

155th Grand Lodge Convention

Saint Louis, Missouri

June 30 – July 3, 2019

The 2019 Grand Lodge Convention will be held in St. Louis, MO, and the Ohio Elks Association will be housed at the Hyatt Regency St Louis at the Arch Hotel, 315 Chestnut St, St Louis, MO 63102. Telephone 314-655-1234. This is a non-smoking hotel and is located beside the Arch. Other states housed at this hotel are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

The hotel provides no shuttle service to and from the hotel. Taxis from the airport to the hotel are approximately \$40.00. The hotel has self-parking and valet parking. They will provide a discounted valet parking rate for the Elks at \$22.33 per night. The self-parking has limited availability. Parking at the Hyatt has a 6' 4" clearance. There is a parking garage, Mansion House Garage located behind the Hyatt at 330 N 4th St, 7 days @ \$18.00 per day with no in/out privileges. This location has a 6' clearance. There is also the Kiener East Garage at 600 Pine St at \$20.00 per day with no in/out privileges. This garage has a ceiling clearance of 6' 10". Additional parking locations can be found on the [explorestlouis](#) website.

The room rate with tax is \$134.44 per night which is good for up to 2 people per room. The room rate with tax for 3 people in the room would be \$163.92 and the rate for 4 people in the room would be \$193.38. Room reservations forms have been emailed to the lodges and are available on the OEA website as well. All Elks planning on attending are urged to send in their reservations as soon as possible as rooms will fill up quickly. The cutoff date for hotel reservations is May 10, 2019. Reservations received after this date will be accepted based on availability of same type rooms at the convention rate if they are available. Once the rooms are filled any overflow will be housed at another hotel by the grand lodge convention department.

The average room will have a coffee maker and a mini refrigerator. The hotel has several restaurants on its property. RED Kitchen is open for breakfast only and offers ala carte as well as a buffet. The RED Bar opens at 5:00 pm and offers small plates. The Brewhouse Sports Bar opens at 11:00 am for lunch and dinner as well as bar service. You will find a Ruth's Chris Steak House also located at the hotel and there is a Starbucks also on property. The hotel has a fitness center located on the lobby level which is open 24 hours. The hotel has no pool.

The hotel is right beside the Arch and is 0.6 miles from the convention center which is about 6 - 7 blocks, or an 11 minute walk.

Ohio will have a Hospitality Room located on the 18th Floor in the Governor's Suite, Room 1852. The hours for the hospitality room will be found on the OEA website.

Each Exalted Ruler or Alternate is asked to assist in bartending duties sometime in the hospitality room. Your District Deputy will be assigning you a time to help in the room. In the past this has worked very well and many ERs find it fun.

Due to the fact that a large number of Elks from other states usually visit our hospitality room, we are asking all Ohio Elks to please wear your registration badges when visiting our hospitality room. Some of the other states require you to wear your registration badge to enter their room.

The Grand Lodge will provide bus shuttles from the hotel to the convention center starting on Saturday and running through Wednesday as well as all Grand Lodge functions. The schedule will be on the Grand Lodge website by the middle of June.

The Sunday afternoon Opening Ceremony, Daily Business Sessions and the Closing session will take place at the America's Center Convention Center, 701 Convention Plaza, St Louis, MO.

The Opening Ceremonies (open to all members and guests) will take place on **Sunday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm.**

The Celebration will immediately follow the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, June 30. This event will offer free Entertainment plus food and drink for purchase.

The Daily Business Sessions will be held Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 am till 12 noon (estimated end time). Wednesday will run from 8:00 am till 11:00 am.

Registration and Exhibits will be set up at the Convention Center. **There is pre-registration for the Grand Lodge Convention available on the Grand Lodge Website.** Everyone must register for the convention and only registered Elks will be admitted to the business sessions and only those with a registration badge will be admitted to the exhibit hall. Registration is cash, a good check, credit or debit cards are accepted.

The Seminar for District Deputies will be held at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel on Monday, July 1, at 1:00 pm.

The Exalted Rulers Ball has been cancelled. In its place there will be a Celebration on Sunday following the Opening Ceremony for all to attend.

Ohio Elks are asked to wear their Red Coat and tie to all the General Business Sessions held each morning at the Convention Center.

Many people enjoy trading pins during the convention. If this interests you and/or your spouse, bring pins from your Lodge to trade. State pins are available for purchase at the Spring Convention in Dublin and we will have some available for sale in the hospitality room at Grand Lodge to use for trading purposes.

As time draws closer to the Grand Lodge Convention, members should log into the Grand Lodge website and check the Grand Lodge Convention Section as updates and information will be posted by the Grand Lodge. They will post the schedule of events for the week, the busing schedule, etc.

The city of St. Louis has a great website that attendees going to the convention can access to obtain a large amount of information about the city, all in one place. This can be located at <https://explorestlouis.com/>