



Marine Corps League Department of Maryland



A NOTE FROM CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

Dear Members, Auxiliary and Associates,

I know this last 2 weeks have been a rough time. My hair has turned a silver color. I have had difficulties trying to arrange a suitable resolution to the problem with the Princess Hotel. I did not have the signed agreement with the hotel and I was given not all the information I needed. After I received the agreement, I did see on page 8 the disclaimer about food and drink in the Atrium. Beforehand I was not told of the rule. I went into trying to figure a good middle ground with the hotel. The hotel gave us a room in the lower level for our food but we had to purchase all drinks from them. They did cede a room in the Atrium but we could not use the Atrium unless we bought from their Tiki Bar and eat in the Atrium. We could use the room for our beverages only, no outside food. In fact we had to enter and leave the Atrium room from the hall. That was completely unsatisfactory for our needs. Finally, the hotel manager and his staff had a meeting and they decided not to press the rule and not to charge us for the weekend which would amount to about \$12,000 for breach of contract. We parted on very amiable terms and the hotel asked for us to return at a later date. The Atrium is being torn out and the whole floor will be turned into a South Sea Island. The patio will be a restaurant.

If you still have an existing reservation at the Princess, please call and cancel. Your refund will be sent to you in a few days.

Now for the hotel which we have signed the agreement and it was sent today. I just received a call from Bonnie who said everything is ready for call in. The hotel is the FENWICK INN, OC. Address is 13801 Coastal Hwy about 2 minutes from Del. Please google it and see the place. You can start calling for rooms 1-800-641-0011. Use the code MILITARY AUXILIARY. The rooms are nice. Some are one double or 2 double. No Queen or King. No kitchen but Microwave and fridge. The General Manager is from a Military Family. Her husband retired from the AF, Her son was a Marine and now in the Army and another relative is in the desert. She is bending over backwards to give us the best experience that's possible.

Pets are welcome. All pets and owners will have their own floor. The 2nd floor has been reserved for our furbabies. No extra charge. The 2nd floor is pet proofed and no one will be given a room there if you have an allergy to animal fur or dander. When you call, please tell them you have a Service Animal or have an allergy.

There are two elevators right at the lobby. We have the entire 8th floor with a 360 window view of OC, Bay, and Ocean. There are rooms for the general meeting, breakout room for the ladies, and a room for snacks, food, and our own drink. Ice will be provided with no charge from their machines. The Jazz Band will not be in attendance. The wives of the singer (front man) and the bass player refused to let them come. I am still looking for someone or something for Friday. Maybe we can have Kari Oakie if someone has the machine. (I know, spelling)

Now the cost. ALL Rooms are for Thursday and Monday \$59.00 plus 10% tax. ALL Rooms for Friday and Saturday are \$96.00 plus 10% tax. The cost of the banquet stays the same. I talk to the lady who owns the catering service. She has a 300 person wedding that day and she will make a buffet that is the same as the wedding party but not the same price. Sorry no wedding cake. But we will have Bake Ziti, Chicken and another main meat with a Veggie Melady. The dessert will be of 3 different cakes. Coffee and Ice Tea.

Currently there is no restaurant in the building. There is a bar/restaurant beside the hotel that opens at noon. I am trying to call the owner but since they are not open, no one answers the phone number on the door. It does look nice inside. I think it may be perfect for the Devil Dog parade. Since the season hasn't started the restaurants in the area are not available. But, here are some close by that I was given by Bonnie. Little House of Pancakes 7303 Coastal Hwy opens at 0730, Dirty Harry's 100 Coastal Hwy, Fenwick DE opens 0630 to 1400 for breakfast and lunch, 1600 to 2000 dinner, Denny's 11201 Coastal Hwy 0700 to 2200, and the Crabcake Factory 0900 to 2200. There are no coffee pots in the rooms.

We can't leave the Devil Dogs out. Chief Devil Dog Tom Hazlett will attend. The pool is not as big as we are used to but it is nice. There is a sauna attached and all inside. We should have no trouble with any fun and games there. Just remember we are sharing the pool with other guests. I will keep trying to get ahold of the tavern for our libation before or after the swim.

Registration. A table will be set up on the 8th floor for registration for the convention. Just come on up and sign in. Parking is all around the building. There are a few covered spots and handicapped spots available. There is a game room, office space, and a small selection of food and ice cream in the lobby. Free WiFi and TV. There are plenty of luggage dollies, no Bellhops. When we visited last week, the place smelled of fresh paint and wood. They have put down new flooring, new bathrooms have been put in and new windows. The outside was being finished and it does look nice. Rosemary and I remember being there about 40 years ago with the Knights of Columbus Convention. It was a lot of fun.

If you are a district commandant, please notify your dets and let them know the cost. Maybe we can increase attendance due to the lower price. If you see that I left anyone out of the address, send them the message.

As always, the members make the convention. I will arrive on Wednesday to solve any problems that come up. As always, please feel free to call or e-mail me. Formernavalperson12@gmail.com or 443-756-0886.

S/F,
Howard Koontz