant in Aid winners and their families and friends. Clearly, we hope this convention is one of the best ever and has you leaving with a song in your heart from spending time with "sisters" and feeling like it was a worthwhile way to spend a weekend.

A few items of quick business:

- Please remind working teachers to bring their IEIN # with them to convention so they can receive professional credit for workshops
- Susan Kaye would like you to bring your old mascara wands for a collection for the Appalachian Wild Life Rescue Center. They use the wands to clean fly eggs and other small things off rescued baby animals. She will have a box for us at convention.
- Be sure to bring your Box Tops to convention where a lucky member from each area will be awarded boxtops for the school(s) of their choice
- The International Music Committee needs your help. The information is attached for you.
- We will ask you to answer this statement Ask me about for you to share ideas with your colleagues about Membership, Marketing, Leadership Development and Programs. Come with your great ideas!

Finally, on a sad note, we say goodbye to a very good friend of Lambda State. Margie Barban, long time Alpha Eta member, Lambda State Achievement Award Winner, Chair and Committee member of many of our state committees, passed away on Saturday, March 24 after a long battle with cancer. Her life and legacy will be celebrated at the Lambda State Convention in April 2019 in Decatur, Illinois.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Lombard in a few short weeks. If you need anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best, Debbie LeBlanc