

Know Before You Go

Your Guide to Essential NCCW Convention Information

2026 NCCW Convention – August 26 -29 in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Convention Activities held in the Amway Grand Hotel: The Executive Committee and Private Mass, the NCCW Board of Directors' Meeting, Welcome Luncheon, Registration, and the NCCW Store. The Meditation and Reconciliation Rooms and all food-related events, except for the Friday evening FUNdraiser and the Grab n' Go lunch sessions, will be in the hotel.

Convention Activities held in the DeVos Place: All Convention Liturgies, the General Sessions, First Timers Orientation, Purse Auction & Reception, Mary Lenaburg's Workshop, and the Grab n' Go sessions. This is also the location for the Exhibitors, Sponsors, Silent Auction, Commission, and Committee Displays.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held Wednesday – Saturday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. in the Meditation Room in Grand View A, on the third floor – the Conference Level of the hotel.

Air Travel - The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR)

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is approximately a 21-minute drive to the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, depending on the time of day. Transport options available at the airport include rental cars, hotel shuttle services, rideshares, and taxis. Please check the Gerald R. Ford International Airport website at <https://www.grr.org/> for more information on transportation options and locations for connecting with the shuttle service, taxis, or ride-share options.

Allergies (fragrance)

According to the Standing Rules, Section II Meetings, 7. Meeting agenda: g-allergies. All in-person Board meetings shall be smoke-free and fragrance-free in meeting and common areas.

Awards Presentation

The awards presentation will be held Saturday morning, August 29th, at 11:00 a.m., following Mary Lenaburg's Workshop in Ballroom B at the DeVos Place. The recipient of the National Golden Rose Award will be announced.

Banquet Ticket Information

If you register for the banquet, your ticket will be in the packet you receive at registration. No one can be admitted to the banquet without a ticket. There is open seating except for

reserved tables in the front of the room for sponsors and guests. The reception with a cash bar and closing banquet will be held in the Ambassador Ballroom in the hotel.

Convention Forms

Please refer to the www.nccw.org convention page to submit an item(s) for the Silent Auction, and to review the One Vote Rule in the Voting Guidelines for this year's 2026 Convention. Just a reminder: A Certificate of Delegate Form Must Be Submitted to the NCCW Office 30 days before the start of the Convention.

Convention Photography

Convention Photography Services, Inc. has been covering conventions and corporate meetings for over 30 years, including NCCW for 24 of the last 25 years. Candid and prearranged group photos will be available for viewing and purchase on the same day or the following day. Display tables with the photos will be available through Sunday morning.

Convention Protocols

- Special seating is reserved at General Sessions for Past Presidents and our invited guests.
- At the Annual Business Meeting, reserved seating is set up for voting members who are requested to be in their seats 5 minutes before the opening of the meeting.
- Except for the above two sessions, seating at all other times is on a first-come basis. The saving of seats is **limited to 2 seats**. Please be welcoming and encourage new friends to join your tables.
- Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate at all sessions, Convention events, and liturgies.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, please dial 500 from any house phone. This number is the hotel's internal emergency line. You can also dial 911 from your cell phone if you are at DeVos Place. After your call, please notify the front desk and the NCCW Staff.

Exhibits

Exhibits and vendors are in Ballroom A, and our Convention Sponsors will be in the DeVos Place hallway outside Ballroom A and B. Please refer to the schedule for the hours the exhibits are open. Each person will receive a Passport in their convention tote bag to encourage them to visit all the exhibitors and to thank them for their support of the National Council of Catholic Women. Attendees who visit all the exhibitors and sponsors will be eligible to enter a drawing for two \$100.00 gift certificates redeemable at the NCCW Convention Store.

Experience Grand Rapids

Attendees are encouraged to stop by the Experience Grand Rapids kiosks at the Amway Grand Hotel and DeVos Place. Information will be available for women, men, and all ages on the many adventures visitors can have when discovering and experiencing Grand

Rapids: from hiking to biking to fishing to golf to self-guided tours to sampling the fare at local restaurants to even discovering the nightlife.

