

## **Fall Conference Chairman's Bulletin – September, 2024**

I have some good news for those of you who would like to attend Fall Conference on September 13-15 in Grand Rapids.

With the approval of the SEC board, we are offering some really great perks to those Auxiliary members attending. Our membership has really slipped the last few years – since Covid hit and we had to cancel some events. It really shows in our reports and membership forms. We need to do something to encourage and teach our members. One of the biggest problems was the expense. So, here is how we are tackling it.

#1. Room rates are 110 + tax per night which makes the cost approximately \$130 a night. For each Auxiliary member who is there and has signed up for the Fall Conference classes, we will pay \$40 for each night (2 nights tops.) This means if there are 2 Auxiliary members registered and staying in the same room for 2 nights, The Auxiliary will cover \$80 each person for a total of \$160 of your room. This means it will cost you approximately  $\$260 - \$160 = \$100$  for 2 nights lodging. That is a \$25 per person cost of per night.

#2. Registration for Fall Conference is reduced from \$15 pre-registration to \$5. On site registration, \$20, will not be reduced. Pre-registration must be postmarked by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#3. On Saturday evening we will be hosting a Quarter Auction for Ways & Means. We have some really great gifts (all new) for you to bid on at unbelievable prices. You do not need to bring quarters. We have chips for sale at 25 cents each. For each \$10 in chips you purchase, you will get an extra chip free.

#4. We have planned arrangements with Pizza Ranch which is just 1.3 miles from the hotel – and on the same street (28<sup>TH</sup> St SE). They have a community room and we will be there for lunch. The cost is \$16 and the Department Auxiliary will pay it for Auxiliary members registered for Fall Conference. If you are not familiar with Pizza Ranch, I am sure you will enjoy it. They have a buffet which has several different pizzas. The buffet also has fried chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and a bunch of other stuff. Not done yet – there is a fountain drink machine where you can refill when you want – and a soft ice cream machine for your desert. Try it with their apple pizza slices. Outstanding!

We are really going all out to get you back to Fall Conference. It is a fun time and a great learning experience. We have some good classes and some great times planned for you. Please join us.

Nancy Middleton  
Fall Conference Chairman  
616/455-4525  
nancmidd@gmail.com