

2025 TFGC Convention Report for TFGC Board East Ridge Community Center, Anne Leonard Co-chair January 27,2025

This convention is going to be extra special. "Happy Anniversaries TFGC."

Have you ever been to the Read House Hotel? Have you seen it since the renovation? I was the chairman of the 2018 TFGC convention which was scheduled to be at the Read House but the 27 million dollar renovation was not completed in time. We had to change horses in the middle of the stream and move down to the nearby Weston, but all went well.

Now we get to be at the Read House...at last. This is how they describe it:

"At our historic Chattanooga hotel, we specialize in 1920s splendor while catering to modern tastes. The Read House is a dazzling Jazz-era gem with the trappings of a new hotel. Our 241-room historic getaway boasts soaring lobby ceilings, dramatic chandeliers, checkered floors and gleaming wood-clad walls."

It will be a one of a kind experience to stay at the premiere luxury hotel, established in 1872, to celebrate the 1926 formation of TFGC which happened at the same location. It's like coming home.

You will be coming home to anniversary celebrations at each meal.

A festive 1920's meet and greet in our private hospitality room will welcome early attendees with wine and nibbles Monday evening.

Breakfasts will be on your own, although coffee, juice and muffins will be available in the hospitality room. A Starbucks is down the hall on the first floor.

Tuesday's luncheon will focus on our 25th or Silver Anniversary which happened in 1951. President Denise is sponsoring our featured speaker Margot Shaw, Flower magazine's founder and editor-in-chief. This 1950's themed meal will even feature door prizes from the 50's.

That evening's banquet will be the 1970's themed Golden Anniversary (which was actually in 1976). This will be the awards banquet where State Awards Chairman Debbie Shaver will shower winners with ribbons and occasional checks. Also club presidents decked out in "flower power" sunglasses will parade before us. Seventies fashions are encouraged and again, vintage doorprizes featured.

Wednesday's design luncheon celebrates the TFGC's 75th or Diamond Anniversary (actual date 2001). Among the diamond bling our floral designer will create stunning centerpieces for special occasions. No need to buy anything fancy for this meal. Just wear something that has been in your closet for 24 years. If it still fits, congratulations.

With TFGC's 100th anniversary just one year away, Wednesday evening's "All That Bling" banquet will celebrate the future of TFGC with the installation of the 2025-2027 administration. There will probably be tears and hugs all around.

On a practical note, as everyone is aware, prices for events like these have increased dramatically everywhere. We have worked hard to keep the fees reasonable. While the room rentals and price of meals are obvious costs, the rental for the dining room and meeting rooms setups and program printing plus the skyrocketing price for the necessary audio-visual equipment and operator have affected our bottom line.

This convention is not a fundraiser. Our goal is to break even. We ask you to do your part in making this extraordinary experience a financial success by registering for the whole convention and encouraging your club to buy ads for the program booklet.

We may never stay at a more beautiful historic hotel. The Read House is where TFGC's history was made and I just want us all to enjoy ourselves and make the most of this unique opportunity.