First Timers Orientation

Welcome First Timers! If this is the first time you are attending a NCCW Convention – congratulations! Please mark your schedule to attend the orientation session on Wednesday, August 26th, at 4:00 p.m., following the Opening Liturgy. This session will help acquaint you with all the convention offers.

Food

A full convention registration, including the Welcome luncheon, Province Dinner, and Closing Banquet, will earn you a paid *admission ticket* to the Friday evening FUNdraiser. Several dining options are available in the hotel for dine-in or grab-and-go breakfast and lunch at the Kitchen Counter by Wolfgang Puck, or enjoy a casual dining atmosphere at The Kitchen by Wolfgang Puck. For the best steaks and freshest seafood, try Ruth's Chris Steakhouse.

Hostesses

The Grand Rapids hostesses are excited to welcome you to Grand Rapids and to the NCCW Convention. Grand Rapids hostesses will be wearing blue sashes for easy identification. They will be happy to assist you.

Hotel Reservations

If you haven't yet reserved your hotel room, there is still time! Reservations can be made no later than August 3, 2026. To receive NCCW's special guaranteed group rate, you **MUST make your reservation through the NCCW's online dedicated reservation link listed on the nccw.org website.** Do Not Call the Hilton 800-Worldwide Reservation Center or use the Hilton.Com Worldwide General Website to book, modify, or cancel a reservation.

Local Charities

Two local charities have been selected for the 2026 NCCW Convention Charity: *The Baby Pantry* in Lowell, MI, and *Help Pregnancy Aid* in Grand Rapids. Funds and/or a variety of the following items will be collected during the convention: *newborn 0-6 month pacifiers, onesies: size 12, 18, and 24 month, sleepers: size 3 months, 3-6 months, 18 and 24 months, boys or girls pajamas 2T – 5T, socks: size newborn, 0-6 months, 6-18 months, receiving blankets, infant towels and wash cloths, and soft cover books.* Mass collections will also be shared with them. Please be sure to visit their information tables in the Welsh Lobby outside Ballroom A and B DeVos Place.

Lunch and Learn Sessions

Educational opportunities on CCW Officer Training and Legislative Advocacy are being offered on both Thursday and Friday to provide an opportunity for attendees to participate in both sessions. Highlight your schedule to plan to attend the Lunch and Learn Session on Saturday: How to Start a Golden Rose Program.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located at the NCCW Registration Desk. After the convention ends, any unclaimed items will be turned over to Hotel Security.

Mass Collections

Mass collections made during the convention liturgical celebrations will be divided among the convention charities: Cross Catholic Outreach, Catholic Relief Services, and NCCW. The designated collection will be announced each day.

Meditation Room

The Meditation Room is in Grand View A, located on the third floor – the Conference level of the hotel. Please see the daily schedule for times.

Mobility Concerns

If Convention attendees have mobility concerns and would like the independence to comfortably attend all convention happenings scheduled at the hotel and the DeVos Place/Convention Center, please contact Quality Mobility Concerns in Grand Rapids. At Mobility Plus Grand Rapids, MI, renting is fast, easy, and affordable! A wide range of mobility equipment is available for weekly rental. Arrangements can be made for equipment to be delivered to and picked up from the hotel. Call (616) 818-9552 to make your reservation by phone, request a quote, or book directly online at grandrapids@mobilityplus.com

NCCW Store

The NCCW Store is on the Center Concourse level, second floor of the hotel. The store will be open on Friday and Saturday. Please check the daily schedule for the times the store will be open. A flyer listing items available for purchase from the NCCW Store will be included in your convention totes.

President – Elect's Raffle

Tickets to win an original acrylic painting of *Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mother of Mercy*, painted by artist Marlene Biondio, will be sold in the Welsh Lobby (along with our daily Share the Wealth drawing tickets), and the winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday at the close of our meeting.

Province Dinners

Province Dinners will be held on Thursday evening, August 27th, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Please check the schedule posted on the Message Board at the registration area for the location of your Province Dinner.

