

The 2019 Texas UPMA state convention is just a few months away. This year, the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin is the host hotel. The dates of the convention are June 20-23, 2019. I am providing a synopsis of the convention, so if a few things change, please be flexible.

On Thursday afternoon, June 20th, the Texas executive board will meet. Any guests interested in attending the board meeting are welcome to sit in on the meeting. Thursday evening, there will be a welcome dinner for all convention attendees. This will be a great time to welcome attendees from across the state of Texas and beyond. Registration will be available starting Thursday afternoon.

Friday morning, we will start the business meeting. The color of shirt or clothes to wear on Friday is “orange”. Wearing orange will display our unity as we welcome the district management teams from across Texas. (I think I only have Aggie Maroon in my closet and no UT orange. I guess I will be acquiring an orange shirt.) There are sessions scheduled for us to meet with our designated district management teams. During the district sessions, the management teams will answer your questions. So, if you think of something to ask, write your question down. Questions will be answered anonymously, if you so desire. Training sessions will also be provided on Friday. Friday evening, we are planning a group outing. The location of the outing has not been determined. We are still in the planning stages. If you know of a place we that would be good for the outing, please let Sherry Bridges or myself know.

Saturday morning, we will have a general session. Training and a golf tournament are also planned for Saturday. Saturday evening we will have a banquet and entertainment. Recipients of the 2019 scholarships will be announced at the banquet.

Scholarship applications and guidelines are available on the Texas UPMA website. Donations and auction items will be accepted for the Texas UPMA scholarship.

Sunday morning, we will start off with a non-denominational church service and a memorial service. The business session will follow the memorial service. Site selection will be voted on for the 2020 state convention. Officer elections for the vacant positions will be determined, also.

A designated hospitality room will be open for all attendees. The hospitality room provides an opportunity to play cards, participate in money drawings, network and socialize with convention attendees.

The Texas UPMA has set aside \$10,000. to be allocated to active members and \$10,000. for retirees attending the State Convention. Chapter members on Texas UPMA travel orders are

not eligible to receive a share of this fund. A cap of \$250. has been set aside per active and retiree members. In order to receive a share of the fund, members and retirees are required to register for the conference and attend all sessions. If you attend all sessions, both your District Meeting and State Convention, you will be refunded the District Meeting fee at the end of the State Convention.

Hotel reservations can be made a Wyndhamhotels.com. Enter code ***Texas UPMA State Convention 2019*** in order to get the Texas UPMA hotel rates. King and double room rates are \$95. per night. Two hotel breakfasts per room night are included in the room rates. There are other room rates available in the Texas UPMA room block. The room block will be held until May 29, 2019. After May 29th, the hotel does not have to honor our room block rate. So, book your room early!! The hotel shuttle is available for transportation to and from the Austin airport. Bring items for the PAC live and silent auctions. Funds received from the PAC auctions are sent to the National UPMA fund for future disbursement in support of representatives that back objectives of UPMA. Funds are also allocated to members and retirees that attend events of representative that back UPMA objectives.

There are committees available for all aspects of the State Convention. Volunteers are graciously accepted. We are seeking sponsors for the hospitality room and golf tournament. If you know of someone that would like to sponsor the hospitality room or golf tournament, please let Sherry Bridges or myself know.

Retirees will be honored at a luncheon. We can give thanks to all retirees who stay involved with our organization. The 2019 Lifetime Achievement honoree and the Member of the Year will be recognized at the convention. Nomination forms are available to nominate individuals for these two awards.

The retirees are planning events for the children attending the convention. Daily activities are being planned. Bring the kids and let them enjoy the convention with you!

Remember to bring a door prize for daily door prize drawings. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Austin. If you have never been to our state capital, this would be a great opportunity to see some sights and spend some time with your UPMA family.