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MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2022

To: 72nd General Service Conference Members

Re: Conference Travel Plans and Participation: Pandemic-Related Information

From: Bob W., General Manager
Linda Chezem, General Service Board Chair
Pam K., Delegate Chair

Warmest greetings from all here at your General Service Office in New York.

We are looking forward to our upcoming gathering for the 72nd General Service Conference, April 23-30, 2022, which is being held at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. After back-to-back virtual Conferences, we are excited to be able to meet again on-site.

While you will continue to receive communications relating to the Conference planning and preparation, we are providing below some pandemic-related information you will need to know and should expect for your stay in New York City.

Will there be a remote aspect to the General Service Conference?

No. As per the suggestion of your General Service Board, the 2022 General Service Conference is being planned as an on-site-only event.

Will I need to be vaccinated to participate in the General Service Conference?

Yes. A [Key to NYC](#) vaccination requirement became effective in August 2021. It requires proof of vaccination for patrons and employees of the city's indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment venues. Accordingly, the hotel where the General Service Conference is being held has implemented these safety guidelines, including proof of vaccination for all hotel patrons.

I have not been vaccinated but I have a religious exemption. Will I be able to participate?

Religious exemptions do not apply to the NYC vaccination requirement, which requires proof of vaccination for patrons and employees of the city's indoor venues, including hotels.

I am not vaccinated and will not be vaccinated by the time of the General Service Conference. What are my options for participation?

As noted above, the General Service Conference is being planned as an on-site-only event. For Area Delegates who are unable to comply with the NYC vaccination requirement, we suggest preparing your Alternate Delegate to participate. It should be noted that because of the uncertainty surrounding Covid, several Area Delegates are already including and preparing their Alternates for the possibility that the Alternate Delegate will need to attend the Conference as the representative Delegate from their Area.

Will I need to wear a mask at the General Service Conference?

Current safety guidelines require that all hotel patrons wear a mask in the public areas of the hotel – including meeting spaces. We will continue to monitor the guidelines and inform all Conference members accordingly.

When should I book my travel?

You should book your air, train, or bus travel as soon as possible. Because of the current challenges facing the travel industry, availability and increasing cost could be a problem the closer we get to the Conference. We also suggest you buy flight/travel insurance when booking your fare.

I'm traveling from Canada. What do I need to know?

All those entering the U.S. from Canada must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 and be prepared to provide related proof of a CDC-approved Covid-19 vaccination, as outlined on the [CDC website](#).

G.S.O. will make the necessary arrangements for attendees from Canada to get the required PCR test for their flight home

What should I do if I begin to feel ill during the General Service Conference?

If you feel ill, the first thing you should do is contact the hotel front desk and our METS onsite personnel (Sharon Vasquez or Attallah Sophas) for guidance. Note that Covid-19 rapid tests will be made available.

Please also note that if quarantine is required, G.S.O. will arrange for an extended stay and cover related costs.

We hope this information is helpful. Below are links to additional resources that may be useful:

[New York State Covid-19 microsite](#)

[Nycgo.com](#)

[CDC Travel Health](#)

[Marriott "Taking Care of You"](#)

For questions regarding the Conference planning and preparation, please contact the Conference Coordinator at: conference@aa.org

For questions regarding the Conference logistics as it relates to travel and lodging, please contact GSO's Meeting, Travel & Events department at: mets@gso.org

Thank you for your service and participation in the Conference process. We hope to see you in April.