



Greetings California Rainbow Alumni and Past Grand Officers,

Let me start by briefly introducing myself. My name is Melissa Nicks and I am your Director of Alumni and Past Grand Officers. I am a majority member of San Bernardino Assembly #78, and a Past Grand Officer from 2004 and 2005. My Rainbow memories began well before my initiation at Grand Assembly in 1997 as both of my older sisters were Rainbow Girls since very early on in my life. I have so many Rainbow memories that I cherish dearly and credit much of my success and accomplishments to the lessons I learned during my Rainbow years. I currently reside in Riverside, CA and work for the Peace Corps as a recruiter. I am so excited to serve as your Grand Director and continue to work with CA Rainbow in helping support and grow our alumni presence.

I would like to personally invite you to Ontario, CA for the

2019 Winter Solstice: All That Glitters and Snows Grand Assembly Sessions.

Sessions will be held from April 6-9, 2019 at the Ontario Convention Center.

This year we ask for your grace and patience as we navigate and learn as we go. There will be quite a few advantages and differences being at the Ontario Convention Center. Change can be hard at times but we are so excited to support our Motivating Macaws on the Grand Floor.

Below you will find a breakdown of changes and how to register for Grand Assembly 2019. Please note that all registration forms are available on the www.gocarainbow.org website. **The deadline for registration is March 1, 2019.**

Meals: All luncheons, vendors, and ceremonies will take place within the convention center making it convenient to get from place to place between sessions. There will be concession stands with boxed lunches and food available for purchase in the convention center should you not be attending a luncheon between sessions.

Housing: Hotels are all centrally located around the convention center making transportation much easier and quicker. The convention center is approximately 6 minutes away from the Ontario International Airport, should you choose to fly in for sessions and most hotels provide an airport shuttle. Please refer to the housing form posted on the website and register through the link provided. You will be selecting and making your own reservations through this website. If you have any issues you can always reach out to the Ontario Convention Center via their contact details on the housing form. Please select a hotel listed on the website as we have to fill a quota at each of these hotels and if we do not meet those quotas Grand Assembly will be charged an additional fee.

Past Grand Officer and Alumni Luncheon: Our luncheon formerly known as the “Past Grand Officer Luncheon” will now be open to include all CA Rainbow Alumni. We each have valuable input and a love for this great organization. We will still highlight reunion years and welcome the most recent alumni and PGOs to the group. I have chosen this year’s luncheon to be a brainstorming session focusing on rebuilding, collaboration, and finding ways to support the current members of this beautiful order. I have many ideas and am sure you all do as well. This will be the first of many opportunities to share them. I ask that you please register to attend.

Seating: One of the biggest changes we will see at Grand Assembly in Ontario is the disappearance of seating located in the West. All Alumni are welcome to join us in a designated location in the Northwest to the left of Grand Charity. There will be a seating chart posted. If you would like to sit with your Assembly, please contact your Mother Advisor to arrange this. The convention center will be bringing in risers with stadium seating. Access to these seats will only be available from the Grand Floor, so we ask that you please commit to attending the entire session to eliminate movement in the Grand Assembly Room as well as distraction. Having a smaller venue will make the Grand Assembly Room feel much more intimate and full.

Arctic After Party: This year we will be changing up the Saturday night party/carnival and will be taking it outdoors to the convention center parking lot. There will be eight food trucks brought in to buy food, a DJ with a dance floor, as well as our beloved BINGO! Tickets are \$20 and each participant will receive a coupon to purchase some food from the food trucks. Please take note that you cannot buy food from the food trucks unless you have a ticket/wristband for the party. If you are not planning to go, maybe you’d consider buying a ticket to donate to support a girl in need.

Coffee: The Ontario Convention Center sells Illy coffee on site and prohibits anyone bringing in Starbucks or other coffee cups. If you are needing coffee and are a diehard for your Starbucks or local coffee shop, I would recommend bringing a reusable tumbler or purchasing one through the vendors.

Past Grand Officer Escort: Past Grand Officer Escort will take place Sunday morning as usual. Instead of hanging out and lining up in the hallway outside the Grand Assembly Room, we will be staging and lining up in room 107ABC in the convention center. This will help eliminate the echo and noise into the Grand Assembly Room.

Grand Service Project and Donations: Year after year, I find many Alumni and PGOs at Grand Assembly wondering where and how they could have donated to the Grand Service Project or the Alumni Fund. Please download the donation form on the website for instructions on how to do this. This year I am challenging all Alumni to commit to a personal pledge and send those pledges to me for the total to be announced at Grand Assembly. There may be a donation bucket at Grand Assembly should you choose to donate there or at escort. All donations can be mailed to me at the address specified on the donation page. A great way I collected donations last year from my Grand years,

was to have my sister Grand Officers send me their donations and I then wrote a check and gave it to the Grand Director to add to the total.

Volunteering: We are always looking for help and in need of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the following, please reach out to their point of contact as listed below:

- Grand Assembly Guards and Security- You can download the form and mail it in or contact Chairperson Rob Meyer at sac1kings@yahoo.com
- Nurses and First Aid Helpers- You can download the form and mail it in or contact Karen Richardson at karen0008@sbcglobal.net
- Rainbow Dress and Fabric Sale Closet Cleanout- We are planning to do this Saturday, Feb 16th before Hannah's reception. Please contact Bernice Trickett at beedragonlady@hotmail.com
- Rainbow Dress Sale and Fabric Sales- You can download these forms and mail it in or contact Denise Trickett at beedragonlady@hotmail.com
- Sew & Show- Want to volunteer to judge? Contact Sissy Pitts at grandmasissy4@sbcglobal.net
- Arts & Crafts- Want to volunteer to judge? Contact Michelle Fong at penguinlady4jesus@juno.com

Souvenir Pot of Gold Edition: You can purchase your souvenir edition on your Grand Assembly registration form. You can also purchase your 2019 Pot of Gold Subscription by downloading the form from the website.

Historians Yearbook: The California Rainbow Foundation is selling yearbooks again this year! The yearbook is a bound, printed memory book that contains all of CA Rainbow's memories from the 2018-2019 Grand Year. They will be available for preorder at the GWA's reception for \$25 and will be available for purchase at Grand Assembly for \$30. The order form is available on the website as well.

California Rainbow for Girls Foundation- Please consider purchasing a 2019 limited edition Lanyard and commemorative pin to help support California Rainbow. Please visit the www.gocarainbow.org website for additional details.

I so look forward to connecting with so many of you at Grand Assembly and am here should you have any questions.

All my Glittery and Wintery Llove,

Melissa Nicks

Grand Director of Alumni and Past Grand Officers
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in California