

International Convention FAQs



For Members, By Members

Planning an International Convention is no easy task and unless we had a hotel, we would not have a place to stay (or have our sessions). The following may shed some light on why we pick the hotels we do and why International Convention can be so costly.

Question: ICON tends to take place at large hotels that charge upwards of US\$175/night. Can we hold the convention at a smaller hotel that will charge around US\$75 or lower?

Answer: ICON hotels have been chosen with respect to their need for facilities. An International Convention requires rooms for general sessions, caucusing, workshops, etc. In addition to these rooms, there may need to be audio/visual equipment for these rooms, decorations, and security to watch over these rooms when not in use. Smaller hotels, though cheaper, will not be able to provide these necessary amenities.

Question: If we do not get enough attendance at ICON, we lose more money than expected. Why?

Answer: There is an estimated attendance for each international convention that is based off of the attendance from previous conventions. This number allows us to estimate how many rooms we will use at ICON. However, if we do not use all those rooms, we still foot the bill. This is another reason why it is better to stay at the ICON hotel instead of any surrounding alternatives.

i.e., ICON 2007 in Portland Oregon had 841 room nights reserved, however only 777 were used. CKI was still required to pay for those 841 nights.

Question: How are ICON sites picked?

Answer: ICON sites are picked about five years in advance by the International Board. For example, the ICON site for 2010, Minneapolis, Minnesota, was tentatively selected by the 2005-06 International

Board. This is because booking 800+ hotel nights with specific amenities for a select weekend needs to be done far in advance.

In terms of location selection, it can be found in the following section of the international bylaws.

Part IV, Number 14 of the international bylaws states:

14. Convention Site Selection – General

a. Subject to the approval of the Board, the Staff shall make recommendations for the proposed convention site. The official rotation of International Conventions is based on geographical distribution. A rotation schedule has been *suggested* based on the following five areas:

- West: California-Nevada-Hawaii, Southwest, Utah-Idaho, Montana, Western Canada, Rocky Mountain, Pacific Northwest.
- Northeast: Capital, New England, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
- Plains: Kansas, Missouri-Arkansas, Minnesota-Dakotas, Nebraska-Iowa, Texas-Oklahoma
- Southeast: Alabama, Carolinas, Eastern Canada and Caribbean, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee, Kentucky-Tennessee
- Midwest: Illinois-Eastern Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin-Upper Michigan

b. Consideration of site selection for the CKI Convention should include:

- Cost of travel, hotel, and general expenses
- Potential interest in the area/site for CKI members
- Host District CKI and Kiwanis support
- Location and convention facilities (i.e., hotel, etc.)