Hey yo!

     While you’re all still throwing popcorn, chicken wings, babies or whatever else was close to you as LSU kicked the game winning field goal, I thought it would be a good time to share a little about Convention this year. Simply said, this Convention is going to be truly special. We have a lot of good old school Convention elements planned, but this is by far the most different Convention weekend we’ve ever put together.

For starters, Convention will be held this year in the Lake Charles Civic Center November 16-18! The past few years we’ve had some incredible speakers and this year is no different. Over the past four years, many of our students have taken mission trips to the Dominican Republic helping build a school and church in LaRomana. This year, Pastor Yira Rodriguez will be our speaking and traveling the state following Convention with her husband Benito. Justin Martindale will be leading worship so we’ll have a speaker flying in from nearly 2,000 miles away, while our worship leader will travel a whole two miles to the venue.

  We will be staying at the brand new, only been opened for a few months Staybridge Suites. The hotel is located just a couple of miles away from the Civic Center right between the mall and several restaurants (one being Chic-fil-a!). Rates are $99.00/room/night. We worked extremely hard to get a great hotel that could fit our entire group. We do understand this is slightly more than our hotel in Alexandria, but we do plan to return there next year. Please call this week to reserve your rooms. Our deadline is October 31st to get our discounted rate. In the past, some groups waited to allow other groups to reserve their rooms, only to not have space for themselves as the event approached. We have reserved plenty of rooms in our block! Please reserve as many rooms as you think you’ll need and maybe an extra room. You can cancel before the event if needed.

A few scheduling changes for this year. First, since Lake Charles is a bit of a drive for nearly all of our groups, we will be start on Friday night at 8:30pm and not have any late night entertainment. This will allow groups to check in, eat supper before or after without being out too late. Don’t feel like you’re getting cheated on Friday night because on Saturday afternoon, we’re getting to do something incredible! Friend Ships of Lake Charles has agreed to let us serve at their docks for a couple hours after lunch on Saturday. Friend Ships is an emergency response organization that sails all over the world wherever there is need. Our staff was able to visit last month and they are extremely excited for all the help will be providing. The docks are large enough and there is plenty of light work for all of our group to do at one time. We will assigning jobs and tasks as we get closer to Convention. Our two hours of work will equate to around 3 months on their own. Friend Ships will be sharing about their organization on Saturday morning. Feel free to look them up online!

So that leaves Saturday night. Our theme: The Battle Within (well, that’s the current one) is going to be slammed into Convention lore on Saturday night. We have hired a local wrastlin’ organization to provide a private show for our group! We will have a ‘Come as your favorite wrestler’ competition and a few other surprises throughout the event! I’ll be sending a sign up sheet, t-shirt dates and all that good stuff this week, but I wanted to get this out to as many as possible so you can start building the excitement at your church tomorrow morning!

Happy Sunday!

-Richard

P.S. Ladies, Mistletoe and Moss will also be going on at the Civic Center the same weekend. There is a small entrance fee, but this is a huge Christmas expo of local artists, crafters and all the cinnamon smelling booths you’ll care to visit- think Pinterest meets and upscale garage sale! You can look up that event online as well. Fellas, hey, you may enjoy it too. I don’t really know, I’ve always been at Convention.

P.S.S. Convention registration is $55 for students and adults, excluding state staff.

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