



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

California State Court

Unity and Charity



Release #52

June 2020

Dear Worthy Regents, Officers and Members:

It is with a heavy heart that I must share with you, that the upcoming 2020 CDA National Convention has been cancelled. Please refer to the attached correspondence from our Worthy National Regent Olga Samaniego for more information.

In Unity and Charity,

Mary Bernard
State Regent



Worthy State Regents,

I hope you are well and safe. It is with sadness that I inform you that as of June 1, 2020, the 58th Biennial Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is cancelled. I hope that you know that we tried in every way that we could to hold a convention, but the decision was made for several reasons, most importantly, the following:

1. Dallas is still experiencing a spike in Corona Virus, and we could not be sure that the curve would flatten by July. We were not comfortable with the possibility of even one person becoming ill or taking the virus home to her family.
2. The hotel is not fully open and cannot guarantee a date when it can hold large gatherings.
3. While we had 300 reservations and more coming every day not all were delegates. We could not be sure that we would have quorum of delegates to be able to conduct convention business. While we were adding registrations every day, we were also getting emails from people who had decided not to attend after all. So, we could not really determine how many would be in attendance in the end. With courts electing nearly 600 delegates, we were not comfortable with 100 or fewer delegates voting on elections and bylaws that would affect the entire organization.
4. Our office is not open hampers the possibility of being ready for the convention.

The good news is that because we waited until June 1 to make the final decision, we were able to invoke the force majeure clause in our contract. If we had cancelled earlier while the hotel believed the convention could still be held, we would have been forced to pay \$500,000 dollars in fees and penalties. At this time, we are able to cancel our contract without fees.

The hotel is in the process of cancelling all reservations. If, however, you did not book through us—for example you used Hotwire or a rewards program to make your reservation outside our block, you will need to cancel those reservations yourself.

Refunds for meals and reservations will be processed as soon as possible when the office is fully open. The latest news we've heard for reopening of New York City is early June, so we are hopeful that the office will be open soon. If your check was not cashed, it will just be mailed back to you. If you mailed it in early on and it was deposited, a new check will be issued.

Since a National convention has never been cancelled before, there are no procedures or precedents in place. There is, however, a bylaw.

Article VII Sec. 8

In the event of an emergency, whereby it becomes impossible to hold a convention of the National Court, the National Board shall have the power to transact any business that would come before the Convention. A vote of the voting body of the National Court shall be taken by proxy for the purpose of electing the National Officers, National Directors and Nominating Committee for the ensuing term.

Some convention business will be conducted by the national board as allowed by bylaw. We consulted our CDA lawyer to ensure that business, especially voting, is conducted properly. The lawyers recommend a mail-out ballot. Each court that sent in a delegate form by March 15 will receive ballots for however many delegates were elected. Further information will be on the printed ballot that you will receive. If you elected and sent in a delegate form and you do not receive a ballot by July 10, please contact the office.

The slate of officers appears in the June quarterly which you should receive shortly. The slate is also on the website. There are several openings on the slate, and any position except that of National Regent can be opposed. If you are interested in running from the floor for a national office or for director, please consult the bylaws for complete procedures. You will need to send in a packet. The packet should contain an announcement of the office you are seeking, an endorsement by a majority of state officers, a statement of qualifications, and a consent to serve if elected. Since we are not voting in person, a photo is required with your packet. Additionally, send a résumé with a picture suitable to be mailed out with the ballots.

Packets for those running from the floor are to be sent to me emailed or postmarked by June 20, 2020.

Olga Samaniego, National Regent
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Any unfilled positions will be filled by the incoming Regent in consultation with the Executive Board.

States Regents are also eligible to nominate a candidate for the nominating committee. If you have a nomination, please send a nomination in the following format:

I (Name, title, State) nominate (Candidate, State) for a position on the nominating committee. Mail or email your nomination to me to the same address above. Nominations must be postmarked or emailed by June 20, 2020.

The Convention Program, the Awards Booklet, and the Report Booklet will be printed and mailed in addition to the treasure's report and other reports deemed necessary. Each court that sent elected delegates, each state board, and those courts that sent in ads, will receive a copy of the all books.

All certificates and checks for contest winners, all pins, and all plaques will be sent out as soon as possible.

The Executive Board is meeting next weekend to finalize all procedures and plans. We will determine things like making our usual donations and honoring our Woman of the Year.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me. If I don't know the answer, or if it something we haven't thought of yet, I will bring it before the board next weekend.

I have every confidence that the board will be able to end the term and that we will take care of business efficiently. My only disappointment is that I will not be able to say goodbye in person to our membership. I am honored to have been allowed to serve as your National Regent, and I thank God for each of you and for all you do for God's people through Catholic Daughters. I encourage you to keep praying and listening to God, together, and to remember that Catholic Daughters under the guidance of the Holy Spirit **Can Do Anything**. May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord be with you always!

Olga Samaniego



National Regent