



CACI National Convention heads to Baltimore

Start making plans now for the 2018 Convention/Vacation of CACI in Baltimore! The 2018 Convention/Vacation of Catholic Alumni Club International is scheduled for Sunday, **July 8** to Saturday, **July 14** in the 'Charm City' of Baltimore, Maryland.

Our convention hotel will be the four-star 14-story, 488-room Hyatt Regency Baltimore located at the famous Inner Harbor in the heart of the city, with its many eateries and shopping opportunities. The Hyatt features a heated, lushly landscaped outdoor rooftop pool and sundeck with a sweeping view of the Harbor.

The Hyatt is located within walking distance - or a short bus ride on one of the free Charm City Circulator bus routes - of many points of interest within Baltimore. A few of the attractions located quite near our hotel are the spectacular National Aquarium, the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, the historic ship USS Constellation, the USS Torsk (famous WWII submarine), and Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles baseball club. The B&O Railroad Museum and the Walters Art Museum are easily reached.

The Baltimore Basilica, America's first Cathedral (1821) built for the nation's first diocese is now officially known as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The new nation's first bishop, John Carroll, wanted the new cathedral to match the neoclassical architecture of the new "federal city" in Washington. When it was first constructed, the only building that could compete with it was the Capitol building. It has been said that no other Catholic edifice in America can claim to have seen so much history made inside its walls.

On Sunday evening, we will have a speaker on the history and science findings of Shroud of Turin, including a full size replica of the Shroud.

On Sunday and again on Monday, we will offer a "city tour" to include visits to Edgar Allen Poe's gravesite and to neighborhoods such as Fells Point, Mt. Vernon, with a stop at the iconic Belvedere Hotel, visited by several former Presidents. The Belvedere was featured in the social and political life of Baltimore for half a century.

A tour offered on Wednesday will be a special visit to Annapolis and the US Naval Academy as well as to the Maryland State House, since 1772 the oldest state capitol in continuous legislative use.



A "Star Spangled City Tour" will include the Fort McHenry Historic Shrine, and the Flag House and Star Spangled Banner Museum. It was the American flag flying over the fort near the end of the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812 that inspired Francis Scott Key, a young attorney who observed the flag from a ship in Baltimore Harbor, to write the words to what would become our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner." The Flag House is the 1793 home of Mary Pickersgill where she sewed the flag that flew over Ft. McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore.

Baltimore is easily reached via the Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI Marshall) airport served by most major airlines; and by Amtrak. From the DC area, Baltimore is also easily reached by MARC commuter train, and by various other local transportation options.

The week will be your opportunity to meet friends old and new, travel on interesting tours and have fun times with CACers from coast to coast.

A post-convention trip planned for Saturday July 14 through Monday July 16 will include a day at the Gettysburg Battlefield National Park in Pennsylvania and the nearby Elizabeth Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg Maryland, and two days in Washington DC with visits to many sites in the Capital area.

More details and a reservation form are expected to be available by early February. Information at that time will include all the details and the pricing, along with the planned tours, opportunities for sight-seeing on your own, how to get to the city (air, train and auto) and how to reach the hotel.

For additional information, go to the CACI website (CACI.org) or contact **Diane Schmit** (410-799-5336) or **Tricia O'Reilly** (301-460-9195), or email CACIconvention@dcsinglecatholicpro.org.

Catholic Alumni Clubs International

2017—2018 Officers
(Effective October 1, 2017)

President: Teresa Walczyk (Detroit).....	248-336-0391	bubbly_ja03@yahoo.com
First Vice President: Loretta Lovell (New Jersey)	201-723-6692.....	msbunkerville@yahoo.com
Second Vice President: Barb Accordino (Louisville).....	502-553-1476	barbara.accordino@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Susie Shearer (Detroit)	330-494-4613	smiles2uusa@aol.com
Secretary: Margie Cronin (New York).....	718-438-1946	m_cronin2@yahoo.com
Eastern Region VP: Bill Mee (Tidewater).....	757-898-6991.....	wmee1@cox.net
Midwest Region VP: Debbie Kamer (Louisville).....	502-291-7179.....	dlkcpa@windstream.net
Western Region VP: <i>Vacant</i>		
Members-At-Large: Sue Gentile.....	330-261-8065.....	suemaui73@yahoo.com
Chaplain: <i>Vacant</i>		
Past CACI President: Mike Kappel (MMRV)	618-397-2320	mikek21798@aol.com

