

HLCCA 2023 Conference

Frequently Asked Questions

Conference Registration and General Information

Q: What are the dates and the cost per member?

A: The dates are July 13–16. The cost is \$372 per member. Your registration fee includes admission to all Conference events; exclusive pottery pieces at the Banquet; mixer prizes; the appetizers prior to the Friday auction, Saturday night banquet meal, and Sunday breakfast; and a tote bag.

Q: What is the cancellation/refund policy?

A: For cancellations prior to May 1, the refund is 100% refund minus a \$50 cancellation fee; between May 1 and May 15 the refund is 50% minus the cancellation fee; and after May 15, there are no refunds.

Q: What hotel are we using for the Conference?

A: This year's Conference will be held at:
Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh Airport
1111 Airport Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA
Phone: 724-899-1234

You will need to make your own hotel reservation AFTER you have successfully registered for Conference. In order to get the Conference rate, you must use the booking link that will be provided after registration. We are hopeful the hotel can accommodate all attendees but cannot guarantee that.

If you are flying to Conference, the hotel is conveniently connected to the Pittsburgh International Airport via moving walkway—no shuttle is needed.

Q: What is and is not included in the Conference room rate?

A: The rate is \$128/night plus taxes for either a double or a king.

- This rate includes:
 - Complimentary long-term parking
 - Complimentary internet
 - On-site restaurant
 - Fitness center/pool
 - Pet friendly
 - Coffee maker/ironing board
 - Mini refrigerator (limited basis)
 - Breakfast

The Conference hotel rate is available July 10–17 but on a limited basis for the days preceding Conference. You must request this when making your reservation in order to guarantee the HLCCA rate.

Q: Can I bring a guest to Conference?

A: This event is for HLCCA members only. Certainly, a guest can travel with you, but they cannot attend any Conference events unless they are also a member and registered.

Q: What should I wear?

A: Dress for Conference is mostly casual wear. Most attendees wear shorts, jeans, t-shirts, etc. We do encourage everyone to dress up a little more for the banquet (khakis, a polo or button-up dress shirt, dress slacks or a dress for women) but it's not required.

If you are planning to tour the factory or decorate a plate, FTC does require that you wear close-toed shoes.

Q: Can I volunteer to help?

A: YES!! We need all the volunteers we can get to help the Conference run as smoothly as possible. When Conference gets a little closer, we will email Conference attendees a link with the various volunteer responsibilities and times. Most of the time it's only an hour or two out of your weekend that you will need to volunteer, but it's a great way to meet new people and help the organization. Without the volunteers, we could not have a successful Conference.

Q: What should I bring to Conference?

A: Many members that are driving bring boxes and packing materials (bubble wrap, tape, tissue paper, etc.) for their anticipated purchases. Many bring extra supplies and are happy to share with other members. If you are shipping your purchases home, you may be able to find empty boxes around the hotel or purchase them at the shipper you choose to use.

Q: Will I receive my registration packet in the mail before Conference?

A: No, you will receive everything you need when you arrive at the Conference. We will not send you anything in the mail. You can pick up your registration packet starting on Thursday at the HLCCA registration table at the hotel. Please look for the HLCCA table in the hotel lobby or near the ballrooms for your packet. There will be occasional email updates; we will email an agenda prior to the event to help attendees with planning.

Q: What's included in the registration packet?

A: The packet will include the "Who, What, When Where, and Why" for the whole Conference weekend. Please read through the program booklet for all the exciting event details. The packet will also include exhibit ballots, auction information and bidding paddles, and your name tag. **You must wear your name tag to all HLCCA events.**

Q: What do I do after I arrive on Thursday and check in to the hotel?

A: Once you arrive, ask the hotel for the location of the HLCCA registration table. Sign-in and receive your Conference registration packet. Put on your name tag and start looking for other Conference attendees to get acquainted.

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Q: If I have questions, who should I ask?

A: Email any Conference questions in advance to the HLCCA at info@hlcca.org. During the Conference, you can ask questions at the registration table or look for an HLCCA Board Member.

Thursday Conference Events

Q: What is the First-Time Attendees event?

A: This event is late on Thursday afternoon and is an opportunity for us to welcome First Timers and for them to meet each other. We will talk about how to get the most out of the Conference and answer questions. We encourage all First Timers to attend so that you don't miss anything during the Conference. And everyone wins a prize! Please make sure you indicate you are a first-time attendee when you register.

