

40th Annual Convention - June 16-21, 2026 - Louisville, Kentucky

Updates and a little more information...

Mark Kubancik, Convention Chairman



As our annual convention gets ever closer, we have a few updates to share. In addition, we've provided some additional details regarding Thursday's tour to and through Kentucky's bourbon capital, Bardstown.

Attention ladies! Shirt and ladies lunch outing news!

It has been brought to our attention that some ladies prefer a V-neck women's convention shirt. You now have that option for a

nominal additional charge of \$2.00 per shirt. Since this offer post-dates the printed registration form, simply note your desire for a V-neck shirt on the women's shirt line and add \$2.00 to the existing ladies' shirt price. We will take care of the rest to deliver you a V-neck shirt. Please note that either ladies' shirt design, V-neck or T-shirt, must be pre-ordered. We will not have extra ladies shirts available for sale at the convention.

A reminder that even if you are unable to attend the 40th convention in person, you can still take part in the ceremonial remembrance by purchasing a convention t-shirt and having it shipped after the convention. The back of the shirt memorializes all prior 39 NDC convention locations, sort of like a music star's tour shirt. See the convention registration form for details on ordering your shirt(s) for delivery post-convention.

1986 Baltimore, MD	2006 Albuquerque, NM
1987 Chicago, IL	2007 Waldorf, MD
1988 Carlsbad, CA	2008 Gettysburg, PA
1989 Detroit, MI	2009 St. Joseph, MI
1990 Winchester, VA	2010 Springfield, IL
1991 Ft. Wayne, IN	2011 Reno, NV
1992 Sacramento, CA	2012 Chattanooga, TN
1993 Dayton, OH	2013 Lake Elmo, MN
1994 Baltimore, MD	2014 Ft. Wayne, IN
1995 Hendersonville, NC	2015 Kalamazoo, MI
1996 Sunnyvale, CA	2016 Timonium, MD
1997 Terre Haute, IN	2017 San Diego, CA
1998 Valley Forge, PA	2018 Branson, MO
1999 Charleston, SC	2019 Hutchinson, KS
2000 Seattle, WA	2020 None - Covid
2001 Bucks County, PA	2021 Brookfield, WI
2002 Rapid City, SD	2022 Altoona, PA
2003 Frankenmuth, MI	2023 Chatham, ON
2004 Akron, OH	2024 New Orleans, LA
2005 Nagawampo-Lake, ON	2025 Akron, OH

will be available for your lunch, drinks, and dessert. Parking is free, and there is plenty of shopping to do too.

Additional details regarding Thursday's driving tour:

We will depart Thursday from the host hotel at 9:00 a.m., moving from the hustle and bustle of suburban Louisville south on US31E, known locally as Bardstown Road, through suburban cities and into neighboring Bullitt County. Once through the exurban city of Mount Washington, US31E opens to a more rural landscape, passing by small farms and quaint century homes. As you enter Nelson County, you will see your first sign of the Bourbon Trail on your right, Heaven Hill Distillery's bourbon warehouse complex.

Several more comfortable cruising miles down US31E, you enter the city of Bardstown, known appropriately as the Bourbon Capital of the World and as America's Most Beautiful Small Town. Not just local hype, Bardstown was chosen as the last stop for the *TODAY Show's* Merriest Main Street series in December 2024, with hundreds of people turning out to celebrate. Following the well-marked US31E route, you will maneuver through Bardstown's historic and picturesque town square. As you turn to head south on US31E, you pass by another stop on the Bourbon Trail, Barton 1792 Distillery, the oldest fully operating distillery in Bardstown.

There is much to do in and around Bardstown, and we'll suggest several options to consider on your return trip. The destination of the day's trip is the small town of New Haven and the Kentucky Railway Museum (KRM). Arriving in New Haven at approximately 10:30 a.m., tour participants will have ample time to explore the small museum and train displays at the KRM, browse the gift shop, and use facilities. Depending on the volunteer staff on duty that day, you may be able to inspect some of the rail cars under repair and refurbishment in the adjacent car barn. The facilities and boarding area of the KRM are accessible-friendly.



Leading to an 11:00 a.m. departure, NDC members will board a vintage air-conditioned passenger train car for the ~30-minute scenic ride to Gethsemane to visit one of the newest stops on the Bourbon Trail, Log Still Distillery. Once at the air-conditioned event center, members will dine on a hot all-you-can-eat barbeque meat sampler buffet with sides, salads, and cobbler for dessert. Following lunch, a representative of Log Still will present information on the history of Log Still and share details of its current products. The sampling bar will then be opened for our adult members, with Log Still products available for purchase. Allowing ample time to explore Log Still, our return trip to the KRM boards at 2:00 p.m.

Upon returning to the KRM, you can spend more time exploring the museum and displays or get in your DeSoto and reverse the morning route on US31E to return to the host hotel. Should you wish, you may want to spend some time touring Bardstown and its many historic offerings, including a small, but well-curated Civil War Museum. Spanning over 8,000 square feet, the museum exhibits depict the conflict between the Union and Confederacy from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi, and from Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico.

