

Need to Know - Guide to Convention Spring Webinar 2025

Link to Zoom recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/g8713nPnG4lAyEn3izeqlaM_bsTxAD28F2jhhgK28d-UJ4YpwSLDIA5l2YmYGPfK.y1e66UTAUjMvVIUB

Passcode: 7d7#YjeU

Best place to find convention information on registration, hotel, FAQs, elections, Phlea-Phlam: <https://www.sai-national.org/resources/con2025.html>

Convention theme: United in Music

Hashtag: #SAICon25

Convention Details:

Date: July 17 through July 21, 2025

Location: Minneapolis, MN

Hotel: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

1300 Nicollet Mall

Minneapolis, Minnesota

612-370-1234

Convention Honoree: Ruth Sieber Johnson, Executive Director Emerita! She will speak at the Welcome Luncheon on Friday.

COMING SOON!

Convention app via PheedLoop. You'll be able to access:

- Full schedule and locations
- Workshop titles and descriptions
- Musical programs
- Ability to connect with other attendees
- Announcements

Registration:

- Register online from the SAI Website.
- Registration is \$445.
- Registration package includes the welcome luncheon ticket, dinner of honors, workshops, Phlea-Phlam, concerts, and all convention activities.
- Support SAI Philanthropies, Inc. by upgrading your benefit concert ticket to a Patron Ticket for an additional \$150. This includes reserved seating at the concert and a private reception afterward with the performers.

Travel:

- Airport: Minneapolis–Saint Paul International Airport, code MSP
- Train: Amtrak station is 8 miles from hotel
- Airport transportation: Light rail (will take about 45 minutes and drops you two blocks from the hotel), shuttles, taxis, Uber, and Lyft.
- Light Rail information - <https://www.metrotransit.org/> Blue Line - You can choose your pick-up spot (Terminal 1 or Terminal 2) and drop-off station (Nicollet Mall) and see a detailed stop map. Fare is around \$4.

- Taxis, and rideshare options: It's currently around \$60 to take an Uber from the airport. A note about the taxis - fares average between \$39 and \$49. A \$6.50 fare will be displayed on the Taxicab meter at the onset of your trip. This fee includes a \$2.50 flag drop and a \$4.00 airport access fee.
- The hotel does not provide a shuttle.
- Hotel parking: Valet (\$49/day) and self-parking (\$25/day or \$30/day for in-and-out privileges) - always confirm price on the hotel website.
- Note: If planning to use a driver's license for air travel, you must have a Real ID if you are 18 years of age and older. You can use a passport instead.

Hotel and food information:

- Convention rate: \$215 including tax per night per night. Room reservations can be made via the link on SAI website and will remain open until July 1 or until sold out.
- Depending on people's comfort levels, they can have up to four people per room, which helps reduce costs.
 - --2 SAls per room: \$94.50 per person, + tax per night
 - --3 SAls per room: \$71.33 per person + tax per night
 - --4 SAls per room: \$59.75 per person + tax per night
- If you have any problems obtaining the SAI rate, please contact National Headquarters. If you plan on coming before and staying after the convention, please contact National Headquarters.
- We will not be coordinating roommates for this convention on a national level. Please contact your Province Officer for help in securing roommates.
- Food: Meals included are Welcome Lunch and Dinner of Honors, but the rest are on your own. Plan for one dinner with your province at the hotel or one of the restaurants nearby.
- To save on food costs, we recommend bringing your own breakfast items and snacks. In addition to the hotel restaurant, Prairie Kitchen and Bar there is the MPLS Market - they told us they will have a bunch of grab-and-go items available for us, but know that the coffee line is going to build up during peak times, so we will also have to be patient.
- Within a 15-minute walk is a Target and restaurants, including Mother Clucker's Pizza, The News Room and Barrio - which have big outdoor spaces - Brit's Pub, Hell's Kitchen, Hen House Eatery, Eggy's Diner, Sonora Mexican Kitchen. It looks like many of these restaurants have curbside pickup or delivery options, but you would need to check with the restaurant itself for details.

How the collegiate chapter convention fund works:

- If collegiate chapters made all convention fund payments in full over the past three years, they would have paid a total of \$750.

Example: Chapter has paid into their convention savings

2022-23	\$250
2023-24	\$250
2024-25	\$250
Total paid	\$750
Registration	-\$445

Remainder (chapter will receive this amount)\$305

- Funds go into effect when: the delegate registers online for the National Convention and marks that they are the chapter delegate, they sign the delegate agreement form, and it is received at National Headquarters. At that time the remaining funds will be returned to the chapter.
- **If registering now**, that returned amount will be \$305. It can be used for other convention-related expenses.

As a reminder, any collegiate chapters reactivated or installed during the past three years will vary depending on the amount paid into the convention fund. These particular chapters will receive information about their funds from the NVP Finance - let her know if you have not.

What goes on at Convention:

Seating: The NEB, and any speakers, will be on the front stage. Fraternity directors, Philanthropies Board and directors, and former NEB members sit in the front rows. The seating for each region starts with the Regional Officer followed by each Province Officer and chapter delegates in Greek alphabet order. Each Officer or chapter name will be clearly marked (please leave office/chapter name tags so they can be used again). Convention attendees who are not delegates will also have designated seating.

