National Meetings Registration Team Is Getting Ready For YOU!

What’s the first thing you do when you arrive at a USPS Governing Board Meeting? You check in to your hotel room and then search for the USPS registration booth. You look for the program book with the week’s agenda and pick up your tickets for all the events that you have previously reserved on the USPS registration Web site.

The registration team is a loyal, dedicated and hardworking team that consists of Richard Frenz, Gretchen Clark, Mary Pierpont and me. We arrive at the hotel the Sunday before all the scheduled activities begin because some tasks can only be accomplished on site when all final details are known. Before tickets can be printed, many hours of planning need to take place. Examples are coordinating with the hotel staff and Board of Directors, establishing room diagrams and layouts, finalizing table assignments, ensuring special dietary requirements will be met, developing event lists, and solving numerous unforeseen problems. With only three days and long hours, the registration team has a lot to accomplish prior to opening the booth on Wednesday morning.

Implementation of the new registration fee will start with the Pittsburgh Governing Board meeting, and special name badges for those who paid the fee will be issued at the registration booth. So the lines at the registration booth may be a little longer than in the past. The team asks that you be patient with us as we work through each person’s questions and requests. Please plan ahead, so you can stop by registration and not be in a rush before or during breaks in your seminars and meetings.

Please remember that you and the registration team are all dedicated volunteers. Help make our job easier by making your reservations online prior to your arrival. (From the USPS home page, log into the member site. Click on the National Meetings button at the bottom of the left-hand menu to reach the Meetings & Events page, and click the links you need.) Thank you. We look forward to welcoming you in Pittsburgh.

Stf/C Arlene M. Anderson, AP
Registrar, National Meetings Committee
Our D/7 committee is huge, with many members contributing. There are too many to list but we all are waiting for you in Pittsburgh. The above photos are of members who met at the Sheraton Station Square in April to continue preparing for USPS visitors. Here are Jane and Bob Brandenstein, Margo Holmes, Tom McFate, Susan Harris, Marjie Stark, Judy Esposito, Lynda Leque, Wayne and Barb Spraggins, Eileen Rickard, and Liz Glassell waving a welcome. Photo credit: Don Stark.

If you look closely, you’ll see the riverboat in the background. It is the site of the Thursday dinner cruise. Many of us are wearing the black T-shirts we had made for our D/7 Conference to promote the Governing Board meeting. In August, check us out in gold.

We are tending to every detail so that you have a wonderful time in our town. The tours will be wonderful—with a historic, sport or adult-beverage focus. They will be fun. We have pulled in many local squadron folks for entertainment. Look for Bob Brandenstein’s 16-piece Big Band at the dinner dance with help from several USPS friends. We are highlighting the International Melting Pot of Pittsburgh at the social luncheon with hostesses in costume and international dolls (created by Liana Mihalca) as centerpieces. A local group of youth dancers will provide entertainment that continues the theme. The hotel is conveniently located to many restaurants and the view from the top of the hill adjoining the hotel is breathtaking. You just have to come and take it all in. We are waiting for you. Come and join us for a productive and fun Governing Board meeting in Pittsburgh, 21-28 August.

D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN
What to Wear

**Sunday, 21 August through Thursday, 25 August**

USPS casual or appropriate attire

**Thursday evening:** Appropriate attire

**Friday, 26 August**

- **Day:** Uniform T, USPS blazer with tie, open-collar or USPS polo shirt, or appropriate attire
- **Evening:** No official functions

**Saturday, 27 August**

- **Day:** Uniform G
  - **Men:** Regulation short-sleeve white shirt with black trousers, or appropriate attire
  - **Women:** Regulation short-sleeve white blouse with black skirt or slacks, or appropriate attire
- **Evening:**
  - **Men:** Blazer with tie or appropriate attire
  - **Women:** Appropriate attire

Meeting Agenda

The detailed Meeting Agenda is available on the National Meetings website, and updates will be posted as they are available.

There are no official functions from Sunday, 21 August through Wednesday, 24 August. The American Heart Association will offer First Aid and CPR/AED training on Wednesday, 24 August (pre-registration required).

**Thursday, 25 August,** is devoted to committee meetings. You are welcome to attend and participate in all open sessions. No advance registration is required.

**Friday, 26 August,** is devoted to department meetings, free seminars, and exhibits. If you are a first-timer, you will be invited to enjoy a special reception Friday evening.

**Saturday, 27 August,** is the day of the official Governing Board Meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are authorized to vote, please be sure to pick up your voting card before this session.

Visit the Ship’s Store!

Find what you need—and more!—at the Ship’s Store. It will be open 0745-1600 Thursday, 0900-1600 Friday, and 0745-1000 Saturday. Stop by and check out our special Uniform Ts and see what else is new!

Uniform T, USPS polo shirts and accessories are available from the USPS Ship’s Store.

USPS blazers and Uniform G shirts are available from Commodore Uniform.
Hotel & Transportation FAQs

The Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel on Station Square is located at 300 W Station Square Drive, just south of the Monongahela River. The hotel is 18 miles (25 minutes via I-376 W) miles from the airport and is Pittsburgh’s only river-front hotel.

SuperShuttle and ExecuCar offer transportation to/from the airport (see box). Several car rental agencies are represented at the airport. Avis and Budget offer USPS member benefit discounts (see next page), and Enterprise offers car delivery and pick-up at the Sheraton.

Sheraton Rates/Check In/Check Out
1. What is the deadline for discounted hotel rates? The Sheraton has provided a block of rooms for our Governing Board meeting at $129/night, plus tax. This rate is available through 13 July, provided rooms are still available.
2. What are the check-in/check-out times at the Sheraton? Check in starts at 1500, and check out is by 1200. Early check in and late check out can be requested when making online reservations and will be accommodated, if possible.

Hotel Parking, Taxis, Hotel Shuttle
3. How much does it cost to park at the hotel? Self parking for guests with stay-long in/out privileges is $25/night. If you plan to leave your car in the garage throughout your stay, the rate is $23/night.
4. Where can I hail a taxi? Taxis are available on Station Square; however, experienced Pittsburghers advise that many are looking for airport fares. UBER service is readily available. Use the app on your phone, or ask the front desk to assist you.
5. Does the Sheraton have a shuttle service? The Sheraton offers a complimentary shuttle service that runs 0630-2200, on the half hour, within a 1.5-mile radius from the hotel.

Transportation To/From Pittsburgh International Airport
SuperShuttle offers 10-person van transportation between Pittsburgh International Airport and the Sheraton.
- Reservations made at www.supershuttle.com or on your Apple or Android mobile app are $24/pp (one way), $46/pp (round trip).
- Reservations made by phone (800-258-3826) are $27/pp (one way), $52/pp (round trip).
- Discounts have been arranged for our group. When making your reservation, use discount code AAAEC for $2 off (one way) and $4 off (round trip). For the round-trip price and USPS $4 discount, both legs of the trip must be booked at the same time.

ExecuCar Black Car Service is available for groups of individuals and small groups.
Reservations made at www.ExecuCar.com or on your Apple or Android mobile app are:
- 1-3 people: $63 (one way), $121 (round trip)
- 4-6 people: $89 (one way), $173 (round trip).
Reservations made by phone (800-410-4444) are:
- 1-3 people: $66 (one way), $127 (round trip)
- 4-6 people: $92 (one way), $179 (round trip).
Discounts have been arranged for our group. When making your reservation, use (the same) AAAEC discount code for $5 off (one way) and $10 (round trip). For the round-trip price and USPS $10 discount, both legs of the trip must be booked at the same time.
Rental Car Information

The best way to reserve your Avis or Budget rental car is from the Member Benefits page on the USPS website. From USPS’s home page, sign in as a member, click on Member Site, and navigate to Member Benefits Committee in the Administrative Department.

For Avis, save up to 25% when making a reservation with Avis Worldwide Discount number B291028.

For Budget, save up to 25% off Budget base rates using Budget Customer Discount number R198128.

Your Member Benefits Committee is working for you!

Our Corporate Sponsors

Boat U.S. Foundation

BRUNSWICK GENUINE INGENUITY

McGRIFF, SEIBELS & WILLIAMS

SEA TOW

For information about these sponsors, see:

- Boat U.S. Foundation
- Brunswick Corporation
- McGRIFF, SEIBELS & WILLIAMS
- SeaTow

Stop by their tables in Pittsburgh to greet them and thank them for their support!
Hotel Amenities & Services

6. Is Wi-Fi available? Complimentary Wi-Fi access is available in all guest rooms and in the lobby area.

7. Are handicap accessible guest rooms available? Yes, the Sheraton has many ADA-compliant rooms. When you make your online reservation, you can indicate that you need an accessible room. Rooms feature roll-in showers or bath tubs with grab bars, visual fire alarms, portable communication kits, mobility-accessible doors with at least 32 inches of clear door width, portable tub seats, TTY (text telephone devices) and closed-caption televisions for the hearing impaired. Complimentary wheelchair-accessible transportation is available in public spaces. The Concierge desk is at your service for ambulatory aids, or call 412-261-2000.

8. Do rooms have refrigerators and microwave ovens? Rooms have refrigerators and coffee makers. There is a microwave available in the lobby for guest use.

9. May I bring my pet? The Sheraton is a pet-friendly hotel, adjacent to many trails for walking and exploring the city. There is a 50-pound weight limit, and guests will need to sign a Dog Waiver upon check-in. For more information, contact the hotel.

10. What kind of recreational facilities does the Sheraton offer? The hotel’s indoor, heated swimming pool and whirlpool are open year-round, 0530-2200 daily. The Sheraton’s fully equipped fitness center is also open daily and features a wide range of weight machines and cardio equipment. Check with the front desk for early or late workouts.
Business Services

11. How can I send packages to/from the Sheraton? Packages can be sent to the hotel in anticipation of your arrival and sent to/from the hotel during your stay. Incoming packages should be sent to the hotel’s main address (300 W Station Square Drive). You may have them delivered to your room by contacting the front desk. Use the Link@Sheraton services in the lobby to send packages from the hotel. FedEx shipping supplies are available at the front desk.

12. Does the Sheraton have guest computers? Visit the Link@Sheraton in the lobby, which offers remote printing and complimentary high-speed internet access.

13. Is there an Office Depot/Office Max store nearby? These are 9-12 miles from the hotel; however, there is a Rite Aid pharmacy at 201 Grace Street that carries office supplies that is 1.7 miles from the hotel on the same side of the river. The concierge may also be able to assist you.

Grocery and Other Nearby Shopping

14. Where is the nearest shopping? Grocery shopping at the Giant Eagle is conveniently just a mile away, and you may wish to take the Sheraton’s shuttle to get there and back.

15. What is available at Station Square? Station Square is Pittsburgh’s #1 tourist destination and its main nightlife and restaurant area. It has nearly 50 businesses. From places to grab a quick bite, bars and full-service restaurants to retail stores that offer fashion, fitness and beauty products and services, gifts and books, outdoor activities and more, you’re sure to find something you’ll enjoy. StationSquare.com provides detailed information about each of these and our June newsletter will provide more information about near-by dining.

Concierge Services

The Sheraton’s Concierge Desk is available to assist you with local activities, attractions, tickets, tours, directions, and any other inquiries you may have. Please call the front desk and your call will be transferred to the concierge on duty.

Photo credits: Page 2—Don Stark, Page 5—VisitPittsburgh.com, Page 6 & 7—Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel on Station Square, Page 8—Planetware.com, Page 10—The Ensign magazine.
Keynote Address

James C. Roddey
Firm Director, Baker Tilly

Plan to join us for breakfast on Friday, 26 August, for fellowship and our keynote speaker’s two-part address. Learn how three major rivers—the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers—created the city of Pittsburgh and how those waterways continue to be important to the city’s future. Enjoy stories from our speaker’s extensive boating career: his first boat at age 10, his 25 years of racing sailboats (of which 7 years were spent sailing with Ted Turner) and his experience living on a vintage 1929 motor yacht.

Activities registration >> Get further information and reserve online at USPS.org/php/reservations. $10 surcharge for reservations made at the hotel.

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**Tuesday, 23 Aug.**

**America the Beautiful Tour, 0815-1700**
Visit the handicap-accessible Flight 93 National Memorial Park, followed by lunch at the Oakhurst Tea Room in Somerset. Next, tour the house and grounds of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Fallingwater. Wear comfortable footwear as the tour involves much walking and standing. Only the first floor is wheelchair accessible, but a 3-D video tour is available in the visitor center.

**Quantity** @ $85 by 13 July, $95 after **Total**

**MLB Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Houston Astros, 1900-2500**
Join us as the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Houston Astros at the handicap-accessible PNC Park. Travel to and from the ballpark via the Gateway Clever Fleet Shuttle boats (fare included). Shuttle service begins two hours before the game; return shuttles run from the bottom of the seventh until 30 minutes after the game. A $10 food and beverage voucher is included.

**Quantity** @ $50 by 13 July, $60 after **Total**

**Wednesday, 24 Aug.**

**Pittsburgh Treasures Tour, 0900-1500**
Tour the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Room, the Heinz Chapel, and the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Tour includes a $10 voucher for lunch at Cafe Phipps. After lunch, spend the afternoon at the Frick Art & Historical Center.

