

Greetings from your Convention Committee Chairman

Happy New Year! Now that 2012 is upon us I hope your thoughts have turned to the 44th Annual CPOA Convention and 12th Annual CGEA Convention scheduled for 7-9 August on board the Historic Queen Mary in Long Beach CA.

This is our first convention scheduled for only 3 days. While the official schedule is not out yet, we can expect 3 full days of business. Please keep this in mind as you make your reservations. I would encourage everyone to plan on staying over on Thursday night. Also keep in mind the Long Beach Chapter has scheduled a golf tournament for Friday the 10th to be held at the Navy Golf Course Seal Beach. If you desire to tour the Long Beach area during your stay, the Queen Mary has offered the same room rate for 3 days before or after our convention. If you are driving, be advised there is a 6 dollar per day parking fee. This is reduced from the normal rate of 15 dollars.

I hope that by now you have seen the convention registration form. I also hope you have recovered from the sticker shock for the dinner. First let me apologize; second let me say there is nothing I can do about it. The lowest cost meal offered on the Queen Mary is \$39. Once tax and gratuities are included, the total cost is just over \$48 dollars. The Long Beach Chapter has held many a CCTI Pinning Dinner on board. They have assured me a great meal.

For our convention veterans, the Past Presidents Luncheon has been canceled for this year. After much thought, and discussion with our President, it was decided to be in the best interest of the Association to not host this event.

New on the registration form this year is the anticipated committee list. The goal here is to find out which members are interested in which committees before we arrive. Our meeting time can be better

utilized this way. While committees are up to the President, we can start with a list of interested members.

I have also received a couple of questions regarding transportation from the airports. The Super Shuttle cost from the Long Beach Airport is \$17 each way and a taxi is \$30. For groups of 4 or more, you may charter with Lotus Group Transportation for \$9 from Long Beach or \$11 from LAX. These figures are provided by the Queen Mary staff at the current rate and no guarantee is provided on the date of our arrival. As the convention draws nearer, I'll work with the Long Beach Chapter to obtain current rates as well as better information about transportation costs from LAX.

I would like to thank our President for his confidence in appointing me as Convention Committee Chairman. It has been a sharp learning curve, even having previously served as a committee member. I would also like to thank the previous committee for their support during this transition. One of the things I learned is it takes a lot of e-mail and phone calls to finally come to agreeable terms.

How it all works!

There are many things that must be worked out; how many rooms do we guarantee; how many meals; what meeting space do we and how much will it cost just name a few. If enough room nights and meals are guaranteed, many hotels will not charge for meeting space. This year we guaranteed 160 room nights and 100 meals. With that guarantee all our meeting spaces are free of charge.

If you have been to a convention in the past you know the hospitality room is an important part. This year the hotel was going to charge us a fee for each bottle we opened and then charge for a bartender. After extended negotiation, the Queen Mary has waived those fees. The caveat is, if any of our members are found openly consuming alcohol outside our hospitality room the CPOA will be fined 1,000 dollars.

The Queen Mary staff has been great to work with and very understanding of my lack of experience. They have made many concessions from the original offer and continue to be very supportive.

So what else is there and where does my registration fee go? This is an excellent question that I'm sure has been asked many times before. We have a lot of items specific to our convention such as banners and Cookie's Bell. Shipping these items takes the first piece of your registration fee. Any audio visual needs are charged outside of the hotel contract, as are expendable items used in the convention "office". This year we are also being charged a small labor fee for services such as hanging our banners, rearranging and preparing meeting spaces or delivering ice to the hospitality room.

Our conventions receive generous donations from Chapters, Units, Branches and individuals. We generate income from raffles and hospitality room donations as well. These funds are used to cover shortfalls that registration fees don't cover. If we fail to meet our room night or meal guarantees, these donations are used. The hospitality room is expensive, but money well spent. And yes, convention funds also pay for transportation and lodging fees for the chairman.

I am looking forward to a great convention, a great time and my "family" reunion. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours in service,

Bill Segelken