



# NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

[www.nationalchurchushers.org](http://www.nationalchurchushers.org)

**Charles E. McCraney, Jr.**

President

**Jacqueline Nesbitt**

Young Adult President



**Kensey M. Lewis**

Chairman, Board of Directors

**Alexander Fawra, Jr.**

Junior & Young People President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Greetings to all, as we embark upon the blessings of a new year and prepare to celebrate ninety years as a Grand church ushers' association. The Board of Directors is looking forward with anticipation and assurance that we will do all we can to make this year's convention a memorable one for all in attendance.

**ALERT - PHILADELPHIA TAX CHANGE** - The tax rate in the city of Philadelphia has increased. For planning purposes, the current rate is **15%**.

### **PARKING**

The Board was not able to negotiate lower parking rates for the **Mid-Winter** Conference. However, we **were** able to negotiate and have received confirmation for reduced parking rates during the **week of the convention**. So far, the reduced prices for the convention are with parking lots within walking distance (one block) of the hotel, and will range in price from \$22 - \$26 per day - all with in and out privileges. We are working with the owners of the parking lot with spaces conveniently under the Marriott hotel. This is a valet service with a current daily rate of \$43.20 (tax included). **In order to negotiate the best possible prices, it is absolutely necessary that we know, as close as possible, how many people will be driving to or renting cars during the convention. All State Presidents, please be prepared to provide this information to Board Chairman Lewis at the Mid-Winter Meeting.** Information about bus parking will be provided at a later date.

### **TRANSPORATION - Mid-Winter Meeting and Convention**

**SHUTTLE** service to and from the airport costs \$10.00 each way. For both the Mid-Winter Conference and the National Convention, you may contact: **Lady Liberty Shuttle (located at ground transportation entrance in the airport)** at (215) 724-8888 or **Tropiano Shuttle Service** at (800) 559-2040 for reservations.

**TAXI** services are based on per trip not per person. Most taxis can accommodate up to 3 passengers. The flat rate from the airport to the Marriott is \$26.25. Metered cabs charge a start fee of \$2.30 and \$2.10 per mile or portion thereof. There is an additional charge of \$1.50 airport fee.

The **AMTRAK Station - 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station** is approximately 20 blocks from the hotel.

The **Greyhound Station - 11<sup>th</sup> & Filbert Street** is approximately 1 block from the hotel.

### REFRIGERATORS

The hotel has between 30 and 40 in-house refrigerators. The cost for the week long rental is \$15. When making reservations, please be sure to inform the operator that you require a refrigerator in your room.

### COTS/ROLL-A-WAYS

A limited number of cots are available on a **first come first serve basis at no extra charge**. Cots can ONLY be added to King bed size rooms or suites. They are not permitted in double double rooms.

### RESTAURANTS AND EATERIES

We are pleased to share that there is an abundance of restaurants and eateries beginning as soon as you walk out of the hotel and others within walking distance of the hotel. The area provides something to satisfy everyone's tastes from breakfast through late night dinner. Prices range from very inexpensive to high end prices depending on the setting.

### TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

There is much to see and do in Philadelphia and several local modes of transportation to get you there. There are trolleys that board right out front of the hotel that will take you on a 90 minute tour of the city. There is a local railway called **SEPTA** that provides inexpensive travel throughout the city to art museums and current attractions. Greyhound buses run hourly for those who want to shop in the nearby cities of Chester and Atlantic City at the world famous outlet stores including King of Prussia. In addition, there are plenty of cultural and fun places and activities for our young people to enjoy.