

Call to the Convention

Section 3 of Catholic Order of Foresters' Constitution and Bylaws directs the High Court to determine the National Quadrennial Convention dates and location.

At its February 22 and 23, 2022, regular meeting, the High Court approved Illinois as the location of the 51st National Quadrennial Convention.

Convention business will commence the evening of Monday, August 5, 2024, **online** from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. CT. Convention business will continue Friday, August 9 – Sunday, August 11, 2024, in person at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca, Illinois.

Each delegate receives:

- a. \$100 for 1-day attendance at the online session Monday, August 5, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. CT
- b. \$490 for the period of three days (two travel and one convention attendance) for the in-person session. Plan to arrive Friday, August 9, and depart Sunday, August 11, 2024. One hotel room for two nights (including hotel parking fees) – August 9 and 10.

Admittance to the following:

- a. Meet-and-Greet Reception, Friday, August 9
- b. Breakfast for Saturday and Sunday, August 10-11
- c. Delegate Lunch, Saturday, August 10
- d. Grand Banquet, Saturday, August 10

Travel

The High Court covers transportation travel to and from the convention. The Home Office, in conjunction with a travel agency, will process all delegate air travel. This eliminates delegates waiting until August to receive airline ticket reimbursement. For those traveling by personal auto, the High Court will reimburse mileage at the current approved rate. Travel reimbursement is limited to the lesser of mileage or lowest airfare. For delegates traveling as a group or specially arranged group transportation, the delegate's travel allowance will not exceed the delegate's actual travel cost.

Note: Delegates will receive per diem checks at the close of the convention, provided COF has received all necessary, completed paperwork. Travel expense reimbursement will follow by mail after the convention closes. Those elected as delegates must be able to participate online, meaning they must have internet access via computer and or mobile device.

The deadline to complete the application to run for a High Court office position is June 3, 2024.

Please provide your state convention delegates with this information before electing national convention delegates. Please check our convention website, <https://www.catholicforester.org/convention-24>, for more information that will be forthcoming.

Fraternally,

Rodney W. Oligmueller
High Chief Ranger

Faith in our Future Illinois

IT'S OFFICIAL!

The in-person 2024 National Convention will be held at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca, Illinois, from

August 9-11, 2024!

The convention will kick off on the evening of Monday, August 5, with a one-night online portion and will continue in Itasca — fully in person — the following weekend.

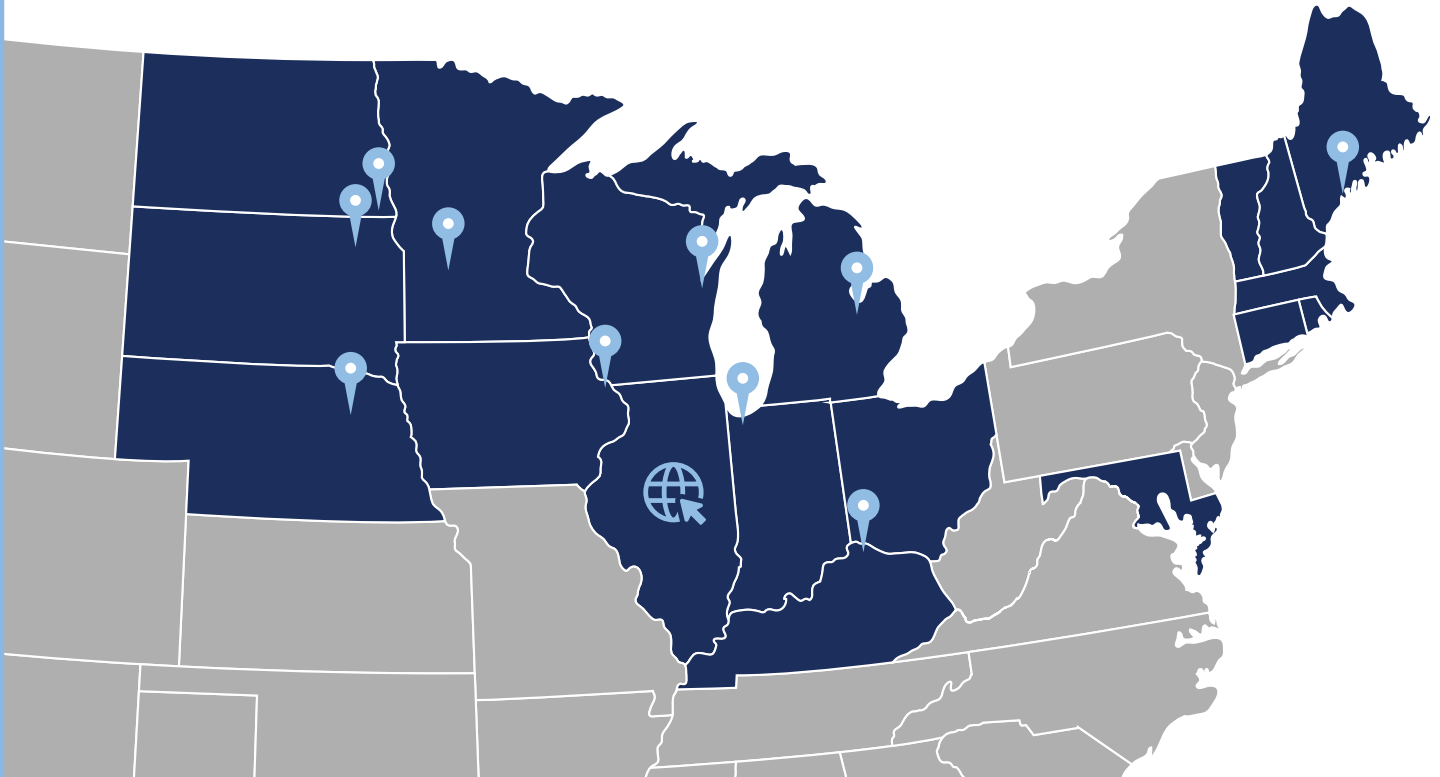
Located 20 minutes west of O'Hare International Airport and about 30 miles from Downtown Chicago, the Westin Chicago Northwest will host all National Convention activities.