The Communiqué is published by The Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI), an umbrella organization for the more than 20 local CACI chapters across the country. Members of CACI chapters are college and nursing school graduates who are free to marry in the Catholic Church.

The purpose of CACI is to host an annual national convention, facilitate communication among local clubs, and represent the interests of single Catholics in our Church at large. The annual national convention is held during the summer and hosts more than 100 CACers from across the country. Smaller Regional weekends across the United States are also offered, allowing CAC chapters in specific regions of the country to come together for fun and fellowship.

CACI is a non-profit organization organized under the laws of the State of Colorado. The address is that of the President, 2166 Dallas Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48067. *The Communiqué* editor is Michael Frost; send articles to him at mfrosty1@cox.net. Deadline for the next edition is **August 1, 2018**.

In Memoriam:

***Bill Brandenberger —
Los Angeles***

***Roland Gevara —
Los Angeles***

***Frank Doran —
North Jersey***

***Bob Kaiser —
Los Angeles***

***Eternal Rest Grant
Unto Them, O Lord.
May they rest in peace.***



President's Message:

Greetings CACers!!

I want to thank the delegates who attended the New Orleans meeting last summer and for electing me. It is my hope to continue the tradition of leading our clubs towards positive years ahead. I come to this position with many CACI past presidents on my board, each one a friendly person I can turn to when I have concern about CACI items. Over the years, I have found CAC members to be friendly.

Remember the days when you saw someone you had not seen for a long time; then you see them, joy fills your heart and warm hugs are shared. That is exactly the friendly family feeling I have with all CACers. It is such a joy to see familiar faces return for fun and camaraderie at our summer weeklong vacation or our regional weekends. The hugs are especially nice.

Great care is undertaken by our convention or regional chairperson(s). Not knowing how many attendees will come to share in the vacation, they work the estimates to get you the best deal and present a program worthy for you to come and enjoy. Events are chosen based on what interests them, and what they believe will interest you. Look elsewhere in this Communiqué issue for all the upcoming trips this year. All of them are appealing.

Within your own clubs are sponsors listing events they are interested in attending and they share with you through communications, be it by newsletter or email, and hope you will come for an enjoyable outing. If you have not attended an event lately, reach out to the sponsor and reserve your spot. Or if you have an interest and want to share with others, then sponsor your event through your CAC chapter. The greatest enjoyment is sharing an interest you have and finding others who enjoy the event, too. Many chapters have dinner nights; we each need to eat, so why not pick a location you'd like to try then place it on your club's calendar. Next thing you know, you're not eating alone, but instead eating with friends.

If you surf the web, be sure to check out our CACI web-site (www.caci.org). Once there, you can find links to other CAC chapters. Of course the CACI vacation locations both the week-long summer trip and the weekend regionals can be searched for travel information; or to download a reservation form. If you are traveling on your own and will visit a location near one of the other chapters, look at their website and see if they have an event you could attend. Getting to know fellow CACers from across the country could become a pleasant memory.

We are each one family under God; you are my brothers and sisters in Christ. I leave you with this motivational quote I saw, "You are confined only by the walls you build yourself" (Andrew Murphy) I think it is time we CAC members need to breakdown our walls and reach out to our fellow brothers and sisters and enjoy life - partake in some CAC events or sponsor one and lead the way. I look forward to seeing you during some of the travels this year.

Take care and God bless,

Teresa Walczyk
(Detroit) CACI President



From the Midwestern Region:

Greetings from the Midwest!

