



Urhobo Progress Union America (UPUA)

A Nonprofit Organization

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Communiqué

To: All Urhobo Progress Union America (UPUA) Members and Guests.

From: The Convention Host, the Convention Planning Committees, and the UPUA Executive Committee.

Date: July 16, 2022

Re: Important Information Regarding the 2022 UPUA Convention.

At UPUA's Annual Convention in Michigan in 2018, it was resolved that the 28th Annual Convention of Urhobos in North America will be held during the U.S. Labor Day Weekend (Friday, September 2 - Monday, September 5, 2022)¹ and be hosted by the Urhobo Progress Union, Minnesota.

Convention Theme: A United UPUA: An Achievable Task.

Venue: The 28th UPUA Annual Convention will be held at the **Radisson Blu Mall of America, 2100 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington, MN 55425**

Important facts about the 2022 UPUA Convention Venue- Bloomington, Minnesota.

Bloomington is a southern suburb of Minneapolis. It is in Hennepin County. Bloomington is situated approximately 15 miles south of each of Minnesota's twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Bloomington sits along the banks of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. Bloomington is famous for hosting the world's most visited shopping center. The jewel and the most iconic tourist attraction in the Bloomington area is the Mall of America. The Mall of America is the largest visitor attraction in Minnesota. This mall has more than 500 stores, theatres, a vibrant food court and many more attractions. There is also the Water Park of America, the largest indoor water park in the United States. The Water Park is attached to a hotel with an amazing water slide tubes exiting and the re-entering the side of the hotel building. Another visitor attraction is the Science Museum of Minnesota located in the state capital city of St. Paul. The

¹ The Convention was originally scheduled to be held over the Labor Day weekend in 2020. It was postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States.

museum covers topics in science, technology, history, and mathematics. The venue of the 2022 Convention is located within the Mall of America.

Be part of history by planning to visit these iconic and historical American monuments.

Guest Room Rate & Reservation: The hotel is offering **\$130.00 as a group rate per room per night (plus applicable state and local taxes)**. Reservations for the event must be made by individual attendees/delegates directly with the **Radisson Blu Mall of America, 1-800-333-3333**. Please mention Urhobo Progress Union America Conference Room Block or UPUACO to get the group rate when calling to make your reservations. Reservations may also be made online through the hotel link on UPUA website: www.upuamerica.org. It is required by the hotel to guarantee booked rooms with a credit card. Please be advised that all “no show” reservations will be billed to the individual’s credit card. Any cancellation of guaranteed reservations must be received twenty-four hours prior to arrival to avoid a charge of one night’s room and tax. Hotel check in is 3:00 p.m. and checkout is 12:00 p.m. Please note that to get the group rate, reservations must be made by **August 10, 2022**. Any reservation made after the cutoff date are subject to availability, and at the hotel’s prevailing room rates.

Air Travel Arrangements: We recommend that you book your flight to Bloomington, MN through the **Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP)**. The Airport is minutes from the heart of Bloomington, MN. It is also recommended that you book your flights as early as possible to ensure the best airfare deals. Airfares are likely to go up across the U.S. as we approach the busy Labor Day weekend. The hotel does provide a shuttle service from the airport. Contact the hotel after your arrival to arrange a pickup. Please note that the complimentary shuttle service from the airport runs from 5AM-11PM.

Transportation Options: Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). Transportation to the hotel is available by taxi service from the airport. Attendees/delegates with the Uber and Lyft taxi apps on their phones, may also utilize these services for their transportation arrangements on arrival in Bloomington, MN. There are also several rental car services located within the airport that attendees may take advantage of.

Convention Registration Fees: The Convention registration fee will be **\$85.00 per person (13 years and above)**. The ticket price for **children 3-12 years is \$45.00 per child. Children less than 3 years are free.**

All Convention attendees/delegates may register online at www.upuamerica.org and pay the Convention registration fee.

International Convention attendees/delegates who register and pay online will be issued an invitation letter, if requested, for U.S. visa purposes. However, UPUA makes no guarantees directly or indirectly on the issuance of U.S. visas to attend the Convention from overseas. Convention tickets will be issued at the venue of the Convention. The Convention tickets ensures access to all Convention activities beginning on Friday night, such as symposia, Saturday night Convention reception and entertainment, cultural events, Sunday night dinner/gala, as well as a copy of the Convention brochure (for adults only).

