

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

Athens, Greece – June 27-29, 2014

TO ALL SELECTED DELEGATES TO THE 2014 GREECE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

We are pleased to inform you that you have been selected to attend the international convention in Athens, Greece, on June 27-29, 2014. The following information is being provided to assist you in securing your air tickets and hotel reservation. Please also consider the other details provided that will contribute to a safe and successful experience. NOTE: You should have also received from your congregation secretary a jw.org printout entitled “Convention Selection Summary.” Please make sure your e-mail address, phone number, and travel group details are correct.

Air tickets: You are welcome to purchase air tickets on your own or through a travel agency of your choice. As another option, Four Ambassadors Travel has arranged for reasonably priced group air tickets into and out of the convention city. These are available on a first-come first-served basis. Please see the Four Ambassadors Travel contact information below under the heading “Pre- or post-convention tours outside the convention city.” *It is usually best to secure your air tickets before finalizing your hotel reservation as the hotels have an open window of nine nights, thus allowing you more flexibility in matching your room needs to your air itinerary.* NOTE: We recommend that you do not use “buddy-pass” tickets. Several delegates were stranded in the convention country for two or more weeks while daily checking to see if seats were available for a return flight.

Hotel reservations in the convention city: It is required that you stay at least six or seven nights in Athens so as to take advantage of activities with the local brothers before or after the convention. The Greece branch office has made arrangements for you to reserve your hotel by means of the attached *Approved Hotel List*. NOTE: A hotel booking form is also attached for each hotel on the *Approved Hotel List*. Please follow the directions carefully, using the proper identification line if one is called for. Persons not selected by the United States branch office should not be included in your plans. As a reminder, it is required that you use a facility on the *Approved Hotel List*, even if you feel you can find something less costly on your own. ***If you will be using a travel agency to plan your trip, please inform the agency that while in Athens, Greece, you will arrange for your own hotel room through the organization of the convention you will be attending.*** This is due to the fact that the price has been negotiated in anticipation that a specific number of rooms will be filled, and it also simplifies the logistics of meeting delegates for the various activities with local brothers and sisters.

“Confirmed” delegate status: You are presently considered to be a “Selected Delegate.” When you have purchased your air tickets, have put a deposit down with a travel agency, or reserved your hotel room, you must immediately inform your congregation secretary. At that time, the congregation secretary will change your status from “Selected” to “Confirmed” on jw.org. (If you will be using airline mileage reward programs, you may have to wait for tickets to become available by the airlines. Thus, if you have the amount of credits needed to obtain a reward-travel ticket and otherwise have definite plans to participate as a delegate, inform the secretary and he will change your status from “Selected” to “Confirmed.”) Informing your congregation secretary at this juncture is very important. (See “Arranging activities with the local brothers,” below.)

“Canceled” delegate status: If for any reason you are not able to participate in these arrangements, please inform the congregation secretary immediately so that your status can be changed to “Canceled” and thus others could possibly be invited.

Arranging activities with the local brothers: Once you have informed your congregation secretary of your updated status and he changes your status to “Confirmed,” the Greece branch office will then e-mail you additional information about activities that have been scheduled during the days before and after the convention. Arrangements are being made for you to enjoy activities such as field service, gatherings, and sightseeing excursions with the local brothers. While these arrangements will be optional, you are encouraged to take advantage of these occasions to be with your brothers in Greece. Some of the activities will involve an expense on the part of the branch office. Visiting delegates will be asked to make voluntary contributions to cover these expenses.

Pre- or post-convention tours outside the convention city: While some may choose to attend the convention only (and two or three additional days of association with the local brothers), many also take advantage of such a trip to include sightseeing in other areas. You can arrange such excursions on your own or with a travel agency of your choice, keeping in mind that in the convention city you must use the *Approved Hotel List* provided by the branch office. However, many enjoy such excursions in the company of fellow believers. If so, we have prearranged for Four Ambassadors Travel to prepare some optional tour packages for you to consider in addition to what the Greece branch office has arranged immediately before or after the convention dates. Their contact information is as follows:

<i>Prearranged Travel Agency</i>			
Name	Address	Telephone	Web Site and E-Mail
Four Ambassadors Travel	7400 SW 50 th Terrace, Suite 100 Miami, FL 33155	1-800-685-4669 1-305-444-1991	Web site: ic.fourambassadorstravel.com <i>(Your applicant number* is required to access the special convention tour information.)</i> E-mail: Greece@fourambassadorstravel.com

* Your applicant number is located on the jw.org printout entitled “Convention Selection Summary,” which should have been provided to you by your congregation secretary.

Lapel cards: Please use the same lapel card that you would normally use while attending a district convention in the United States. It is expected that you will wear it at all times, such as when traveling, at the convention, and while sightseeing.

Travel documentation: Those with a valid United States passport do not need a visa to enter Greece if your stay is less than 90 days. You will need a valid passport and proof of round-trip air itinerary. **Please check to be sure your passport is valid for at least three months beyond the length of your trip.** Ensure that your documents are safe at all times by keeping them either on your person or in the safe at your hotel. We recommend that you make a photocopy of the information page of your passport and keep it in a separate safe place.

Baggage: It is strongly recommended that you restrict your baggage to one small or medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on type bag. Travel as lightly as possible, and bring wash-and-wear clothing that does not easily wrinkle. Take no more baggage than you *personally* can carry at one time.

Medical: Bring a sufficient supply of your medication for the trip. Also, bring your medical directive, making sure it is properly filled out and signed. It is recommended that you obtain medical insurance in the event of an emergency if you are not covered by some other means.

Funds: The use of major credit cards is suggested. Visa and MasterCard are the most widely accepted cards. Diners Club and American Express are less frequently accepted. We are told that Greek ATMs use only numeric PINs (personal identification numbers). Check with your bank or credit card provider about options available in other countries you will visit. You will need cash in the local currency for small transactions. It is recommended that you do not keep your funds in one place.

Dress and grooming: When you attend the convention and engage in the ministry your attire should be the same as for congregation meetings. Even when less formal dress is appropriate, please be mindful that a high standard is expected of delegates, since you represent the organization in a special way and will be in the public eye at all times. Please do not wear blue jeans even for casual occasions.

Program language: The program will be presented in Greek, English, Russian, and Albanian.

Applicant Instructions: Please reread the *Applicant Instructions* provided previously, as this will remind you of the adjusted arrangements in conjunction with international conventions.