

YELL! Newsletter

Winter 2014 Volume 2, Issue 4

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Youth Conference at the National Convention July 23rd and 24th

The Youth Conference at the National Convention will be the first of its kind for Western. Here are some of the details about the event, as well as the agenda so far.

Attendee Requirements:

- The participant must have completed sixth grade by June 2015 and up to age forty.
- There is no limit on the number of participants per lodge.
- Attendees cannot be a delegate at the National Convention.
- Attendees of the youth conference do NOT count as the additional under 40 delegate.

Chaperone requirements: Each minor attendee under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult (parent, relative, or designated guardian). Two attendees per chaperone maximum if not immediate family. Before participation, attendees over 18 years old and parent/guardians of attendees under 18 years old will need to sign a release and waiver of liability form.

Western Fraternal Life is not responsible for the actions of the participants outside of scheduled youth conference activities. Chaperones can be a delegate to the National Convention. Attendees will be in the supervision of adults during the time of the conference which will end approximately the same time as the Convention proceedings. Chaperones must be available for the attendees after the conference events have ended each day.

Registration: The attendee must pay the \$50 registration fee.

The conference attendees will be responsible for their own transportation and rooms. Attendees can stay in rooms and travel with other delegates and guests from their lodge.

Tentative Agenda:

The youth conference will include:

1. *A brain storming session.* The attendees will give their input on what they would like to see from the current lodges and give them ideas about what the future of the lodges can look like. The resulting information will be shared to the delegation of the National Convention on Friday.
2. *A service project.* The attendees will do a service project to be determined somewhere in Cedar Rapids.
3. *A social activity.* The attendees will have a chance to socialize and hang-out at a fun activity also to be determined.
4. *Bonus activity (optional).* Lodge 225 YELL! group will be hosting a Czech dance lesson to anyone who is interested. The group will preform for the delegation during the Convention.
5. *Help implement the fraternal service project.* The attendees will also assist in the set-up and implementation of the fraternal service project after the Convention has adjourned on the last day.

If you have any further questions or suggestions, please email me.

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Outstanding Leadership Award Reminders

It's that time of year again to start collecting information for the lodge awards. Hopefully, this will be a smooth process for everyone, especially those who did it with their secretaries last year. For you new groups, don't worry! I'll post some helpful hints here for you.

I strongly suggest setting up a time with the Secretary of your lodge sometime in December or early January to go over the award requirements together and offer assistance.

You could help by:

- Giving the names of the YELL! group members
- Writing out the dates of the meetings and projects, if they don't have those for the YELL! group.
- Any photos, *Fraternal Herald* article clippings, minutes of meetings, facebook posts, etc. that you might have of the YELL! group.
- A description of the events your YELL! group participated in, even if it was a joint activity with the lodge.

Remember: This year, we asked that the YELL! groups do collections and donations (such as pop tabs, soup labels, candy wrappers, etc.) only as an additional activity and not as the two main events/projects.



YELL! group 219 members helped celebrate the 100 year lodge anniversary.

YELL! Activities

- YELL! groups in each district have been doing all kinds of fun and helpful activities this year. In the interest of sharing ideas, here are a few we have heard at the Home Office.
- YELL! group 108: Sent holiday cards to troops overseas through the Red Cross.
- YELL! group 446: Spent a Saturday volunteering at an animal shelter.
- YELL! group 389: Volunteered at the State Meeting by helping to set up, serve food, and clean up.
- YELL! group 141: A theatre play as the Bohemian Hall Amateur Theatre (BHAT) group.
- YELL! group 7: Hosting a Trunk-or-Treat for neighborhood kids.
- YELL! group 44: Helping out at the Annual Czech Fest.
- YELL! group 426: Doing a letter-writing campaign to get donations for a Veteran's Home.

New Website Features

- Check out our website www.wflains.org! Western Fraternal Life's updated website has several new features we are excited for our members to try. Our Calendar of Events page will have your lodge/YELL! events (as submitted to the *Fraternal Herald*) available. The YELL! page recieved a fresh look and you can get copies of forms and previous newsletters there.
- A new household budgeting tool is available under the "Money Matters" page. You can share this with your young members to help them become financially savvy.
- Other favorite features are staying the same, but have been updated with a new look. Forms for both lodges and individual members will be available for printing.

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