First of all I would like to thank Evie Pullis and the East Region for hosting the Fall Regional in peaceful Lancaster, PA. We all need to take time and step back to a quieter place and time to recharge our batteries.

Next I would like to thank my fellow officers: Jim Stammerman, Fran Nawrocki and Emily Franxman for all the time and effort they put in. They make my job easier.

Cruising down the winding ribbon of US-150 towards Bardstown, Kentucky, through the rolling hills of farmland and misty pastures dotted with hay bales, a serenity descends on the mind. Just as the car crests a hill, a group of rickhouses comes into view silent on the hill top, their grand stature was dwarfed by the infinite landscape of green and gold. Inside these massive structures, wooden ricks cradle thousands of Kentucky bourbon barrels aging to the rhythms of time and nature.

Kentucky has always been known for our horses and that little horse race we hold the first Saturday in May, the Kentucky Derby. But we are quickly becoming known for our bourbon industry. Bourbon tourists made a record 1 million distillery stops in 2017. A 300% increase in attendance over the last 10 years. Please consider joining in this trend and come visit. The Midwest is hosting the Spring Regional on Memorial Day weekend (May 25 -28) in Bardstown, Kentucky. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Plans are also in the works for the Joint Eastern/Midwest Fall Regional to be held in Detroit, Michigan on October 5 – 7, 2018. Save the date. More details will be provided as they come available.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Midwest Vice President.

Debbie Kamer

Ed Webb Scholarship deadline set as March 15th

The Board and I have been made aware that some of the clubs are hesitant to make a nomination for the \$1,000 scholarship. The club can nominate either an individual or a school. If the nominee is someone who is in either grammar school or high school, they must be attending a Catholic school. If the nominee is graduating from high school and attending college, the college does not need to be Catholic. Letters have been sent to the clubs via e-mail and snail mail outlining conditions that must be met for the nomination to be accepted. Please note that printouts from on-line sources are not acceptable. The nomination must be in writing from the club and where possible from the school or candidate outlining the needs of the school or individual.

I look forward to receiving this year's nominations. The deadline for the nominations

is March 15, 2018. They can be e-mailed to me at msbunkerville@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to e-mail referencing Ed Webb.

Also, once again I would like to thank our anonymous donor for the very generous contribution to the fund.

Loretta Lovell
Fund Administrator



From the Eastern Region:

Things are going well in the East Region. Our highlight is that we will be sponsoring a Regional in Ocean City, MD, on May 4-6, 2018. This is sure to be a fun, enjoyable weekend. The weekend will take place during the Ocean City Springfest which will feature music, exhibits, games, and shopping. Our hotel, the Dunes Manor, is right on the beach at the end of the boardwalk, and it features an indoor/outdoor swimming pool and many other nice amenities. For further information and/or a reservation form you can contact Bill Mee at 757-898-6991 or Neal Hyatt at 301-229-1455.

In the past year, the Eastern Region has sponsored two very enjoyable Regionals at Leesburg, VA, and also at Lancaster, PA. In July, the National Convention will be in Baltimore, MD, located right in the Inner Harbor with access to its many attractions including the National Aquarium, Fort McHenry, Little Italy, the harbor taxis, and many other attractions. Convention attendees will also be able to attend a Yankees/Orioles baseball game while they are there. There will also be a joint Midwest/East regional in Detroit on Oct 5-7.

Our clubs have stayed very active. Examples of this are the Baltimore Club which did its annual Christmas Caroling at the Manor Care Nursing Home followed by

dinner at an Italian Restaurant. The Washington Club held its annual Christmas Dinner Dance which was very well attended. Later on, some of the CAC members along with Prime Time Singles went to Williamsburg to attend its holiday Grand Illumination. Some of the group also went to dinner at a colonial tavern and/or toured historic Jamestown. The Tidewater Club went to a Christmas Concert and then had dinner at a local restaurant. The club is looking forward to warm weather so that it can hold picnics and go walking at a local park. While the official club name remains the Tidewater Catholic Alumni Club, the club has begun to advertise itself on its website and in notices for parish bulletins as the Hampton Roads Catholic Singles Club in an effort to attract new members. The New York Club also stayed active with monthly museum trips and movies. It held its annual President's luncheon on Nov 11th. On March 4th, the New York Club will go to a local church to enjoy its St. Patrick's Day dinner.