Q: What is the Conference Kick-Off and Business Meeting:

A: This year we are going to kick-off the Conference with an introduction to the Board Members and the business meeting. We'll be sharing exciting organization updates and give an overview of what's coming up at the Conference.

Q: What should I wear to the Thursday night Mixer?

A: The mixer theme will be emailed to attendees prior to the Conference. Many members choose to dress for the theme, but that's not a requirement. The mixer is a great time to meet the other members in a relaxed, fun-filled atmosphere. Wear a costume or dress comfortably. There will be snacks, a cash bar, and food for purchase.

Friday Conference Events

Q: What's the schedule during the day on Friday?

A: Friday starts early with a trip to the Fiesta Tableware Company factory outlet for some shopping. If you need transportation to the factory, you will be able to purchase a ticket for a chartered bus at www.hlcca.org. The cost for the bus is not included in your Conference registration.

The other event you won't want to miss is the speed-learning event on Friday afternoon. The speed-learning events give members information on a variety of dish- and collecting-related topics and help us continue our mission of providing education for our members.

Q: What's the Friday night auction all about?

A: The Friday night auction is a fun and fantastic buying opportunity—approximately 250 items from other attendees will be up for auction. If you have items you would like to consign for this auction, contact Alice Fast at alice.fast@hlcca.org. You must sign up in advance of the Conference to have your items in this auction; 10% of the proceeds go to the HLCCA. Space is limited. Prior to the auction, there will time to preview the items—check your

Conference booklet for details. Be sure to bring your auction paddle so you can bid on those must-have items for your collection. Before the auction starts, there will be complimentary appetizers to enjoy during the "Eat and Peek."

Saturday Conference Events

Q: What is the Dealer sale?

A: The first sale taking place on Saturday is the dealer sale. There will be a room full of dealer booths where you can purchase items ranging from tablecloths, jewelry, and of course pottery. If you are interested in having a dealer booth, please complete the required registration forms located on the HLCCA website. There is a fee for dealers to participate in this event.

Q: What is the Consignment sale?

A: The consignment sale is a wide variety of HLC/FTC and related wares and items for purchase. These items are submitted on a consignment basis by Conference attendees with 10% of the sale proceeds going to the HLCCA. If you have some items you would like to consign, please reach out to Kathy Holley at kathy.holley@hlcca.org. Important sale information including deadlines and rules at can be found at www.hlcca.org.

Q: What is the HLCCA Show and Sale?

A: The HLCCA Show and Sale will offer a collection of new exclusives available for Conference attendees. Conference attendees get the first opportunity to purchase these new items. Come check out the special pieces we've had made for our members!

Q: What are the Exhibits?

A: Attendees are able to participate in and view the awesome large exhibits, tablescapes, and small exhibits on Saturday morning. Our members work for months on these creative and educational displays—it's a highlight of Conference. After viewing, you will have the opportunity to vote on your favorite exhibits to choose our "People's Choice" winners. Your Conference brochure will have more details on how to vote for your favorite exhibits.

If you would like to present an exhibit or tablescape, details and deadlines are at www.hlcca.org under the "Conference Information" link or email Al Heitmann at al.heitmann@hlcca.org.

Q: Come Over To My House and the FTC Update

A: Come Over To My House is a Conference favorite that lets members share a PowerPoint presentation of their collections. If you are interested in presenting your collection, please contact Troy Knighton at troy.knighton@hlcca.org.

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The FTC Update is always popular and an informative event where representatives from the Fiesta Tableware Company share all the exciting things that are happening at FTC with our attendees. They also answer questions. It's a great way to get the inside scoop!

Q: What happens Saturday night?

A: The Saturday night banquet and auction is the culmination of the Conference experience. We will enjoy dinner and unveil the exclusive banquet pottery. During dinner we will enjoy a keynote address from our banquet speaker, reveal the winners of the exhibit voting and judging, and present other HLCCA awards.

After dinner there will be another auction, this one featuring HLCCA exclusive items, past and present. Please be sure to bring your auction paddle with you so you can bid.

Sunday Conference Events

Q: What happens on Sunday?

A: On Sunday morning, attendees gather for a breakfast buffet and a chance to mingle with their fellow dish friends one last time.