Questions? Email convention@catholicforester.org for more information.

See you in 2024!



2024 Jurisdiction Conventions



Illinois: April 6; Online

Indiana: April 27; Merrillville

Iowa: March 2 & 3; Dubuque

Kentucky: March 23; Park Hills

Michigan: March 1 & 2;

Frankenmuth

Minnesota: March 15 & 16; Willmar

Nebraska: April 13; Norfolk

New England: April 12 & 13;
Portland, Maine

North Dakota: April 20; Hankinson

Ohio: April 27 & 28; Columbus

South Dakota: March 8 & 9; Webster

Wisconsin: April 19 & 20; Green Bay

Convention Education

What is Catholic Order of Foresters' National Convention?

Held every four years as required by the Illinois Fraternal Insurance Code, our National Convention is attended by members elected as delegates who are empowered with full legislative, judicial, and governing powers. They are responsible for electing the High Court Officers and Trustees (Board of Directors) to serve four-year terms, and reviewing and revising the Constitution and Bylaws, policies, benefits, and other related items.

What is a local court?

A court is a group of COF members in a specific geographic area, often associated with a parish. Every COF member is part of a court based on their address at the time of their policy purchase. There are jurisdiction courts and local courts within COF's governance system.

What is a jurisdiction court?

A geographic area as determined by the High Court for the purpose of electing delegates to the National Convention.

What takes place at Jurisdiction Conventions?

Elected jurisdiction delegates attend business meetings to vote for delegates to send to the National Convention, some jurisdictions may have Mass, a dinner or banquet, and a fraternal activity (preferably service-oriented).

How are delegates to the Jurisdiction Convention chosen?

Each local court within a Jurisdiction that meets the requirements specified in the COF Constitution and Bylaws can elect delegates and alternates at a regular meeting typically held between October-December of the year before a Jurisdiction Convention. Refer to sections 65-73 in the COF Constitution and Bylaws for more information.

How are delegates to the National Convention chosen?

Delegates and alternates to the National Convention are elected at Jurisdiction Conventions. Adult regular members in good standing with their local or Jurisdiction court in the convention year may be a delegate or alternate. Refer to sections 80-83 in the COF Constitution and Bylaws for more information.

Recent Catholic Order of Foresters National Conventions

2000: Oak Brook, Illinois
2004: Covington, Kentucky
2008: Green Bay, Wisconsin
2012: Minneapolis, Minnesota
2016: Omaha, Nebraska
2020: Online
2024: Itasca, Illinois

For more information, visit <https://www.catholicforester.org/convention-24>.

Rules for the Selection of Delegates and Alternates to Jurisdiction Convention

Rules for the Selection of Delegates and Alternates from State Holding Courts

Fraternal benefit societies are legally required to have a representative form of government. This means that all members must have the right to participate in the governance of Catholic Order of Foresters (“COF”). Since the COF governance process involves election of delegates to each Jurisdiction Convention by Local Courts belonging to said Jurisdiction and some members only belong to State Holding Courts, the COF National Constitution & Bylaws (“C&B”) provides at Section 66 that delegates and alternates from State Holding Courts shall be selected in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the High Court. To that end, the following rules shall apply for the selection of delegates and alternates from State Holding Courts to the applicable Jurisdiction Convention:

