



Urhobo Progress Union America (UPUA)
A Non-Profit Organization (EIN 32-0112808)

2024 Convention Communiqué

To: All Urhobo Progress Union America (UPUA) Members and Guests

From: The Convention Host, the Convention Planning Committee and the UPUA Executive Committee

Date: February 9th 2024

Re: Important Information Regarding the 2024 UPUA Convention in Orlando, FL

At UPUA's Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia in 2023, it was resolved that the 31st Annual Convention of Urhobos in North America will be held during the U.S. Labor Day Weekend (Friday, August 30th - Monday, September 2nd, 2024) and be hosted by the Urhobo Progressive Union of Central Florida (UPUCF). The resolution was confirmed at the 2023 UPUA Convention hosted by Urhobo Association of Georgia.

Convention Theme: [Raising The Urhobo Child in Diaspora](#)

Venue: At the Joint Executive / Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting on August 31st 2023, it was resolved that the 31st UPUA Annual Convention will be held in **Orlando, Florida**.

Important facts about the 2024 UPUA Convention Venue Orlando

Orlando is the center of the Orlando metropolitan area and the sixth-largest metropolitan area in the Southern United States. Orlando enjoys a moderate climate with the weather being typically hot in the months of August and September. Orlando is the economic center of the Orlando metropolitan area and has the 13th busiest airport in the United States. Downtown Orlando is about 21 miles (34 km) or 23 minutes from Walt Disney World Resort or Disney World, the largest theme park in the world. It is about 16 miles from Hilton Orlando. Disney Springs is about 12 miles from Hilton Orlando, Orlando Universal Studios is the second largest tourist attraction site in the Orlando area, and it is about 5.7 miles from Hilton Orlando. The Orlando Museum of Arts and Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts are major cultural centers in Orlando, and it is about 17 miles from Hilton Orlando. The Wheel at ICON Park located along the International Drive is another attraction center to keep you and your family entertained, it is about 2.1 miles from Hilton Orlando. The Orange County Convention Center in Orlando is the second largest convention facility in the United States, and it is about 0.5 miles from Hilton Orlando.

Hilton Orlando is tucked away in the heart of Orlando, centrally located just minutes from International Drive. The hotel is close to several attractions like Fun Spot America Amusement Park and about 4.4 miles from Hilton Orlando, ICON Park is about 2.1 miles from Hilton Orlando, Madame Tussauds Wax Attractions is about 2.1 miles from Hilton Orlando, Magical Midway is about 3.1 miles from Hilton Orlando, Main Event Entertainment is about 1.3 miles from Hilton Orlando, Orlando StarFlyer is about 2.2 miles from Hilton Orlando, Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf is about 2.1

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miles from Hilton Orlando, Ripley's Believe it or Not is about 2.4 miles from Hilton Orlando! WonderWorks is about 1.6 miles from Hilton Orlando, Pointe Orlando is about 1.2 miles from Hilton Orlando, SeaWorld is about 1.7 miles from Hilton Orlando and Aquatica is about 1.3 miles from Hilton Orlando. The Mall at Millenia is about 6.7 miles from Hilton Orlando. There are two premium outlet malls close by; Orlando Outlet Marketplace is about 5.1 miles from Hilton Orlando and Orlando Vineland Premium is about 4.7 miles from Hilton Orlando.

Guest Room Rate & Reservation:

The hotel is offering **\$164.99 as a group rate per room per night and \$244.99 per suite per night (excluding applicable state and local taxes).** The group rate is applicable (3 days before and after the convention) from Tuesday August 27th, 2024 to Wednesday September 4th, 2024. Breakfast will be provided for 200 persons. Parking at the hotel is discounted at \$15.00 per car/per day. Reservations for the event must be made by individual attendees directly with the Orlando Hilton Hotel Reservation at 1-407-313-8400 or use this reservation link <https://book.passkey.com/go/Urhobo>. Please mention Urhobo Progress Union America, or UPUA to get the group rate when calling to make your reservation. Hotel check in is 3:00 p.m. and checkout is 11:00 a.m.

