

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100



March 2, 2013

TO ALL CONGREGATION SERVICE COMMITTEES IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH
TERRITORY

Re: Delegate selection for special convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to inform you that some delegate selections have been made for the special convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Thus, as soon as possible, please click on the "Status Summary" link under the heading "Applicants" under the "Convention" tab on jw.org for updates to the applicants in your congregation. If the status of an applicant has changed to "Selected," then please do the following:

1. In the "Convention" column, click on the "Print Details" link, and print out the "Convention Selection Summary" page for each selected delegate.
2. Print out the *General Information Sheet* that is provided along with this letter.
3. Provide the above items to each selected delegate. Encourage him to secure his air tickets as soon as possible (either personally or by means of a travel agent). Instruct the delegate that as soon as the air tickets have been purchased or as soon as he has put a deposit down with the travel agency, he should inform the congregation secretary so that the delegate's status can be updated to "Confirmed." **Do not update the delegate's status if he has not yet purchased the air tickets or put a deposit down with the travel agency.**

Special rooming: If a delegate has been chosen to receive special rooming in the convention city, this will be indicated on his "Convention Selection Summary" printout. Thus, the host branch office will provide the special rooming details to the selected delegate by means of e-mail in the next couple of weeks. However, the delegates chosen for special rooming should immediately secure air tickets in the meantime.

We encourage all congregation secretaries to read each *General Information Sheet* as it becomes available so as to be familiar with the particular details of each convention. If a significant number of selected delegates are no longer able to attend, it is possible that in the future additional applicants will be selected to attend. However, if an applicant has not been selected at this time, there is no guarantee that he will be selected in the future.

Congregation secretaries should regularly check the "Status Summary" page for updates to applicants in their congregation. As delegate selections for the conventions in Myanmar and Philippines are made, a letter similar to this one will be posted on jw.org.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

Buenos Aires, Argentina – October 18-20, 2013

TO ALL SELECTED DELEGATES TO THE 2013 BUENOS AIRES SPECIAL CONVENTION

We are pleased to inform you that you have been selected to attend the special convention in Cañuelas, Argentina on October 18-20, 2013. Please note that, while the convention will be at a large Assembly Hall in Cañuelas, your hotel accommodations and activities with the local brothers will center in Buenos Aires. The Assembly Hall is about a one hour and 15 minute commute from downtown Buenos Aires by motor coach.

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.) The branch office in Argentina will be contacting you by e-mail shortly so that you will have their contact information. However, it is best not to write asking many questions until after you are “Confirmed” (see “Confirmed delegate status,” below), at which time the branch office will be providing more information about the activities and options you will be able to choose from.

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 best to secure your air tickets before finalizing your hotel reservation.*

Hotel reservations in the convention city: It is required that you stay at least six or seven nights in Buenos Aires so as to take advantage of activities with the local brothers before or after the convention. The Argentina branch office has made arrangements for you to reserve your hotel by means of an *Approved Hotel List*. A copy of the listing is attached for your convenience. NOTE: Please do not share the reservation code with others as it is specifically for use by the selected delegates. 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 the Buenos Aires, 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 given 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: When you have purchased your air tickets or have put a deposit down with a travel agency 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 Argentina 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 with the friends, 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 Argentina. Some of the activities will involve an expense on the part of the branch office. Visiting delegates may 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 sight-seeing 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 Argentina branch office has arranged immediately before or after the convention dates. Their contact information is as follows:

Prearranged Travel Agency			
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 (Your Applicant Number* is required to access the special convention tour information.) E-mail: Argentina@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 sight-seeing.

Travel documentation: Citizens from the United States do not need a visa to enter Argentina if your stay is less than 90-day duration. However, 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 six months beyond the length of your trip. PLEASE NOTE: As a result of a recent change in Argentine law,** prior to arrival in Argentina at any entry point, each U.S. citizen tourist and business traveler **must pay a \$160 reciprocity fee by credit card online at the <https://virtual.provinciapagos.com.ar/ArgentineTaxes/> Web site. Once paid, you must print out the receipt and present it to the Argentine immigration officer at the time of entry.** 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.

Medical: Bring a sufficient supply of your medication for the trip. Also be sure to bring your medical directive, making sure it is properly filled out and signed.

Funds: The use of major credit cards and ATMs is suggested. Check with your bank or credit card provider about options available in the 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 only in Spanish. However, we are asking the Argentina branch office to provide a loose, simultaneous translation into English by means of FM transmission. They will be informing you of the details so that you will know what kind of device each in your group can bring along with either ear buds or headphones for each person.

