

New York State Public Employee Conference

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Social Service Employees Union Local 371

General Counsel ~

Legislative Director ~ Louis Matarazzo

Legislative Chair ~ Bing Markee

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August 18, 2022

Dear Directors and Legislative Directors:

I have been receiving many calls regarding the hotel registration information for our upcoming Annual Meeting/Convention (see attached Caribe Hilton Hotel Registration information).

The formulation of our agenda is progressing on schedule, but it will not be completed until late September. The providers who have supported our convention over the years will be receiving their invitation letters shortly, and I need to confirm with them the events they will be sponsoring before the agenda is finalized. Having said that, we anticipate a large turnout of members and providers.

While it is stated on the hotel registration information that the cutoff date to book a room is October 7, that is only to preserve the rate of \$199.00 if there are still rooms available. I assure you, with certainty, that there will be no rooms available long before October 7, so do not delay registering!

Important issues to be cognizant of:

Avoid booking through a central reservation number

Use the link provided to register. If you have a problem, call the number for in house reservations. (listed on registration flyer)

Lieutenants Benevolent Association Make sure you verify on your confirmation that \$199 is your room rate

If you book more than one room in your name, you will most likely receive the same confirmation number for all the rooms. I will not be able to determine which one should receive the four-days lodging provided by NYSPEC to each member unit, so in that event the four days will be assigned randomly to one of your rooms

The type of room at our extremely low rate is "run of the house". King beds and ocean views are not guaranteed through the hotel or through me. Should you require an upgraded room, you will pay a higher rate.

Richard E. Mulvaney, Esq. Please do not book more rooms than you will need. If you have to cancel a room, please do so through me so that room will be returned to our block for someone else to utilize. When you cancel through the hotel it goes back to their inventory, and sold at a much higher rate

While I understand that last year there were circumstances beyond control that may have caused some of you to cancel at the last minute, the vast number of cancellations caused us to not meet our guaranteed room block. This resulted in a substantial additional cost to NYSPEC. This situation was further compounded due to increasing the room block after the block was sold out to accommodate those members and providers who were shut out, and, as it turned out, the increase in rooms were not utilized as a result of the large number of cancellations. Note that we will not be increasing the room block this year. Once the block is sold out the rate for rooms in the Caribe may jump to \$400 per night. Furthermore, if the hotel is sold out at that point, you may have to seek rooms at another hotel. If you are planning to attend I suggest you register as soon as possible!

To confirm a room within our room block, it will have to be secured with a valid credit card along with a first night's deposit, refundable up to 30 days in advance of our event date. Cancellations made with less than 30 days can (and likely will) result in a one-night forfeiture fee.

Much planning and work goes into putting this annual meeting/convention together, and I simply cannot devote numerous hours trying to book additional rooms after the block is sold out, or attempting to contract with another hotel for additional rooms, or trying to get your cancellation fee returned.

To that end I would appreciate it if you or a member of your staff would adhere to the important issues regarding registering that are contained in this letter. I want to ensure that we have a successful, meaningful conference, and to do so all my attention needs to be focused on coordinating with our providers and planning our agenda.

To help you plan accordingly, included in the registration information is a brief outline of the initial agenda, which will be updated as we get closer to our date.

We will have much to discuss this year as we plan for the 2023 legislative session, therefore it is important to have your participation and input at the meetings. The convention agenda is structured to allow us to accomplish our objectives while still allowing time to network and unwind.

I hope all of you are enjoying your summer. I am always available via email - pmeringolo@nyspec.org - or cell (917.418.7981) to discuss any issues or questions you may have. I look forward to seeing all of you at our convention.

In Unity, Peter D. Meringolo

Chairman

CARIBE HILTON HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Official Dates of the Conference are Friday, December 2 thru Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Brief Outline of Agenda to help you plan accordingly.

December 2, Friday – First registration and Welcome Back Reception (this will be a 1 hour

reception and not a Gala event like last year, so you can make your

dinner plans accordingly.

December 3, Saturday - Golf Outing/Pool side Lunch for those not golfing

December 4, Sunday – Mandatory Legislative Meeting: 10:00am to 12:00pm

December 5, Monday – Annual Meeting General Session #1 (important) *Invited Legislators

speak

December 6, Tuesday – Annual Meeting General Session #2 (important)

December 7, Wednesday – Annual Meeting General Session #3 (Closing Meeting) In past years many members had to depart following the Tuesday meeting, therefore this meeting will not require any votes or input from members. It will simply summarize the previous meetings.

This year's rate is \$199.00, plus a flat \$20.00 resort fee. (\$219.00 per night, plus taxes.)

Single or Double Occupancy

**The cutoff date to book your room is October 7, **

After that date, the rate may no longer be guaranteed, and it is possible the Hotel will be sold out and you would be directed to another hotel.

Please see below the link to book your room.

If you have problems booking your room thru the link, then call 787-721-0303 between the hours of 9am to 5pm. Press 0 and ask the operator for in house reservations.

https://book.passkey.com/e/50374656

I look forward to seeing and welcoming all of you back to our Annual Conference