In summary, I am proud to represent the Eastern region. I feel that we have a lot to offer our members and I have enjoyed meeting the members of the Eastern Region.

Bill Mee
Eastern Region Vice President

Sue Gentile named Chairperson for Members-At-Large

The Member-At-Large group is for Catholic singles who do not have a club in their area. By joining the Member-At-Large group for \$25.00 a year, you can attend all conventions (regional or national). You will receive notices for the conventions and the group's newsletter-The Communiqué. You can read about the group, see upcoming events and requirements for joining on the [www.caci.org website](http://www.caci.org).

If you prefer to talk to someone about joining, you can contact me at 330-261-8065 or email suemaui73@yahoo.com
Just put CAC info in the subject line.

Have A Safe Day & God Bless

Sue Gentile
Chairperson — Members-At-Large

Western Regional slated for April 27th-29th in San Diego

The Catholic Alumni Clubs of the Western Region invites you to take a weekend trip by car, plane or train and join friends in San Diego, California.



Take a tour of the San Diego Zoo.



Tour Balboa Park featuring a botanical garden and 17 museums with a diverse range of collections from local history to arts and crafts.



Tour Mission Basilica San Diego De Alcalá, the oldest mission church in California.

And much more is possible.



We will be staying at:

Airport Ramada Inn
1403 Rosecrans St,
San Diego, CA, 92106

Phone Number: 619-225-9461

This location provides easy access to the many San Diego Attractions such as Sea World, The San Diego Zoo, Old Town San Diego, Hotel Del Coronado, Point Loma, USS Midway, Cabrillo National Monument, Birch Aquarium, Balboa Park

**Cost: DOUBLE \$226
SINGLE: \$343**

Weekend package includes 2 nights stay at the Airport Ramada Inn, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner.

The reservation deadline is Saturday, March 17, 2018. Reservation forms are available on the CACI website: www.caci.org.

Contact Mike Kappel 618 -397- 2320 or Carol Siem 818-939-6163 for more info.

Eastern Regional Weekend Ocean City, MD. May 4th-6th

Come to the beach! The Eastern Region invites you to join them for a beach weekend May 4-6 at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, MD. This beautiful hotel is located right on the beach at the end of the boardwalk. All rooms face the oceanfront. The hotel features an oceanfront deck with rocking chairs for relaxing, where you can enjoy the complimentary tea and crumpets served each afternoon. Join the sing along each evening in the lobby.



Assateague Island National Seashore run by the National Park Service, is located within a 30 minute drive of Ocean City and features many nature walks where you will see wild ponies.



A highlight of this weekend is that it coincides with the Ocean City Springfest with its good food, live music, and four huge big top tents with 259 vendors. Entertainers for the weekend include country music star Trace Adkins.

Ocean city is accessible by car, Greyhound bus, AMTRAK/bus shuttle, or by air flying into Salisbury, MD, and then taking a shuttle to Ocean City. Rates for this Regional are \$288 for a double and \$442 for a single. Extra nights are available. The weekend includes two buffet breakfasts, one buffet dinner, and socializing and games in the evening. For information and to request a reservation form please contact Neal Hyatt at 301-229-1455 corneliahhyatt@comcast.net or Bill Mee 757-898-6991 wme1@cox.net. Please hurry as the reservation deadline is March 15, 2018. There will be a late fee of \$25 after March 15th.

Hope to see you in Ocean City May 4-6 2018.