Things to see and do: Throughout the event, visit the SAI Philanthropies Inc. kiosk to make a donation or check on your convention grant. The SAI mall includes Herff Jones, our official jeweler, and Letter Market's SAI shop. There are also displays on a variety of topics from various fraternity directors.

What time do I need to get there? Chapter delegates should plan to arrive at the hotel prior to 1 PM Central. Keep in mind that Eastern time is one hour ahead of this, while Pacific is two hours behind. On Monday, the general session does not end until noon, so you should not plan to depart from the convention hotel prior to 3 PM Central. If you are elected to a Regional or Province office at Convention, you will attend a meeting on Monday morning. If you are running for the NEB and are elected, you will need to work with the NVP Finance to change your travel plans and will be expected to stay through noon on Tuesday, July 22.

What should I pack?

PDF checklist: [What to Pack for Convention](#)

Clothing suggestions:

- Two travel outfits
- Five formal business meeting attire with appropriate shoes, meaning no flip flops
- Two casual outfits and/or SAI gear
- Two fancier outfits for the Philanthropies concert and Dinner of Honors.
- Light sweater or jacket for cold meeting rooms

Other items:

- SAI badge and other valuables — if traveling by airplane or another method where you will be separated by your luggage, pack it in your CARRY-ON luggage. That goes for any additional valuables you are bringing.
- SAI songbook
- Snacks and breakfast items for your room
- Money for Phlea-Phlam, food, and cash tips for baggage handlers, bellhops, and the room housekeepers
- Other important items: phone, chargers, hotel, airline, and emergency contact information, first aid items and necessary toiletry items, and medication (which should be packed in your carry-on luggage as well).
- Instrument and music if performing during convention.

Note: When packing, please remember weight restrictions and extra fees on baggage for airline travel. Remember, Southwest Airlines now charges for bags.

Peek at the week:

Thursday: Registration opens for all attendees. In the evening, we'll open the convention with a collegiate initiation ceremony performed by the NEB and other national officers (formal musicale before and after). This will be followed by our opening reception, which will include a DJ and a history of strolling with a demonstration.

Friday: The general business session of the Convention opens. Also happening is the Welcome Luncheon. There will also be a performance from the SAI Singers, a group of non-delegates who sing SAI songs from the songbook throughout the Convention. That evening will be the IAMA Premiere Concert and the winning composition.

Saturday: Phlea-Phlam will start the day Saturday and typically runs between 8 and 10 a.m. Many chapters will be selling SAI-related items, and LOTS of crafts, from shirts to tote bags to badge buddies, so bring your money. We recommend smaller bills, like ones and fives if paying cash. Some chapters will accept credit cards. Following Phlea-Phlam will be a general session, educational workshops, and later that evening the Philanthropies Benefit concert featuring violinist Rachel Barton Pine.

BONUS: If you've been following SAI Philanthropies, Inc. on social media, you probably saw the opportunity to swap your business attire for jeans and letters during the Saturday general session and workshops with a suggested donation of \$10. (Please bring cash for this!)

Sunday: NOC members and chapter delegates will be voting on new national, regional and province officers. Following the general session there will be afternoon free time. We'll wrap up the evening with our Dinner of Honors, which is like our "SAI gala" where you'll want to wear your nicest outfits. This will be followed by our Fraternity sing.

Monday: There will be additional workshops and the installation of newly elected officers, followed by closing ritual and adjournment of the convention.

Costs and travel tips:

One of the first things we recommend is for collegiate chapters to see if they can apply for some student government, student organization, or music department funds to help attend convention. Many schools will provide several hundred dollars for attending an educational conference like convention.

- If you need help making flight and hotel reservations, contact your faculty advisor or Province Officer. Your PO will be able to help you find a roommate or roommates among the delegates and attendees from your province.
- When booking flights, there are several things that will help you do this: 1) know what airlines fly out of your city. 2) check specific airline sites or an aggregator site like Kayak, that will show you flights on different airlines in one place. Be careful of the fine print - make sure you know of payment and cancellation policies.
- Airfares as of June 1 - average basic economy airfares into Minneapolis are \$145-\$250 from Denver, \$168-\$240 from Los Angeles, \$300-\$400 from Philadelphia, and \$218-\$300 from Orlando.
- When booking the hotel, click on the link on the Convention page. You will be able to change the room and guest numbers. You should know the number of people you plan to have in your room before you make a reservation. And only one person among the roommate group should make the reservation. You can add the names of the other people during that time.

Other webinars: You can find recordings of the Guide to Convention - Fall, Delegate Webinar, and Phlea-Phlam webinars in the convention tab in the Officer Portal's Document Library. Don't forget to register for the following webinars:

Convention Delegate Election Webinar

Sunday, June 29, 2025, 8 PM ET | 7 PM CT | 6 PM MT | 5 PM PT

The Elections Chair will explain the election process that will take place during the Convention. All NOC members — chapter delegates, Fraternity Directors, Province Officers, and Regional Officers — should attend. This webinar will be recorded.

Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/R_8_jckMTuCG_23JiX_J2w