

February 11, 2020

Dear Luther College Alumni,

The Luther College Black Alumni Association is hosting a **Washington, D.C., Reunion from Tuesday to Sunday, April 21–26**, and it is just around the corner. Make plans NOW to attend! We are seeking your input on important issues that directly impact our current Luther College students of color. In addition, we are going to have some FUN! What a GREAT way to reconnect with former classmates and support one another in our life journeys! We all know tomorrow is not promised, yet sometimes we fail to act in the areas of life that are most important to us – friends, family, relationships, etc. *So come to Washington, D.C., and TOGETHER we can make a difference!*

ACCOMMODATIONS: Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible at the Marriott Courtyard Alexandria Old Town/Southwest located at 2700 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314. Book your group rate for the **Luther College Black Alumni Association Room Block here:**

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1580943313180&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Room reservations can also be made by calling 1-800-321-2211, or (703) 329-2323, and asking for the Luther College Black Alumni Association room block at a rate of \$129.00 per night (plus tax). Our rooms will only be held until Tuesday, March 24th, so make your reservations today! After this date, reservations will be accepted by the hotel based upon availability, and potentially at higher rates. When making your reservations, you must secure the room with a valid credit/debit card. Your credit/debit card will not be charged until the event. You are responsible for your own hotel expenses and any incidentals. **NOTE:** We strongly encourage you to attend for the entire agenda, April 21st – 26th. However, if you can only attend for part of the schedule, please arrive no later than Thursday afternoon, April 23rd.

TRANSPORTATION: Everyone is responsible for their own transportation to Washington, D.C., and to the hotel. There are multiple airport options. Reagan National (DCA) is the closest airport to the hotel (only 25 min. away). If you catch an airfare deal for Washington-Dulles International (IAD) or Baltimore-Washington International (BWI), be aware you will incur additional expenses and much longer travel times to the hotel. Amtrak and Coach Bus are additional alternatives; from Chicago it is approximately 17 hours one way. If you carpool, it is approximately a 12-hour drive from Chicago. *Hotel check-in begins at 3:00 p.m.* You can take an Uber/Lyft to the hotel or take public transportation (Metro/Yellow Line) from the DCA airport and get off at the Eisenhower station. Contact the hotel about its shuttle bus service from this Metro station until 10:45 p.m. (ET). Car rental is another option, if that is more convenient for you.

REGISTRATION: Enclosed you will find registration materials and a schedule of events for the weekend. We are charging a \$150.00 registration fee per person to help cover some of the reunion expenses. Please fill out the enclosed registration form or **go online to register by Tuesday, March 24th** for this event at www.luther.edu/alumni/blackalumni/washingtondc/registration.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT/DONATIONS: We are strongly encouraging ALL of our Black alumni to provide additional financial support for a successful event. In addition to the registration fee, whatever amount you would like to contribute will assist the Luther College Black Alumni Association in supporting Black alumni who otherwise are unable to attend this event due to financial reasons.

If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation, there are two (2) ways to make a contribution. a) complete the enclosed registration form and make your check payable to Luther College and mail it to: Sherry Alcock, Luther College Alumni Office, 700 College Drive, Decorah, IA 52101. Please note in the memo section of your check that it is a contribution to the Luther College Black Alumni Association Washington, D.C., Event. *b)* Call the Alumni Office at 800-225-8664 to make a contribution.

NOTE: If you are reading this and in need of financial support to cover the \$150 fee, please contact me directly, Loretta Dooley Wetzel, at (312) 719-9332. You are still responsible for your own hotel, travel, some meals, and any other expenses you may incur during this event.

We are very excited about this reunion and look forward to continuing to build a strong foundation for the Luther College Black Alumni Association. In addition, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) is a MUST to visit. Even if you've already visited, there is so much history there, that it is worth going again. We are also at the beginning of the Cherry Blossom season. People from across the world travel to Washington, D.C., just to engage in the beauty of it all. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon in Washington, D.C.!

Loretta Dooley Wetzel '80 and Perran Wetzel IV '79

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