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

2013 Special Convention – Buenos Aires, Argentina
Approved Hotel List

Convention City: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dates: October 18 to 20, 2013

Please use only hotels that appear on this list and accept only the room rates shown below. To qualify for these rates, you must say you are attending the **JW Convention**. One night's deposit (or as otherwise indicated) by credit card must be sent when you make your reservation or your reservation may be canceled. The rates listed below are subject to all applicable taxes.

HOTEL INFORMATION	ROOM RATES	ADULTS
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SHERATON BUENOS AIRES HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER 5 ★

San Martín 1225 C1104AKC Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: 011-54-11-4318-9000 Fax: 011-54-11-4318-9346

www.sheraton.com/buenosaires

Rates include: buffet breakfast, a/c, pool and spa

Reservations must be made by: May 30, 2013

200 rooms with one king-size bed or two queen-size beds

\$190 (U.S.) -

1-2

Extra bed

\$50 (U.S.) -

Reservations should be made in

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1301187929&key=CC632>

Important: Sheraton Hotel will charge two nights when the reservation is made and 72 hours before the arrival there will be no refund for the whole reservation. In case the delegate is not able to come, he can be replaced by another delegate without any charge at the Hotel.

PANAMERICANO HOTELS & RESORTS 5 ★

Carlos Pellegrini 551 C1009ABK Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: 011-54-11-4348-5000 Fax: 011-54-11-4348-5250/5251

www.hotelespanamericano.com

Rates include: buffet breakfast, a/c, pool, gym and spa

Reservations must be made by: May 30, 2013

150 rooms with one king-size bed or two queen-size beds

\$189 (U.S.) -

1-2

Extra bed

\$90 (U.S.) -

Reservations should be made in:

English:

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?hotelId=6059&rateplanid=1271959&LanguageID=1>

Spanish:

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?hotelId=6059&rateplanid=1271959&LanguageID=2>

MARRIOTT PLAZA HOTEL BUENOS AIRES 5 ★

Florida 1005 C1005AAU Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: 011-54-11-4318-3000 Fax: 011-54-11-4318-3008

www.marriottplazabuenosaires.com

Rates include: continental breakfast, a/c, gym and spa. Complimentary coffee in the room.

Reservations must be made by: June 30, 2013

115 rooms with one king-size bed

\$167 (U.S.) -

1-2

Reservations should be made in

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/buear?groupCode=jehjeha&app=resvlink&fromDate=10/13/13&toDate=10/25/13>

35 rooms with two queen-size beds

\$185 (U.S.) -

1-4

Reservations should be made in

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/buear?groupCode=jehjehf&app=resvlink&fromDate=10/11/13&toDate=10/27/13>

ABASTO HOTEL 4 ★

Av. Corrientes 3190 C1193AAQ Buenos Aries, Argentina

Tel: 011-54-11-6311-4466 Fax: 011-54-11-6311-4465

www.abastohotel.com

Rates include: buffet breakfast, a/c and gym

Reservations must be made by: May 30, 2013

50 rooms with two queen-size beds	\$108 (U.S.) -	1-2
26 rooms with one king-size bed	\$108 (U.S.) -	1-2
4 rooms with three queen-size beds	\$150 (U.S.) -	1-3

Reservations should be made to reservas@abastohotel.com

AMERICAS TOWERS HOTEL 4 ★

Libertad 1070 C1012AAV Buenos Aries, Argentina

Tel: 011-54-11-4129-0700 Fax: 011-54-11-4129-0799

www.grupoamericas.com.ar

Rates include: buffet breakfast, a/c

Reservations must be made by: May 30, 2013

20 rooms with two queen-size beds or one king-size bed	\$120 (U.S.) -	1-2
Extra bed	\$21 (U.S.)-	

Reservations should be made to reservas@grupoamericas.com.ar

HOTEL DE LAS AMÉRICAS 4 ★

Libertad 1020 C1012AAV Buenos Aries, Argentina

Tel: 011-54-11-4129-3400 Fax: 011-54-11-4129-3499

www.grupoamericas.com.ar

Rates include: buffet breakfast, a/c

Reservations must be made by: May 30, 2013

40 rooms with two queen-size beds or one king-size bed	\$108 (U.S.) -	1-2
Extra bed	\$17 (U.S.) -	

Reservations should be made to reservas@grupoamericas.com.ar

Important: 21 % local taxes are not included in any case