



Dear Connecticut Cincinnatus:

May 10, 2024

I hope this letter finds you, your family and friends well and thriving.

I have three items that I would like to cover in this communication and I will attempt to be succinct:

1. Our annual meeting weekend will be upon us in no time. Secretary Hart will be sending out meeting invitations – hopefully by the end of this weekend. Please remember to frequently check our “**Upcoming Events**” page for the latest information on our meetings and cordial affection events: <https://www.theconnecticutsociety.org/upcoming-events>
2. We have two cordial affection events and a Lafayette celebration coming up. More information on these events can be found on the aforementioned “**Upcoming Events**” page (link, above)
3. The Paris triennial is a year away and projected interest may exceed the capacity of certain venues. Many members have approached me and other officers to inquire about their eligibility to attend this event. To that end, I want to share the very latest from the General Society and there is Connecticut-specific guidance of selection criteria, based on the following General Society guidelines immediately following:

There is a 500-person limit on the number of attendees from the United States. The General Officers and the Triennial Committee created a priority registration process to make sure that the people who needed to attend the Triennial to conduct the business of the Society would be able to register and attend. As part of this process, they developed a model to project the number of attendees. Models are, however, estimates and are only as good as the data submitted to them. Due to certain changes in the data they believed to be correct earlier this year, the model now indicates that there is a potential for there being over 500 members and guests within the priority list.

The General Society reviewed the numbers further to determine how difficult a problem was at-hand. While they believe this to be a minimal problem, they thought it prudent to change the registration process from two phases, priority and general, to four phases. This allows the Committee and the General Officers to monitor this situation and react to any problems that may actually arise.

**Phase 1** consists of those members who are necessary to carry on the work of the General Society:

- Delegates
- Alternate Delegates
- General Officers
- The Executive Director and staff
- The Solicitor
- The Chaplain
- The Marshal

Phase 1 registration will run from September 1 to about September 14. Any man who is entitled to register in Phase 1 but does not do so will lose his place and will be unable to register until Phase 4, at which time he may have to go on a waiting list.

**Phase 2 includes:**

- Past General Officers
- Members of the Georgia Society
- Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen

Phase 2 registration will run from about September 15 to about September 30. Any man who is entitled to register in Phase 2 but does not do so will lose his place and will be unable to register until Phase 4, at which time he may have to go on a waiting list.

**Phase 3** includes:

- Other Appointed Officials
- Young Observer Members (*Anthony DiMeco Jr. for the Connecticut Society*)
- Henry Knox Council Members

Phase 3 registration will run from about October 1 to about October 14. Any man who is entitled to register in Phase 3 but does not do so will lose his place and will be unable to register until Phase 4, at which time he may have to go on a waiting list.

**Phase 4:** General Registration. October 15 - 31.

It's hard to establish an exact figure but, the expected **total cost per-person could be as high as \$7,000**, when you factor in hotel, airfare, registration fees, optional tours, incidentals, etc.

So, the Nominating Committee is left with the daunting task of choosing who will be named Delegates and Alternates – the only non-General Society positioned members guaranteed a reservation to attend by being in Phase 1. Therefore, the following criteria will be used to help determine the eligibility of a member to be named a Connecticut Society Delegate or Alternate to the Paris Triennial:

1. Does the member participate (in-person or online) in attending Connecticut Society meetings?
2. Does the member participate in General Society annual giving?
3. Does the member donate monetarily to the Connecticut Society?
4. Has the member demonstrated a commitment towards future leadership to either the Connecticut Society or the General Society (or both)?
5. Did the member attend the last triennial in Paris as a Delegate, Alternate or a “Plus 1” of an Alternate or Delegate?

The Georgia Society, as the co-host of the Triennial, is placed in Phase 2. Actual registration numbers from the Georgia Society may change over time, which would impact overall registration.

This means that some people who were expecting guaranteed registration will necessarily have to be moved to Phase 4. In these cases, someone from the Nominating Committee will be reaching out to you to inform you of that decision. We are all too aware that there will be some members who will be disappointed if the projected interest translates into operational reality.

Ken Roach, our Nominating Committee Chairman, and his committee will be working with me to finalize this list in time for approval by the Standing Committee meeting in early June and general membership at our annual meeting in the Senate Chambers at the Connecticut State Capitol on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I hope to see many of you in Hartford in June and my best wishes for a happy spring and summer.

In fraternity,



Christopher Mark Nichols

President, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut