



International Association Legions of Honor

87th Annual Convention

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Overland Park, KS

April 25 – 28, 2018



Greetings, Legion Nobles and Ladies!

I am honored to accept and serve as your International Commander for 2017-2018. I certainly plan to work hard to keep your trust in my abilities and to ensure that the 87th Annual Convention of the International Association Legions of Honor meets your expectations. We'll meet in Overland Park, Kansas, which is in the Heartland of America. It is my great pleasure to invite you to attend.

Lady Suzette and my Executive Staff have worked with me throughout the last eight years while I have been serving as Lt. Commander in North America. Their job is and will be to ensure that your experience at the 87th Annual Convention is enjoyable and that our time together is productive. Every convention is all about attendance and my goal is to honor the late Commander Carl Sellden by meeting or exceeding his historical record year of attendance in Jacksonville, Florida in 2000. We should be able to do that because, after all, Kansas City is in the center of North America and should be a shorter travel distance for most people.

Kansas City is the place to be for Bar-B-Que, Jazz, Kansas City Chiefs, Royals Baseball, NASCAR, the Arabia Steamboat Museum, the Truman Library, and the WW I Museum. The WWI Museum, our country's only National WWI Museum, is commemorating the centennial of WWI (2017-2019) so it is a special time for Legion Nobles to visit this important museum.

Our convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 8787 Reader Road Overland Park, Kansas, 66214. It is an ideal location for the convention because it just off **I-35** and **I-70**, the cross roads of America. It also places us near major attractions with easy access to downtown Kansas City. The hotel has free high-speed, wireless or wired Internet access in every room. **The hotel's cut-off date for reservation at the IALOH rate is March 14, 2018.** Please call the hotel directly at (913) 888-8440 and ask for our group rate, which is only \$99 plus tax and extends three day before and after the convention.

Wednesday is the beginning of the convention with the **IALOH Golf Tournament** which will be held at the Sykes/Lady Overland Park Golf Course. (No relation to yours truly!) The course is conveniently located just south of the hotel. Sykes/Lady is the most-played golf course in Metro Kansas City, offering a wide range of play with 27 regulation golf holes (South, North and West), along with a challenging 9-hole, Par 3 course.

Thursday morning is the formal convention opening with our traditional luncheons. PICs at the Commanders Luncheon will be able to tell their customary jokes of how theirs was the best convention ever. Meanwhile at the Ladies Luncheon, the ladies will enjoy a more genteel time together. That evening will be the **Land of Oz Welcome Party** so click your slippers of any color and **Follow the Yellow Brick Road** to the **87th International Convention!** Plan to be dressed for the costume competition. Costume ideas are endless: Dorothy, Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, the Good Witch or the Wicked Witch, or maybe the Wizard, Tin Man, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion, or even Toto! This is your chance to be dancing in Kansas City to **Fats Domino** and **"Going to Kansas City where they got some crazy li'l women there and I'm gonna get me one!"**

Friday is the Necrology Service in the WW I Museum Theater in its comfortable red velvet seats with handicapped access. Every Unit that has sent in a report will be allowed to present it to the Commander and receive a memorable gift to take back to the Unit. We will finish the day with the Drill Competition and the Candidates Hospitality Room.

Saturday, we will continue with our regular IALOH activities such as, business meetings, election, picture taking and end the convention with the **Installation Banquet**.

If you need assistance please contact **Chief of Staff Steve Suchsland** (785) 231-0447, ssuchsland1@sbcglobal.net or me at (816) 260-9072, mwsykes33@gmail.com.

Morris Sykes
IALOH Commander