Once again, we have arranged a ladies' outing for a lunch and shopping excursion on show day, Saturday, June 20th. Using an organized attendee car pool, we plan to depart the host hotel at 11:00 a.m. and travel east to Simpsonville, Kentucky, to our lunch destination of Little Mount Lavender (LML) (<https://shop.littlemountlavender.com/>). Scroll down at the bottom of the LML home page to find the café menu under the information heading. There will be plenty of time following lunch to visit the various themed rooms in the LML gift shop. Note that if you participate in Wednesday's driving tour to Shelby County, Kentucky, you will notice that we pass by LML twice on our tour.

If your shopping needs are not yet satisfied, after the ladies' lunch, we plan to drive the short distance to The Outlet Shoppes of the Bluegrass. Here you are likely to find your favorite brand's outlet store with bargains galore (<https://www.theoutletshoppesofthebluegrass.com/>).

With the recent addition of this outing, it currently does not appear on the registration form, so if you are interested in participating in this fun event, please contact Cheryl Bianco via phone or text, 410-456-9514, or email, cheche6@me.com. Cheryl will compile an attendee list, organize the carpooling, and send you a confirmation email with details of the outing. In addition, a detailed outing confirmation will be included in your registration materials. All expenses for the outing are self-pay and separate checks



Some may want to stop and quaff a refreshing beverage at the historic Old Talbott Tavern on the town square, operating as a tavern since 1779. Legend says that during King Louis Phillippe's exile, he, his two brothers, and other members of the court, desiring to see the New World, arrived at the Tavern on October 17, 1797. During their stay, one or more of their entourage is believed to have painted the murals which were uncovered in 1927. A dozen or more holes are found in the plaster in the room. Another legend tells us that the bullet holes were left behind by Jesse James. Related to Donnie Pence, then sheriff of Nelson County, it is reported that he had too many drinks in the pub one evening, then went upstairs to sleep it off. He "saw" birds moving in the murals and shot at them, leaving behind the bullet holes we see today.

Others may want to shop at the many unique shops and boutiques on North 3rd Street, aka US31E. There you will also find several places to browse, dine or enjoy ice cream. Another unique attraction, if you desire to spend the time, is the outdoor playhouse located in My Old Kentucky Home State Park located near downtown Bardstown. Home to the Stephen Foster Story, this outdoor musical tells the story of one of America's first commercially successful composers, Stephen Foster. Foster wrote many traditional favorites like "Camptown Races", "Oh! Susanna", and the Commonwealth's official state song, "My Old Kentucky Home", sung before every Kentucky Derby. Visit their website, stephenfoster.com, for ticket information.

So much to do and so little time. Can't pack it all in? Make some notes and plan a return visit to catch Kentucky's "Unbridled Spirit"!

For full convention details, see included registration form and the November-December 2025 DeSoto Adventures or www.desoto.org/events

Gift Basket Raffle & Silent Auction



Many exciting things are being planned for the 2026 convention. As in the previous years, we will continue with the exciting gift basket raffle and silent auction, which will be held in the registration room. Kindly ensure all items are non-perishable and please include a description of the contents and attach it to the front of the basket. If you need assistance in creating your content list, I am happy to assist you. Silent Auction donated items will also be accepted. Please email me if you are planning to donate a basket or silent auction item and then kindly bring your donated items to the registration room, where they will be put on display. Gift basket raffle tickets will go on sale starting on Wednesday, June 17th, and the winners will be announced on Friday, June 19th, at the ice cream social. Winners may collect their items from the registration room until 9 p.m.

50/50 Raffle



Tickets will be on sale in the registration room starting Wednesday, June 17th. Final sales will be held on Saturday, June 20th, and the winner will be drawn and announced at the banquet.

Ladies Best Hat or Fascinator & Men's Best Bow Tie or Tie Contest



Churchill Downs race day, Friday, June 19th! We invite all ladies to join in creating or purchasing a fun and decorative hat or fascinator to wear at the track. Men are also invited to do the same with a creative bow tie or neck tie. Voting will take place during the afternoon lunch at Millionaire's Row and prizes will be awarded. While hats and ties are not mandatory, it is highly recommended and encouraged to wear your Sunday best!



Ladies NDC Pink Shirt & Pink Hat Night



On Friday, June 19th, ladies are invited to wear their NDC pink shirt and hat to the ice cream social for the annual group photo. Ladies pink shirts and hats can be purchased at the club store in the registration room.

Volunteers Please

Please consider volunteering time to assist with the registration room, selling tickets, etc. to help make the 2026 convention a success. Thank you for your interest and we appreciate your support.

If you have any questions, need assistance on any of the above fun events, or would like to volunteer, please contact me at (410) 456-9514 or cheche6@me.com

Thank you, Cheryl Bianco