Province Pictures

A schedule will be announced for all province dinners in the hotel.

Friday Night FUNdraiser Purse Auction

Get ready for an evening of fun and a great way to support NCCW! The Purse Auction is scheduled from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. in Ballroom B at the DeVos Center. Members of the Board have donated high-quality purses with a surprise inside, perhaps one, two, or more surprises! Here is your chance to take part in the bidding for a new classy purse or to be part of the cheering section! Heavy hors d'oeuvres are included, and a cash bar will also be available. This is a ticketed event, and your ticket will be included in your registration materials.

Recitation of the Rosary

A Mini Rosary Retreat focusing on the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary is scheduled for Wednesday evening, in Ballroom B in the DeVos Place, at 5:00 p.m., after the First Timer's Orientation. The Spirituality Commission Team will lead the retreat. The Holy Rosary will be prayed on Friday morning from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. in Ballroom B in the same location. The National Council of Catholic Women is pleased to announce that a representative of Holy Cross Family Ministries will lead the Rosary. Ladies, remember to bring your rosaries.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Wednesday – Saturday in Grand View B and C, located on the third floor, the Conference Level, of the hotel. You may ask a priest to schedule a confession at another time during the convention. The Grand Rapids hostesses will be available to direct attendees to reconciliation areas.

Registration Hours

The NCCW Convention Registration Desk is located on the second floor, the Center Concourse level, of the hotel. Please check the schedule in your convention booklet for the hours.

Security or Safety Situations

If a security or safety issue occurs, please use a hotel house phone to dial **500** and ask for the front desk. Or dial **911** on your cell phone, and if the DeVos Place. After the hotel has been notified, please contact the NCCW staff.

Share the Wealth Drawing

Members are encouraged to help support NCCW when participating in the Share the Wealth Drawings held daily, Wednesday – Saturday. The drawing for the winning ticket will be held at the close of the daily meetings. The lucky winners will share half of that day's ticket proceeds with NCCW.

Silent Auction

We will be accepting items on Wednesday, August 26th, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Ballroom A at DeVos Place. Please check the schedule for the times when the room will be open for bidding. Bidding will close at 8:00 p.m. on Friday. Winning bids will be posted outside the registration area on Saturday, August 29th, at 9:00 a.m., and winners can pay for

their items then. On Saturday, from 12 noon – 2:00 p.m., winners may pick up their items and present their paid receipt at the NCCW store.

Spiritual Advisors Information

- The Spiritual Advisors Luncheon and Meeting will be held on Friday, from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the Pearl Room in the hotel.
- Our priest Spiritual Advisors are invited to concelebrate all Convention liturgies if they have a suitability statement that the Diocese of Grand Rapids has approved. submitted

The Clergy Vesting Room is in Ballroom C in the DeVos Place.

Teen and Young Women Gathering

A special teen and young women's gathering is scheduled for Saturday, August 29th, from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the Chase Boardroom in the DeVos Place.

Tours

Attendees taking part in the tours on Tuesday, August 25th, and Wednesday, August 26, should plan to gather in the hotel's front entrance lobby at 7:45 a.m., as the buses will depart at 8:00 a.m. sharp. A hostess will be present to greet you and check you in for your tour. Admission tickets to the Frederik Gardens and Sculpture Park will be distributed when the tour arrives at the site. Attendees can also plan their own self-guided tours of The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and/or the Grand Rapids Art Museum. These museums with an admission fee are within about a 5- to 10-minute walk from the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

Vehicle Parking

The hotel is offering NCCW guests and attendees discounted overnight self-parking at \$20.00 per night and \$22.00 per night for valet-parking.

Welcome Luncheon

The Welcome Luncheon is open to all attendees and is ticketed. Your ticket will be in the packet you receive at registration. Make plans to learn of Kevin Matthews' true story of hope and the "Broken Mary". The luncheon is in the Ambassador West Ballroom in the hotel.

Welcome to Grand Rapids

Learn about local attractions and things to do in Grand Rapids by checking on this link to Experience Grand Rapids <https://www.experiencegr.com/>