



Illinois, Lambda State Organization

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

Re: March Mailing
Date: March 1, 2018

The fresh beauty of spring means longer days, warmer weather and of course our annual Lambda State Convention. We are very excited about the opportunities that await you in Lombard, April 20-22, 2018. For the first time our organization partnered with the Illinois Teach to Lead Network and the Department of Education to provide professional development workshops focused on teacher leadership. This role looks very different in many schools and we are fortunate to have three districts share their work on Thursday afternoon. On Friday of convention we are hosting a Summit where teams will work together to develop concrete plans to solve local problems in their districts and network with other teachers in the state. Teachers will be able to receive credit for the hours in both workshops. Other worthwhile opportunities at convention are the Pre-Convention Tour at the Odeum in Villa Park on Friday afternoon, interesting workshops Friday and Saturday, Art Mart, and for the first-time local exhibitors who will be selling products relevant to women and their families. Registration forms are online and you can avoid paying a late fee when you register before April 1, 2018. We hope you will encourage your members to attend the convention!

Several members have asked if it is possible to attend the Celebration of Life Ceremony without attending other events at the convention. After consulting with the Executive Board, we have decided that a badge is necessary to enter every event of the convention. Members must complete the registration form and register for the convention (\$15.00) or the Awards Breakfast (\$29.00) and check attendance for the Celebration of Life. Please email or mail the form to Renata Butauskiene. Registration information is on the Lambda State website. Members can pick up their badges at the registration table to participate in the events.

Please let us know if you are aware of family members of the deceased who may be attending the Celebration. Please send us their names so we can provide them with a special badge to admit them to the Ceremony.

Presidents should have been notified by now if their applicant was awarded the Florence A. Cook Award or the Grant in Aid. The applicant and her family are welcome to attend the Awards Breakfast with the applicant's expense paid by Lambda State. Parents or other friends are welcome to attend but will need to pay for the breakfast. Please assist the recipient and family members with completion of the registration form. If you need assistance I am more than happy to help you with this process.

The Lambda State and International websites have up to date information and forms for you to complete and/or share with your members. On our website you will find the Nomination of chapter president form which should be sent to Sylvia Olson, so the new leader can begin receiving monthly leadership tips. You will also find the registration for Training for Chapter Leaders (attached to this mailing). Take the time to look at the International website to review the potential amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules. I have found great benefit in reading the "stories" behind each suggestion.

I am sure you are relieved there are few attachments to this mailing. Please review the financial documents from Sharon Vinson and let her know if there are any errors. Linda Adcock and her committee are busy preparing our Training for Chapter Leaders workshops and ask that you review and share the two forms with your new chapter leaders. We want to emphasize that even experienced leaders will learn from the new training. Please email registration forms and leader names to her as soon as possible. Finally, Joan Rog shared thoughtful tips about increasing membership at the chapter and state level.

As always, I welcome invitations to your chapter meetings and look forward to speaking with you in person and learning more about all the great things you are doing to benefit your members, schools and community. I also appreciate any and all ideas you have for improving or strengthening our chapters which benefit our members. I am hopeful when I contact you for help at the state convention you will eagerly reply "YES"! Make your reservations now for a great convention.

Best, Debbie LeBlanc