

TO ALL ROTARIANS: Several months have past since I originally contacted Amtrak. At that time I was given the following information.

ON TO CHICAGO (AMTRAK)

By law, no groups can be booked before 11 months prior to departure.

There are 2 types of multi-passenger reservations; both must have more than 20 passengers.

#1 GROUP RATE

One ticket is issued to cover the group. A 10% deposit is required (maximum \$ 1000.00) 30 days after booking and the final payment is due 45 days before departure. There is a 10-20 % discount and an additional 10 % for Senior Citizens. The 10-20 % discount depends on availability. This is for coach. Obviously we would be responsible for collecting the money.

#2 CONVENTION RATE

Each person is responsible for calling, booking and paying for his or her own transportation. There is a maximum 10% discount for 20 or more people.

PRICES:

The standard price from Albany to Chicago for a round trip, per person is, \$250.00 highest to \$128.00 lowest, depending on availability. Sleeper Cars -Standard 2-person room, \$ 299.00 highest to \$158.00 lowest or Deluxe-2 person room, \$564.00 highest to \$ 291.00 lowest, both are one way. Discounts apply for a group of 20 or more. Passenger s in-groups are allowed 3 checked bags of less than 50 pounds each and 2 carry-ons.

Cancellation Penalties:

45 to 30 days before departure 10 %

29 to 15 days 25 %

14 to 8 days 50 %

7 or less, there is NO REFUND

You must have a Photo ID issued by a government agency.

Since that time I have been given different information which I confirmed today June 10, 2004. There have been so many letters of applications for the Group Rate (Prior to the 11 months before departure rule) Amtrak has decided to not honor 80 to 90 percent of them. Therefore the only remaining option is the Convention Rate.

Amtrak has set up a Special Convention Fare Code (X36D-919) for Rotarians only. This means each Rotarian is responsible for calling, booking and paying for his or her own ticket. This will be for a "Guaranteed Seat" but not a "Reserved Seat". There will be a 10% discount or a 15% Senior Citizen Discount, but not both. For all stations that accept checked bags (not all stations accept checked bags) all ticket holders are allowed three (3) checked bags weighing less than 50 pounds each and two (2) carry-ons.

The following are the rules and regulations for making reservations with Amtrak.

Registration for going to Chicago opens July 18, 2004. However, registration for returning home does not open until July 24, 2004. This meets with the 11-month departure rule. After July 24, 2004 you will be able to book both going to Chicago and returning home.

The Special Amtrak Convention Fare Code has been activated for any and all trains in the USA from June 14, 2005 through June 26, 2005. The offer is valid with Sleepers, Business Class or First Class Seats, with payment of the full applicable accommodation charges.

To Book your Amtrak Registration call: 1-800-872-7245 or call your local Travel Agent. Always refer to the Convention Fare Code X36D-919.