Payment for Convention registrations can also be made to UPUA and through UPUA Chapters by checks, made payable to UPUA. Checks should be mailed to UPUA Treasurer, **Ms. Fanti Riebelle, 7027 Sagebrush Way, Fontana, CA 92336.**

Online registration and payments by members or Chapters are highly encouraged. Chapters that choose not to register their members online, but prefer to do so locally, should pay for the registration fees, raffle tickets and adverts by issuing checks or money orders made payable to UPUA and mailed to the Treasurer, **Ms. Fanti Riebelle, 7027 Sagebrush Way, Fontana, CA 92336.**

NOTE:

ALL MEMBERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER AND PAY FOR THE CONVENTION. THOSE WHO PAY FOR CONVENTION BUT DO NOT ATTEND THE CONVENTION SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR PAYMENTS AS CHARITABLE DONATIONS INTENDED TO HELP THE UNION AND THE URHOBO PEOPLE. REGISTRATION FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.

Donations: The Convention is a fundraising event and donations are encouraged. UPUA Chapters are expected to make their donations before the Convention. Donations, including those from UPUA Chapters can be made online at www.upuamerica.org or by check mailed to the Treasurer, **Ms. Fanti Riebelle, 7027 Sagebrush Way, Fontana, CA 92336.** Additional fundraising will take place at the Convention.

Program of Activities

- **Fun for the Family**
- **Broad Outline of Convention Business Activities**

Friday, September 2, 2022: Arrival of Convention delegates.

4:00 P.M: Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Trustees (BOT) concurrent meetings. at 4:00

7:00 P.M: Joint BOT/EXCO meeting If you are part of these important meetings, please plan your flight to arrive early to ensure punctuality.

Saturday, September 3, 2022 (8:00A.M. – 5:00P.M.): There will be a General Membership meeting followed by a Symposium. Speeches will be delivered by the keynote speaker(s) and other dignitaries from Nigeria, Europe, and North America. Each UPUA Chapter President will make a brief presentation during the General Membership meeting. Furthermore, provision has been made for UPUA young adults and other young adults to meet and brainstorm. For more information on the young adults’ programs, please join the facebook group called’ “weheart Urhobo” and sign on to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/weheartUrhobo/>

Sunday, September 4, 2022 (9:00 A.M. – 10: 30 A.M.): Inter-denominational church service.

Sunday, September 4, 2022 (11:00 A.M – 1.00P.M): The Election of President of UPUA for the January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024, tenure.²

² The timing for the voting is flexible and may be adjusted by the Electoral Committee.

Sunday, September 4, 2022 (5:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.): Gala Night, Cultural Extravaganza and Music/Dinner/Dance, raffle draws and fund raising for UPUA’s charitable and community development projects in the U.S. and Nigeria including scholarship awards.

Monday, September 5, 2022: Departure of invited guests and Convention delegates.

Note: The above program of activities is subject to change. More detailed information may be communicated as preparation for the Convention progresses.

Convention Brochure: The brochure will be standard 8.5” x 11” size, glossy color (cover & inside) for the most part. However, black & white advertisements will be accepted. This is an excellent opportunity to advertise your business, and for individuals and Chapters to send goodwill messages. Your friends and business associates can also utilize this great opportunity to reach out to a unique audience. All advertisements must be paid for in advance before they will be published in the Convention brochure.

Convention Brochure Advertisement Price List (Please submit your advertisement with the form which will be sent by separate e-mail.)

- Inside Front Cover \$500.00
- Outside Back Cover \$1000.00
- Inside Back Cover \$500.00
- Center Spread \$600.00 (\$300/per page)
- Full Page \$200.00
- ½ Page \$150.00
- ¼ Page \$100.00

Yours in Service to Urhobo,

Signed:

- ❖ Olorogun Dr. (Mrs.) Onome B. Dema, President, Urhobo Progress Union America (UPUA).
- ❖ Dr. Felix O. Okpe, Esq. Secretary-General, UPUA.
- ❖ Mr. Paul Awusa, Vice President of UPUA and Chairman, National Convention Organizing Committee (NOC).
- ❖ Mrs. Ese Alfred, Director of Publicity, UPUA.
- ❖ Dr. Felix Eruotor, Chairman, Local Organizing Committee (LOC).