

What We're Working on @ HQ

February, 2021

Mid-Year meeting-The mid-year meeting is this **Saturday, March 6th at 11:00 am EST**. It will be a Zoom meeting with details sent out on Tuesday. Given our current email issues, if you do not receive the Zoom info by Tuesday at noon, please text Mike at 859-221-5525 to let him know. This is typically an in person meeting in Louisville, which lasts all day from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. With our agenda, we hope to be finished by 1:15. The agenda for the business portion of the meeting has been shared with all chapters and chapter directors. We have confirmed with Amy from GKTW that she will be joining our call, after the business meeting, to provide an update on GKTW safety protocols and an exciting opportunity to expand the experience GKTW provides to our children and families!! In addition, there will be a very important discussion during the business meeting concerning the convention in September.

If you have not provided the name of the person representing your chapter at the meeting, please send that information to Mike asap. We need every chapter to have a rep on the call.

Chapter/Volunteer Shout outs-Congrats to both Rochester and Kansas City. Both have developed relationships with a local brewery to brew, can, name and distribute a beer in honor of their respective Dream Factory chapters. Chapters all across the country continue to innovate and find ways to make dreams happen.

Convention 2021-The National Convention is scheduled for September 24-25 in Louisville. At the mid-year meeting, we will be discussing the convention and information needed in order to make the decision on whether or not to have the convention in person.

Opening Up Dreams Again document-The document titled, Opening Up Dreams Again, has been updated regularly and available to all chapters in the volunteer section of the website. Please be sure to use this document as a reference as we move forward with dreams, either those dreams that have been postponed or the newly-planned dreams. As long as all the guidelines are followed, chapters are able (and encouraged) to grant dreams! If you have any questions about this document, or dreams in general, email tommie.kendall@dreamfactoryinc.org.

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**DREAM
FACTORY**

Orlando dreams-Nationals continues to work closely with Give Kids The World, the Holiday Inn Resort Waterpark and the Sunshine Foundation, along with staying up-to-date on the Orlando area theme parks. We're happy to report that GKTW is now open and accepting reservations for the rest of 2021 at a limited capacity and following strict COVID guidelines. Review the Opening Up Dreams Again document for more details. Both the Holiday Inn Resort Waterpark and the Sunshine Foundation Village are closed and opening dates have been announced. Nationals does have an Orlando condo that might be available at a reduced rate if needed.

Postponed/Future Dreams-There were numerous dreams that were postponed during 2020, and many more that were in progress but were delayed. Nationals is continuing to work closely with chapters about proceeding with these dreams. We're excited to help our chapters grant these in 2021! For all canceled flights, make certain to call the airlines with the cancelation number – each voucher due to a canceled flight has an expiration date and can only be used for that specific traveler. Additionally, if a dream was postponed due to COVID, and during this time the dream child turned 19, then your chapter can vote for an exception to our 3-18 age policy, under those circumstances only.

Age Policy-This is a reminder of our age policy. All dreams must be completed prior to the child turning 19. This means the application must be received, the child screened, the dream approved, AND the dream completed prior to the child turning 19. The only exception to this policy is if it is medically necessary to postpone a dream. An example of this is if a dream is already planned but an unexpected medical complication caused the dream to be postponed – for this situation, the dream would need to be completed as soon as possible once medically cleared. As it relates to COVID, if COVID caused the dream to be postponed (as in the dream would have happened if not for COVID), then an exception to our age policy can be granted, as well. Make certain your chapter board discusses AND votes to approve each of these exceptions, and document in your chapter minutes.

Do COVID-related illnesses qualify for a dream?-At this time, COVID-related illnesses do not qualify for a dream. This includes the diagnosis of Multi System Inflammatory Syndrome. If more research indicates this leads to a chronic condition, then we will reevaluate.

GKTW-GKTW is now open to reservations for the rest of 2021! For the remainder of the year, the Village will operate on 15% capacity (25 Villas at a time) and are only allowing check-ins on Sundays and check-outs on Saturdays. Also, it was recently announced that GKTW families are now receiving 3-Day WDW tickets, 1-Day tickets to each Universal Studios and Seaworld, and tickets to the smaller parks, as well. All of these updates have been added to the Opening Up Dreams Again document, which is available in the volunteer section of our website.

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Reminder-All checks require 2 signatures. This policy was adopted many years ago and is an item the auditors look for every year. This can be a challenge during Covid, so if this is proving to be a challenge, contact HQ and we will work together to develop a strategy to insure there are 2 signatures on every check.

Website-Our website is being used by Nationals and numerous chapters. Make certain your chapter is updating its website. If you need the website training document, it's available in the volunteer section. If you need your chapter's specific password, reach out to Nationals. Make certain all volunteers have access to the volunteer section using password 1234. This is to access important documents/forms/training material. Also, the online forms, including Referral, Volunteer and Contact Us forms, are being sent directly to the corresponding chapter once completed.

Annual Report-Nationals is in the process of developing our 2020 Annual Report. This should be available in early spring. If you have any dream stories or pictures for consideration to be featured in the report, email those to tommie.kendall@dreamfactoryinc.org.

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