Cut-Off Date for Hotel Reservations at the Group Rate:

The cut-off date for hotel reservations at the group rate is 6.00 PM, Friday, July 26th, 2024. So, please call the hotel as soon as feasible to reserve your room. Please note that a major credit card will be required at the time of your reservation. However, the credit card will not be billed until the end of your stay.

Air Travel Arrangements:

We strongly recommend that you book your flight to Orlando International Airport (MCO). The Orlando International Airport is only 13 miles or 15 minutes' drive from the Hilton Orlando Hotel. It is also recommended that you book your flight immediately to ensure the best deal as airfares will continually rise as we approach the busy Labor Day weekend.

Transportation from Orlando International Airport to Hilton Orlando Hotel:

* Transportation to the Hilton Orlando hotel is available by taxi service from the airport. Attendees with the Uber and Lyft taxi apps on their phones may also utilize these services for their transportation arrangements on arrival at Orlando International Airport (MCO). There are also several rental car services located within the airport that attendees may take advantage of.

If you are driving to Orlando, you may use your Global Positioning System (GPS) or MapQuest. If you need further assistance upon arrival, you may send a text message to Olorogun Evelyn Adjukeghele Ejiogu, the Current President of the Local Chapter at 321-948-3787, or the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chair.

Convention Registration Fees:

The Convention registration fee will be **\$150.00 per person (13 years and above).** The ticket price for **children 3-12 years is \$50.00 per child. Children less than 3 years are free.**

Raffle Draw: Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each. Several fabulous prizes will be won.



All Convention attendees/delegates are expected to register online at <https://upuamerica.org> and pay the Convention registration fee. Payments can also be made online for raffle tickets and Convention brochure advertisements, as well as for the city tour planned for Sunday, September 1st, 2024. **Online registration, purchases, and payments will begin on Wednesday, March 20th, 2024.**

International Convention attendees/delegates who register and pay online will be issued an invitation letter, if requested, for visa purposes. Convention tickets will be issued at the venue of the Convention. The Convention tickets ensures access to all Convention activities beginning on Friday night, such as symposia, Saturday night Convention reception and entertainment, cultural events, Sunday night dinner/gala, as well as a copy of the Convention brochure (adults only).

Payment for Convention registrations, raffle tickets and Convention brochure adverts can also be made to UPUA and through UPUA Chapters by checks, made payable to **Urho Progress Union America**. Checks should be mailed to The UPUA Secretariat at 149 Northland Boulevard, Cincinnati OH 45246, USA.

Deadlines for Receipt of Mailed Payments for the Convention Registration, Raffle Tickets, and Brochure Ads:

Online registration and payments by members or Chapters are highly encouraged. Chapters that choose not to register their members online, but prefer to do so locally, should pay for the registration fees, raffle tickets and adverts by issuing checks and money orders made payable to **Urho Progress Union America** and mailed to The UPUA Secretariat at 149 Northland Boulevard, Cincinnati OH 45246, USA. The first installment from the Chapters for ticket sales must be received **before Friday, July 12th, 2024** second installment must be received **before Friday, August 9th, 2024** **Please do not mail any payments after Friday, August 9th, 2024.**

Convention registration fee/Convention ticket prices will increase by \$35 after Friday, August 2nd, 2024 for online, in-chapter and Convention site registrations/purchases. Please note that no tickets will be available during the Convention or at the gate on Sunday, September 1st, 2024. Remember, tickets are required for admission, and tickets are not refundable.

NOTE:

ALL MEMBERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER AND PAY FOR THE CONVENTION. THOSE WHO PAY FOR CONVENTION BUT DO NOT ATTEND THE CONVENTION SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR PAYMENTS AS CHARITABLE DONATIONS INTENDED TO HELP THE UNION AND THE URHOBO PEOPLE.

ALL MEMBERS SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO SELL/PAY FOR THE RAFFLE TICKETS DISTRIBUTED TO THEM. RAFFLE TICKETS ASSIGNED AND SENT TO THE VARIOUS CHAPTERS ARE NON-RETURNABLE AND NOT REFUNDABLE.



Donations:

The Convention is a fundraising event and donations are encouraged. UPUA Chapters are expected to make their donations before the Convention. Donations, including those from UPUA Chapters can be made online at www.upuamerica.org or by check mailed to **The UPUA Secretariat at 149 Northland Boulevard, Cincinnati OH 45246, USA**. Additional fundraising will take place at the Convention.

