

2016 REUNION

Traditionally...it's time for an East Coast Reunion in 2016. Anyone with a potential site should start gathering information to bring to the 2014 Dallas Reunion. If you are interested in putting together a presentation but, not sure what to include we have listed a few guidelines. Feel free to contact us and we'll give you some guidelines. As usual, the next Reunion destination will be determined at the Business Meeting held on Saturday, Sep 6th at this year's reunion.

Considerations for Reunion Destination

1. Hotel should have at least 225 rooms
2. Hotel "comp" policy...how many rooms have to be sold to earn 1 free
3. Extra rooms needed: 1.) Hospitality Room (capacity at least 150 + display tables) 2.) Ships Store
4. Banquet Facility capabilities to serve 500 people
5. Hotel Parking – Is their plenty of parking for members driving in as well as rental cars. Does it have RV parking? Is there a daily fee to park? We like "free"...don't need the added expense of daily \$\$\$ for parking.
6. Airport friendly? (a.) Is this city a Southwest/Jet Blue Airlines destination? (cheaper airfares are usually available when Southwest/Jet Blue etc. fly into that city) (b) How many miles is hotel from airport (c) Taxi and/or shuttle prices reasonable)
7. Does Hotel offer Courtesy Airport Shuttle?
8. Venues for the group to enjoy? Military connection? Usually try and do a "City Tour" and 1 other event outside the hotel.

The Committee should keep in mind that Reunions are to be completely self-supporting. Any costs incurred during a particular function or event is normally included in the registration fees. Other events identified during the reunion such as tours, shuttles and banquet are usually self sustaining as well. Payment for support from a site coordinator or concierge would increase the registration fees for members. Concierge services were not done in Portland, Charleston, Nashville or Reno. Most of your larger hotels will offer "free" shuttles to areas within a couple miles from the hotel. Concierge services and fees should be the sole responsibility of the member and they should make their own arrangements.

Based upon our last two reunions, hotel should have minimum of 225 rooms, banquet facilities for at least 500, and facilities for our hospitality room and ships store. If hotel shuttle is not available, transportation costs to and from hotel should be reasonable. There should be adequate parking for autos, and possibly RV's. Shopping and restaurants within walking distance is always a plus. It is always possible to use other properties (hotels) in the area to supplement the primary hotel as well if reunion reservations exceed anticipated attendance.

Just remember...in deciding on a site, you might pay a lower hotel rate, but airfare into that city and transportation/shuttle to the hotel needs to be considered. It needs to be in an area that is very accessible to surrounding restaurants, shopping, etc. Easy to get to and even walkable to certain restaurants, etc

If you have any questions about a particular hotel or concerns if it would be a good reunion property, give us a call at 619-838-0985 (Gary's cell) "or" 619-838-0985 (Barb's cell)

Good Luck
Gary & Barb Ely