

BIG 10 CONFERENCE

Good morning I'm Cheryl Michel, Big 10 Conference Auxiliary Chairman and with me is Susan Rolando my Co-Chairman.

At the risk of being redundant the Big 10 Conference will be held in Illinois October 20-22, 2023, at the Weston Chicago Northwest Hotel in Itasca. The rate is good for 2 days before and 2 days after the conference if you would like an extended stay. The deadline date for both Registration and Hotel Reservations is September 29, 2023. Deadline for Program Book Ads is September 1, 2023.

I have brought a few copies of the forms just in case someone would like one. All the information, including forms, can be found on the VFW Illinois website under News/Events at www.vfwil.org.

Transportation to and from the airport and hotel will be provided for only National Line Officers and for the Big 10 President. The hotel does not have shuttle service to and from the airport. I do have a handout with transportation options. We will make sure that each Department gets one to share with their members.

Registration will be open on Friday from 2:00-6:00 p.m. and again on Saturday from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

There will be the usual Mixer on Friday night from 6:00-8:00 p.m. You will be on your own for breakfast on Saturday. The hotel has two restaurants the "400 Park Bistro" which is a full-service restaurant open all day and "The Market Place" which is open 6:00 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. and serves coffee, pastries, and sandwiches.

The VFW has arranged for a tour of Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL which is the site of the First Infantry Division Museum. In addition to the museum, Cantigny Park is renowned for its many acres of beautiful landscaping. A 44-passenger bus will depart from the hotel at 1:00 p.m. and will return by 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00/person. Reservations can be made online at the VFW website; click on the red "Donate Now" button and type in "Big 10 Bus Trip" next to "Allocate Funds To". Once the bus is full there will be no more reservations accepted.

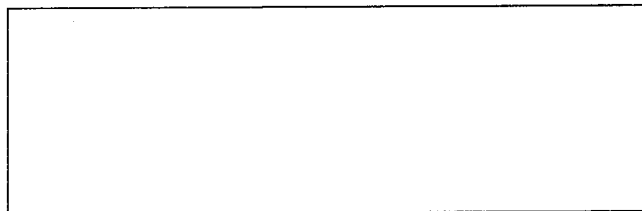
The hotel has a free shuttle that operates within a 5-mile radius. Within that radius is the Woodfield Mall which is the 5th largest shopping center in the U.S. I have some brochures with me of other attractions in the area.

The editor of the Illinois VFW News is creating the Program Book for the Conference and would like to put the picture of the Commander and President of each State in the book as well as information regarding your Department. I sent an email last week to all the Big 10 Department Presidents requesting information for the book. I have received the requested info from 4 Presidents, thank you. If you didn't receive my email I have brought some copies with me of the needed information.

This information has nothing to do with any ads that your Department may have submitted for the book.

Are there any questions?

Thanks for allowing me this time and we look forward to seeing all of you in October in Illinois.



VFW Big Ten Conference
Westin Hotel
400 Park Blvd, Itasca, IL 60143

O'Hare Airport Transportation Options

(The hotel does not provide a shuttle service)

1. Uber and Lyft

Uber and Lyft are used by the most experienced Chicago travelers. You'll get directions about airport pickup points directly in the app. Pickup locations may vary by terminal. In most cases, you'll need to go to Terminal 2 where you can meet your driver in a loading zone on the upper (Departures) level outside, between doors 2A and 2D.

2. Taxicabs

There are Taxi Stands at the lower (Arrivals) level curb front (outside of Baggage Claim) at each terminal. Taxi service is available to Chicago and suburban destinations including Itasca. Please make sure to use the designated Taxi Stands to ensure you have a licensed driver. For your protection, do not accept rides from drivers outside the cab stand or on the departure level (second level) of the terminal roadways. All taxis should have a working meter to calculate the fare based on time and mileage.

Fares are based on traffic conditions; fare to the Westin in Itasca should be under \$50

For wheelchair accessible vehicles, please call 1-888-928-2227

3. Call for a Ride

American Taxi - suburban taxi service. call (847) 673-1000; (630) 305-0700; or (800) 244-1177 Call ahead of time to see if they recommend scheduling your ride in advance.