Program of Activities

Fun for the Family

In keeping with Article 9.2(i) of the 2004 UPUA Constitution (as amended in 2021), which provides that the annual Convention shall include a program for children and the host (the Urhobo Progressive Union of Central Florida), has put together a family program. Please bring the entire family to enjoy Orlando at this year's Convention.

Broad Outline of Convention Business Activities

Thursday, August 29th, 2024: Arrival of Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Trustees (BOT) members; EC and BOT meetings concurrently at 4:00 P.M. There is a Joint EC and BOT meeting at 7:00 P.M. If you are part of these important meetings, please plan your flight to arrive early to ensure punctuality.

Friday, August 30th, 2024: Arrival of Convention delegates from 4:00 P.M. If necessary, there will be a continuation of the EC and BOT meeting from 10:00 A.M to 3:00 P.M. In addition, there is a Friday night young adults' party from 6:00 P.M to 1:00 A.M. Welcoming of Convention guests and delegates by the host Chapter (Urhobo Progressive Union of Central Florida, UPUCF) will be at 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, August 31st, 2024 (8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.): There will be a General Membership meeting followed by a Symposium. Speeches will be delivered by the keynote speaker(s) and other dignitaries from Nigeria, Europe and North America. Each UPUA Chapter President will make a brief presentation during the General Membership meeting. Furthermore, provision has been made for UPUA young adults and other young adults to meet and brainstorm. For more information on the young Adults'/Professionals programs, please reach out to the President of the UPUA Youth Wing **Mr. Ejiro Gbenedio**.

Saturday, August 31st, 2024 (6:00 P.M. onwards): Reception and entertainment for Convention delegates and guests by the host Chapter.

Sunday, September 1st, 2024 (9:00 A.M. – 10: 30 A.M.): Inter-denominational church service

Sunday, September 1st, 2024 (11:00 A.M – 12: 00 noon): The Election of UPUA President and election of Chairperson of UPUA Board of Trustee, for the January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2026, tenure.

Sunday, September 1st, 2024 (12:00 noon – 4: 00 P.M.): A trip to Disney Springs will be organized by the host for children, family members, Convention delegates, and guests.



Sunday, September 1st, 2024 (6:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.): Gala Night, Cultural Extravaganza and Music/Dinner/Dance, raffle draws and fund raising for UPUA's charitable and community development projects in the U.S. and Nigeria including scholarship awards.

Monday, September 2nd, 2024: Departure of invited guests and Convention delegates.

Note: The above program of activities is subject to change. More detailed information will be communicated to you as preparation for the Convention progresses.

Convention Brochure:

The brochure will be standard 8.5" x 11" size, glossy color (cover & inside) for the most part. However, black & white advertisements will be accepted. This is an excellent opportunity to advertise your business, and for individuals and Chapters to send goodwill messages. Your friends and business associates can also utilize this great opportunity to reach out to a unique audience. Deadline for submission of advertisements is **6.00 PM, Friday, July 26th, 2024**. All advertisements must be paid for in advance before they will be published in the Convention brochure.

Convention Brochure Advertisement Price List (Please submit your advertisement with the form which will be sent by separate e-mail.)

· Inside Front Cover	\$1000.00
· Outside Back Cover	\$2000.00
· Inside Back Cover	\$1000.00
· Full Page	\$250.00
· ½ Page	\$150.00
· ¼ Page	\$100.00

Yours in Service to Urhobo,

Signed:

- ❖ Olorogun (Prince) Dr. Abel Dafiaghor, President, UPU America.
- ❖ Mr. Ovie Fred Okotie, Secretary, UPU America
- ❖ Chief Rume Oputu, Treasurer, UPU America.
- ❖ Mrs. Helen Ogheneyerhowo Irede-Mulbah, Director of Publicity, UPU America.
- ❖ Chief Evelyn Adjkeghele Ejiogu, Current President, UPU Central Florida (UPUCF).
- ❖ Chairman, Local Organizing Committee (LOC) (UPUCF).

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