

**White House Fellows Regional Conference
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
Grand Rapids, Michigan
April 12-13, 2018**

Conference Folders for all participants who have register by March 20, 2018, will be mailed out in advance so you have an opportunity to read the materials before you arrive at the conference. Please bring the folder with you if you would like to have it available during the conference as we will only have a limited number available at the Museum for late-registrants.

Nametags: We will provide you with your nametag when you arrive at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel for the reception on April 12, 2017, or on the morning of April 13, 2018 for any Friday-only participants.

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Venue: The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 187 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Attire: Business

White House Fellows (WHFs) and their guests travel to Grand Rapids, Michigan and check-in to local area hotels. Note: The WHFFA has reserved rooms at a discounted rate at three hotels near the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, including: the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, the JW Marriott, and the Holiday Inn (all at different price-points). All three hotels are within walking distance of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. For those staying at other hotels, or who live in the local area, please plan to arrive by the start-times shown below.

6:00pm: Cocktail Reception in the East Concourse of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

- The East Concourse is at the top of the grand staircase, just outside the Gerald R. Ford Ballroom
- Conference Participants may pick up their nametags when they arrive at the East Concourse

7:00pm: Dinner in the Gerald R. Ford Ballroom of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

- Keynote Speaker: The Honorable **Paul H. O'Neill** who served as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget during the administration of President Ford, and later as Secretary of the Treasury during the George W. Bush administration (Confirmed)

9:00pm: Dinner concludes

Friday, April 13, 2018

Venue: The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, 303 Pearl St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Attire: Business Casual

7:50am: Conference Attendees depart area hotels to arrive at the Museum in time for breakfast, which we be served from 8:00am to 9:00am. Note: The Museum is directly across the river from the Amway Grand and the JW Marriott Hotels (approximately a 7 minute walk). For those staying at the Holiday Inn, the Museum is across the street (approximately a 4 minute walk).

8:00am: Breakfast in the Main Lobby of the Museum

- Just prior to 9:00am we will enter the Museum Auditorium, which is at the north end of the Main Lobby

9:00am: Welcome Remarks by **Elaine Didier**, Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum (Confirmed)

9:15am: The Honorable **Carla A. Hills**, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development during the Ford administration; who also served as the U.S. Trade Representative during the George H.W. Bush administration. (Confirmed)

- o Introduced by **Judy Rosenstreich** (1976-77) (Confirmed)

10:30am Break

10:40am **Dr. Roger Porter** (1974-75): Assessing President Ford as a Political Leader (Confirmed)

11:20am **Mr. Joe Calvaruso**, Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation: Insights on the Process of Honoring a President's Legacy (Confirmed)

11:50pm Break

12:00pm Plated Luncheon in the DeVos Learning Center

- Luncheon Speaker: **TBD** (Possibly Tom DeFrank, the journalist who wrote the book "Write It When I'm Gone")

1:00pm Break

1:10pm Tour Museum Exhibits

- 2:10pm Return to the Auditorium for afternoon speakers and panels
- 2:15pm Panel: **“Assessing the Ford Administration’s Foreign Policy”**
Moderated by **Dr. Les Denend** (1974-75) (Confirmed)
- Panelists:
 - **Dr. Randy Jayne** (1973-74) (Confirmed)
 - **Mr. Al Zapanta** (1973-74) (Confirmed)
- 3:10pm Break
- 3:20pm Panel: **“Assessing Gerald Ford’s Economic and Domestic Policy”**
Moderated by **Dr. Roger Porter** (1974-75) (Confirmed)
- Panelists:
 - **Dr. Percy Pierre** (1969-70) (Confirmed)
 - **Dr. Gil Omenn** (1973-74) (Confirmed)
 - **Dr. Don Haider** (1976-77) (Confirmed)
- 4:15pm Break
- 4:25pm **Mr. Don Holloway**, Curator of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum: On the Centennial Exhibit Honoring First Lady Betty Ford (Confirmed)
- 5:00pm Reception in the Main Lobby of the Museum
Note: The exhibits upstairs will remain open during our reception until 6:30pm; however, all food and drink must remain downstairs in the main lobby.
- 6:30pm Conference Concludes
- 7:00pm: Multiple dinners at restaurants near the Museum for “1-table” conversations

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Optional Trip to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan: As you may know, the Ford Presidential Museum and Library are located in different cities, 135 miles apart. The Director has offered to open the Library on Saturday afternoon (April 14, 2018) if some of our conferees want to make the journey to Ann Arbor. Please note: The Library contains the Gerald R. Ford Presidential archives and it is a research facility (i.e. there are no exhibits to view in Ann Arbor). That said, if some WHFs would like to drive the 135 miles to Ann Arbor on Saturday morning, April 14, 2018, the Director would be willing to open the archives for those WHFs who are interested. There is no registration cost associated with visiting the Library in Ann Arbor.

For those conferees who are not planning to journey to Ann Arbor, they will be free to depart Grand Rapids on Friday evening or Saturday morning, as they prefer.