

The Illinois Surgical Society

Constantine V. Godellas, MD, FACS

Secretary-Treasurer

Loyola University Medical Center

Department of Surgery 110/3245

2160 S. First Avenue

Maywood, Illinois 60153

708-327-2705 (Phone) 708-327-2852 (Fax)

email: cgodellas@lumc.edu



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www.illinoisurgical.org

July 24, 2011

Dear Members,

It's time to start making plans to attend the Society's 2011 Fall Meeting to be held in Makanda, Illinois. Activities begin on Thursday, September 15th and conclude on Saturday, September 17th. Hotel accommodations can be made at The Giant City Lodge, 460 Giant City Lodge Rd, Makanda, IL 62958. Their phone number is (618) 457-4921. A block of rooms have been reserved for the Society, but reservations must be made before August 15th to receive the discounted group rate.

Makanda is located in the southernmost portion of the state. It is easily reached by car. The trip is about 5 hours from Chicago, 3 hours from Springfield, 4.5 hours from Peoria. There is a train which goes to Carbondale which is only about 12 miles from the Lodge. You can make reservations at www.Amtrak.com. I am planning on being on the first train Thursday morning which arrives in Carbondale at 1:45 pm. We are looking in to providing transportation from the train station to the Lodge.

Dr. Mark Schmelzel and Dr. Max Hammer have planned a wonderful program for us which begins on the evening of Thursday September 15th at 5:30pm with a welcome reception for members and spouses/guests. This will take place at the Lodge. There will be appetizers and a cash bar.

On Friday, September 16th, the day will begin with continental breakfast at the Lodge followed at 8:00am with a stimulating series of lectures presented by the faculty of Southern Illinois University Medical Center. In the afternoon, members and spouses/guests can participate in a bus tour of the local wineries, continuing with a trip to Bald Knob, and concluding at a local orchard. A box lunch will be provided. Friday evening there will begin with cocktails at 6:00pm followed by a cookout dinner at 7:00 pm. The Lodge will provide BBQ ribs, baked beans, potato salad, etc. Vegetarian options will also be provided. Please join us for a lovely evening of socializing with old and new friends.

On Saturday, September 17th, the Board of Governors meeting will commence at 7:00 am. Following this, there will be an academic program put on by the members of the society. Lectures begin at 8:00am at the Lodge. There will be a variety of interesting topics with discussion and wrap up scheduled for noon. Please see the preliminary program attached for the lectures scheduled for Friday and Saturday. Saturday afternoon, you are free to explore the area on your own. Dr. Schmelzel has also arranged for golf at Stone Creek, which is 3 miles from the Lodge. (Four tee times for groups of four. Cost is \$42) For those not interested in golf, there is ample opportunity for hiking, canoeing and horseback riding. Saturday evening will be the President's dinner. Again starting at 6:00 pm for cocktails and 7:00 pm for dinner, there will be a family style fried chicken dinner, something that the Lodge is known for, but vegetarian options will also be available.

Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it along with your payment before September 2nd. Remember to contact the hotel prior to this and make travel arrangements on your own.

Drs. Schmelzel and Hammer have coordinated an interesting academic and social program and we hope you can join us for a wonderful time in Makanda, Illinois.

Sincerely,

Constantine V. Godellas, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer