

## **National Convention Site Visit – Buffalo, NY**

**5-7 April, 2018**

### **Hotels**

The Hyatt Regency is full. Refrigerators are in all rooms. Microwaves and rollaway beds are available free upon request. There is a restaurant on site. The free convention breakfasts will be held in an upper level room in the hotel daily. There are many eating and drinking establishments across from the hotel and within easy walking distance.

Scooters and medical equipment rentals are available. Pre-arrangements are a must! See the website ([www.2018mclnationalconvention.com](http://www.2018mclnationalconvention.com)).

Embassy Suites is full.

Holiday Inn Express still has about 30 rooms available.

### **Parking**

The City of Buffalo (Visit Buffalo/Niagara Visitor's Center) is covering the cost of all parking in the designated parking lot/deck, so parking will be at no cost to our membership.

Free parking begins on Thursday, August 9 and ends on Saturday, August 18. Attendees should unload at hotel and then proceed to the parking ramp, choice of two parking garages. Attendees will be given a card with a bar code (QR card) when registering at hotel. Free in and out privileges. Keep card until final departure.

Embassy Suites also has free parking and guests should request the QR card when registering. Those staying at Holiday Inn Express must go to the Regency Hyatt to get the QR card. They will need to show their Holiday Inn Express room key to obtain the card. For those staying at other hotels, the cost will be \$7.50 per day weekdays and \$7.00 per day on weekends. There will be a higher charge past Saturday.

Valet parking at Hyatt Regency is \$25.00 per day.

### **Airport/Transportation**

There will be a Military Courtesy room at the airport. Check in there as soon as you arrive. Transportation to the hotel may be provided, depending upon arrival day and time.

Uber is also an option. The local Convention Committee is working on transporting attendees from the airport to the hotel for approximately \$20-25. They have not confirmed that yet.

### **Early Bird**

Will be held on Sunday, August 12 at 1600 at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park. The event will not be held on the fantail of the USS Sullivan as planned due to safety and

accessibility issues. It will be held under tents near the ship. The ship will be open for anyone wishing to tour it.

### **Free Trolley**

There is a free trolley that can be reached only 1/2 block from hotel (handicapped-accessible) which can take you to many eating establishments within a few blocks of the Hyatt Regency.

### **Convention Center**

- There is a very large exhibitor area on the main floor (street level) where displays will be set up (MCL Foundation, Military Historical Tours, MODD Lucky Dog, etc.)
- All League, Auxiliary and MODD meetings will be held in the Convention Center directly across the street from the Hyatt Regency.
- There is an indoor walkway that crosses over the street which can also be used. There is an elevator to access it. The Convention Center is totally handicapped-accessible.
- The meeting rooms are all very spacious. The Devil Dogs will have four rooms available for use with separate entrance and exit doors, all in one hallway.
- Jeanette Geise (the sewing lady) will be set up in the room that PDDs will register in. Advancing Dogs who are registering in a separate room should be told where she is so that they can have patches sewn on.
- One of the rooms will be available for initiation activities.
- Since the Convention Center has food and beverage service available, they request that no food or drinks be brought in; therefore, no coffee pot will be allowed in the Dog House unless the MODD wants to pay for it to be provided by them.
- Keys to the MODD rooms will be issued by National Convention Chairman Greg Hunt. All keys must be returned directly to him.

For further and updated information, visit the local National Convention website at: [www.2018mclnationalconvention.com](http://www.2018mclnationalconvention.com).

You may also contact the Web Sgt., Jeffrey Smith at [jdsmith1945@gmail.com](mailto:jdsmith1945@gmail.com). There is also a lot of information in the most recent issue of the Semper Fi magazine on page 13.

C.O. Smith, MODD Liaison  
National Convention Committee