1. The Home Office of COF shall publish in the Official Publication of COF (“*Catholic Forester* magazine”) these rules for selection of delegates and alternates from State Holding Courts (“Rules”).
2. The Home Office shall publish on a page on the COF website (catholicforester.org), these rules.
3. COF adult members (“Members”) belonging to a State Holding Court located within one of the following Jurisdictions are eligible to be selected as a delegate or alternate to their respective Jurisdiction Convention: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky or the New England Jurisdiction (consisting of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Maryland).
4. Each State Holding Court shall be entitled to the number of delegates and alternates as provided in Section 65 of the C&B based on the number of Members in good standing in the State Holding Court as of September 30, 2023. (1 delegate for a State Holding Court having no fewer than 20 Members and no more than 150; 2 delegates for a State Holding Court having 151 Members and no more than 300; 3 delegates for a State Holding Court having 301 Members and no more than 550; 4 delegates for a State Holding Court having 551 Members and no more than 800; and 5 delegates for a State Holding Court having 801 or more Members).
5. To become a candidate for selection as a delegate or alternate to their respective Jurisdiction Convention, eligible Members shall complete an application and submit it to the Home Office.
6. The application will be posted on the COF website by September 1, 2023, and must be completed and submitted online. Successful submission will be confirmed via email sent to the address provided by the Member completing the application. If confirmation is not received, the Member should call the Home Office to verify receipt.
7. All applications must be submitted on or before November 1, 2023, (“Due Date”).
8. All applications submitted by qualified Members of State Holding Courts by the Due Date shall be included in a drawing for delegates and alternates for the applicable Jurisdiction to be held on or before December 31, 2023.
9. The High Court shall supervise the drawing of names of the delegates and alternates for each Jurisdiction from the applicable pool of candidates.
10. Names will be blindly drawn one-by-one until all entitled delegate positions are filled. Subsequently, the same process will be used to fill alternate positions.
11. If there are not enough candidates to fill all positions, unfilled positions are forfeited.
12. The Home Office shall notify each delegate and alternate of their selection by January 31, 2024.
13. The Home Office shall notify Jurisdiction Officers of the names of qualified selected delegates and alternates from their respective State Holding Courts in the same notice that includes the names of qualified elected delegates and alternates from their respective Local Courts by January 31, 2024.

Rules for the Selection of Delegates to National Convention

Rules for the Selection of Delegates and Alternates to the National Quadrennial Convention from States Without Jurisdiction Courts

Fraternal benefit societies are legally required to have a representative form of government. This means that all members must have the right to participate in the governance of Catholic Order of Foresters (“COF”). Since the COF governance process involves election of delegates to the National Quadrennial Convention by a Jurisdiction Convention and some members belong to Local Courts that have no Jurisdiction Court or do not belong to a Local Court and reside in a state without a Jurisdiction Holding Court, the High Court previously created an At-Large Jurisdiction for all such members. The COF National Constitution & Bylaws (“C&B”) provides at Section 5 that the National Convention’s membership will include members of the High Court, all members of the National Convention Committees, and all Accredited Delegates from all Jurisdictions. To that end, the following rules shall apply for the selection of delegates and alternates from the At-Large Jurisdiction to the National Quadrennial Convention:

1. The Home Office of COF shall publish in the Official Publication of COF (“*Catholic Forester* magazine”) these rules for selection of delegates and alternates from the At-Large Jurisdiction (“Rules”).
2. The Home Office shall publish on a page on the COF website (catholicforester.org), these Rules.
3. COF adult members (“Members”) are part of the At-Large Jurisdiction Court if they belong to a Local Court located within ANY STATE OTHER THAN one of the following Jurisdictions: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky or the New England Jurisdiction (consisting of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Maryland) or if they belong to a Local Court and they do not reside in one of the aforementioned Jurisdictions.
4. Members of the At-Large Jurisdiction Court are eligible to be selected as a delegate or alternate to the National Quadrennial Convention.
5. The At-Large Jurisdiction Court is entitled to the number of delegates and alternates as provided in Section 81 of the C&B based on the number of Members in good standing belonging to the At-Large Jurisdiction Court as of September 30, 2023 (1 delegate and 1 alternate for each 500 members or for a major fraction of members within the At-Large Jurisdiction).
6. To become a candidate for selection as a delegate or alternate to National Quadrennial Convention, eligible Members shall complete an application and submit it to the Home Office.
7. The application will be posted on the COF website by December 1, 2023 and must be completed and submitted online. Successful submission will be confirmed via email sent to the address provided by the Member completing the application. If confirmation is not received, the Member should call the Home Office to verify receipt.
8. All applications must be submitted on or before February 1, 2024 (“Due Date”).
9. All applications submitted by qualified Members of the At-Large Jurisdiction Court by the Due Date shall be included in a drawing for delegates and alternates to be held on or before February 28, 2024.
10. The High Court shall supervise the drawing of names of the delegates and alternates from the applicable pool of candidates.
11. Names will be blindly drawn one-by-one until all entitled delegate positions are filled. Subsequently, the same process will be used to fill alternate positions.
12. If there are not enough candidates to fill all positions, unfilled positions are forfeited.
13. The Home Office shall notify each delegate and alternate of their selection by March 31, 2024.