



National Summer Convention
July 16th-19th
Chicago, Illinois

Hello SOMA members!

The SOMA Summer Convention is quickly approaching, and I hope you are as excited as I am to meet at the AOA Headquarters in Chicago! Summer convention typically consists of events with COSGP and the AOA as well, so please note that the general schedule below includes all of these events which are not necessarily mandatory. In addition, this guide contains transportation information, housing options, and registration information (it's absolutely free, but you must still go online and register!).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (DETAILS TO COME)

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

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| 9:00AM - 5:00PM | SOMA Board of Trustees and National Board Meeting
<i>*** Board of Trustees and National Board ONLY</i> |
| ~6:30PM – 8:30PM | NOSC (National Osteopathic Student Caucus)
<i>All convention attendees are encouraged to attend</i> |
| Evening | Social Event: SOMA + COSGP (after NOSC) (TBA)
<i>Network with Osteopathic Students from across the country</i> |

Thursday, July 17, 2014

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| 8:00AM – 4:00PM | SOMA Summer Meeting at AOA Headquarters and Embassy Suites
(see below for addresses)
<i>Mandatory for ALL Chapter Leaders</i> |
| Evening | SOMA Foundation Fundraiser Dinner and Social Event (TBA) |

Friday, July 18, 2014

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| All day | AOA House of Delegates Meeting
<i>All convention attendees are encouraged to attend</i> |
| Afternoon | SOMA Summer Meeting Continued at AOA Headquarters
<i>Mandatory for ALL Chapter Leaders</i> |
| Evening | Social Event (TBA) |

Saturday, July 19, 2014 (Attendance is not mandatory but all are encouraged)

Morning **Public Health Service Project**

All day **AOA House of Delegates Meeting**

Evening **Inaugural Reception for the incoming AOA President**

Sunday, July 20, 2014 (Attendance is not mandatory but all are encouraged)

Morning **Closing of the AOA House of Delegates Meeting**

SOMA meetings will be located at:

AOA Headquarters
142 East Ontario St.
Chicago, IL 60611
800-621-1773

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HOUSING OPTIONS

SOMA Board of Trustees and National Board are staying at:

Embassy Suites Lakefront
511 N Columbus Dr
Chicago, IL 60661
312-836-5900

Other hotels near AOA Headquarters:

Embassy Suites – Chicago (600 N State St, 312-943-3800)
Holiday Inn Express Chicago – Magnificent Mile (640 N Wabash Avenue, 312-787-4030)
Fairfield Inn & Suites Chicago Downtown (216 E Ontario St, 312-787-3777)
Doubletree by Hilton Chicago Magnificent Mile (300 E Ohio St, 312-787-6100)
Hampton Inn & Suites (33 W Illinois St, 312-832-0330)
Inn of Chicago (162 E Ohio St, 312-787-3100)
The James Chicago (55 E Ontario St, 312-337-1000)
The Allerton Hotel Chicago (701 N Michigan Ave, 312-440-1500)
Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers (301 East North Water Street, 312-464-1000)
Four Points by Sheraton Chicago Downtown (630 N Rush St, 312-981-6600)
The Palomar Chicago (505 N State St, 312-755-9703)

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TRANSPORTATION

Train: In Chicago, the train that travels mainly within the downtown area is called the “L,” which is an abbreviation of the word “elevated.” The L consists of multiple routes/lines, coded by colors. You can take the train from both O’Hare and Midway airports to get to downtown Chicago.

Quick Guide: http://www.transitchicago.com/riding_cta/how_to_guides/ridingthetrain.aspx

Fare: flat rate (\$2.25) no matter how far you are traveling on that line, EXCEPT if starting at O’Hare and going downtown (\$5). If you need to transfer, it costs an additional 25 cents. Your 2nd transfer will be free. Only some stations take credit card for transit cards, but all stations will accept cash payment.

See website for more details: <http://www.transitchicago.com/fares/>

L Map: http://www.transitchicago.com/assets/1/maps/P19_2012_CTA_Rail_Map_Light.pdf **all stations and trains have visible maps for your convenience.

From Midway to Downtown Chicago: Look for signs at the airport for the train (Orange Line). Take the **ORANGE** line towards downtown Chicago (the Midway station is one end of the orange line so you can only hop on the train in one direction, which will be toward downtown). Transfer at Roosevelt Station to **RED** line. Get off red line at Grand Ave. Walk 3 blocks east on Grand Ave toward Wabash Ave to Michigan Avenue, then walk 2 blocks north to Ontario St to the AOA Headquarters.

From O'Hare Airport to Downtown Chicago: **Fare will be \$5 from O'Hare** Look for signs for the train (Blue Line). Take **BLUE** line towards Downtown Chicago (the O'Hare station is one end of the blue line so you can only hop on the train in one direction, which will be toward downtown, but it will say that it's heading toward "Forest Park"). Transfer at Jackson Station to **RED** line. Take RED line toward Howard to Grand Ave. Get off red line at Grand Ave. Walk 3 blocks east on Grand Ave toward Wabash Ave to Michigan Avenue, then 2 blocks north to Ontario St to the AOA Headquarters.

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Please take into consideration travel and housing costs when planning your trip to Chicago. I suggest all chapter leaders and any SOMA members attending the convention to fly into Chicago on the afternoon or evening of Wednesday, July 16 (try to attend the NOSC and social event). If you are unable to stay after the SOMA Summer Meeting for the AOA events, then a good time to fly out of Chicago would be mid to late afternoon on Friday, July 18.

Feel free to contact me with any further questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing many of you in July!

Cheers,

Mike

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