**Quantity** @ $85 by 13 July, $95 after **Total**

**City of Champions: Sports History Tour, 0900-1530**
Visit Heinz Field, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the University of Pittsburgh football teams. Learn what makes Pittsburgh the City of Champions! Get behind-the-scenes look into the FedEx Great Hall, luxury suites, press box, field level, Steelers locker room and more. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Jerome Bettis Grille.

**Quantity** @ $65 by 13 July, $75 after **Total**

**Lights, Camera, Action Pittsburgh Tour, 1300-1600**
Pittsburgh is the Hollywood of the East, where movies and film crews abound. Explore the city through a tour of various movie locations such as “The Dark Knight Rises,” “The Perks of Being a Wallflower,” “Flashdance,” “Duck Dodgers” and dozens more. Includes lunch at a local restaurant.

**Quantity** @ $35 by 13 July, $45 after **Total**

**Thursday, 25 Aug.**

**Steel City Sampler: A Rust Belt Culinary Tour, 0900-1300**
Visit a renovated church hall, a modernized wine bar and other revamped treasures to savor the region’s rich culinary heritage as well as its trendy Rust Belt cuisine. This four-hour tour provides enough food for a meal as well as other surprises.

**Quantity** @ $75 by 13 July, $85 after **Total**

**Department Luncheons, 1215-1345**

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**D/Cs and DKO Luncheon, 1215-1345**

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**Dinner Cruise on Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers, 1900-2200**
Join USPS friends for a dinner cruise on Pittsburgh’s three rivers with entertainment by the Pittsburgh All Stars.

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**Friday, 26 Aug.**

**Keynote Breakfast, 0730-0900**
Kick off the meeting with breakfast and a keynote address.

**Quantity** @ $38 by 13 July, $48 after **Total**

**Wendell August Forge Tour, 0930-1700**
Visit the Wendell August flagship store, factory and headquarters in SpringField Township. The 52,000-square-foot facility includes a history center and offers factory tours. The company pioneered the production of hammered aluminum giftware. Lunch at either My Brother’s Place Restaurant or the Iron Bridge Inn. After lunch, stop and shop at the Grove City Premium Outlet Mall.

**Quantity** @ $85 by 13 July, $95 after **Total**

**Executive Department Luncheon, 1215-1345**

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**Saturday, 27 Aug.**

**Social Reception and Luncheon, Go International, 1130-1400**
Celebrate Pittsburgh’s multicultural heritage with entertainment by the Junior Tanzmusikanten of South Hills international dancers.

**Quantity** @ $40 by 13 July, $50 after **Total**

**Members Reception and Luncheon, 1215-1345**

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**Change of Watch Banquet, 1830-2200**
Dine and dance to the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Dance Band.

**Quantity** @ $65 by 13 July, $78 after **Total**

**Meals Discount Packages**

**Meads Package M**
Includes Friday Breakfast, Saturday Members Luncheon and Banquet.

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**Meads Package S**
Includes Friday Breakfast, Saturday Social Luncheon and Banquet.

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Total packages or tickets amount due $________
Registration fee $35 per person $________
Total amount due $________

For RV information, visit USPS.org/IC/highwaymariners.

*Required unless otherwise noted during the Saturday 13th meeting. Activity reservations must be secured or postmarked by 10 Aug. Prior to 10 Aug, only online registrations will be accepted. Refund requests made after 10 Aug. will be honored only if the tickets are resold. All tickets must be picked up at the member activities registration area no later than two hours before the event, except for Social Luncheon, Members Luncheon and Banquet tickets, which must be picked up by 1000 Saturday, 27 Aug. Agenda and additional details may be found at USPS.org/PITBMEETINGS.
Your National Meetings Committee is looking forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh and helping you have a great Governing Board meeting experience during official meetings, organized tours and activities and your free time in our host city.

If you have registered already, thank you! If not, I encourage you to take advantage of early bird discounts by making your meeting reservations by 13 July 2016. Our special room price ($129 plus tax per night) will be honored as long as there are rooms available in our block. As we went to press, over 75% had been reserved already. Avoid disappointment: Make your reservation today for your hotel room, and also register for activities and meals. If you experience any issues with the hotel, call me at 516-375-9710 or email me at rholub@optonline.net.

Thank you for being a USPS member and for helping to make the water a better place. I look forward to seeing you soon.

R/C Bob Holub, SN, National Meetings Committee Chair

Perfect Pittsburgh

Come for the Boating Education...
Stay for the Friends℠