Registration Deadlines for Spring Regionals

Eastern Regional in Ocean City, MD. — Thurs., March 15th

Western Regional in San Diego, CA. — Sat., March 17th

Midwestern Regional in Bardstown, KY. — Sun., April 15th

Bardstown, KY – Kentucky Holy Land and Bourbon Capital Midwest Region Weekend May 25th—28th

It's not too late to make your reservation for the Louisville CAC Bardstown Midwest Regional. Come join your CAC friends for this exciting weekend.

Located in the heart of the Bluegrass State, Bardstown offers the ultimate small-town getaway with atmosphere that seems to have magically leaped from the paintings of Norman Rockwell and the pages of Mark Twain. In just an afternoon, one can easily understand why USA Today declared Bardstown the Most Beautiful Small Town in America.

In the Bourbon Capital of the World, bourbon flows from everywhere but the kitchen faucet. Immerse yourself in all things bourbon by touring one of the seven local distilleries.

The city also has a rich religious heritage. Bardstown has been called the Kentucky Holy Land.

The weekend includes 3 night's lodging, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, and 3 hospitality parties. Tours will be on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Saturday's Kentucky Holy Land tour includes the Abbey of Gethsemani, Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, Federal Hill/ My Old Kentucky Home, Nazareth Motherhouse, and the Bardstown area. We will attend Mass on Saturday afternoon at the Basilica, followed by dinner at the Rickhouse Restaurant.



Sunday's Bourbon Tour includes tastings at 3 distilleries that include Maker's Mark and Four Roses. Dinner will be at the famous Talbott Tavern. We will return to the hotel for some board games.

We will be staying at the Hampton Inn Bardstown. They have free parking, free WI-FI, an indoor heated pool, and fitness center. Louisville International is the closest airport for those flying to Bardstown.

Cost for a double is \$325. Cost for a single room is \$505. Reservations deadline is April 15, 2018. Reservations postmarked after April 15, 2018, will be charged a late fee of \$25.00. If canceling after April 15, 2018, there will be a cancellation fee of \$50.00. No refunds after April 24, 2018. Reservation forms are on the CACI Webpage. For more information contact Barbara Accordino at barbara.accordino@yahoo.com or 502-969-2272.

Midwestern/Eastern Joint Fall Regional Detroit, MI October 5th-7th



CAC Detroit invites you to their exciting city for the Fall Joint Midwest-Eastern Regional Weekend October 5-7, 2018. We will have a tour on Saturday but that will just wet your appetite. There is so much to see and do so plan to stay an extra night or two.

With its theaters, new sports arenas, restaurants, new businesses, downtown Detroit is bustling. The Detroit People Mover runs a 2.9 mile elevated loop around downtown. Its stations have over \$2 million in mixed media artistic expression.



The Henry Ford is America's greatest history destination and is only minutes away (with the hotel shuttle) as well as Greenfield Village. Watch the action of the real-life factory floor where the Ford F-150 is made on the Ford Rouge Factory tour.



Visit Hitsville USA – Motown Historical Museum – where Motown music got its start. Visitors come from across America to stand in Studio A, where their favorite artists and groups recorded much-loved music and to view the restored upper flat where Berry Gordy lived with his young family during the company's earliest days.

The Detroit Zoo's new Polk Penguin Conservation Center is the largest penguin facility in the world. And of course there are the museums. In the Cultural Center you will find the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Science museum and the Museum of African American History, all within a short walk of each other.

Fr. Solanus Casey was beatified in 2017. Visit the Fr. Solanus Casey Center and the museum at St. Bonaventure Monastery.

Reservation forms will be available soon so mark your calendar now and plan to spend an extra day or two with us.

Affix
Postage

Mark Your Calendars!

2018 Western Regional Weekend
San Diego, CA; April 27th-29th

2018 Spring Eastern Regional Weekend
Ocean City, MD; May 4th-6th

2018 Spring Midwest Regional Weekend
Bardstown, KY; May 25th-28th

2018 CACI Convention/Vacation
Baltimore, MD; July 8th-14th

2018 Fall Midwest/Eastern Regional Weekend
Detroit, MI; Oct. 5th-7th