

General Convention Information for Portsmouth NH, September 19- September 21, 2023

There will be information when you arrive that will help you plan your visit. Portsmouth is a wonderful, walking town. Strawberry Banke is right near the dock for the Gundalow and is the historic centerpiece of the city. Kittery ME, right across the Piscataqua River, is filled with outlet shopping. Great seafood wherever you look and lots of things to see and do.

Travel to Portsmouth

The largest airport nearby is Logan Airport in Boston (BOS). It is served by all major carriers. The rental car agencies are also there. You can get to Portsmouth in an hour and a half on the C&J Bus. It is highly recommended. The bus stops at each of the terminals at 10 passed the hour. You need to go online to buy your ticket (\$26) one way. The bus will bring you close to the hotel but to a commuter lot. You need to call one of us for a pickup. Details will be provided closer to the event.

Manchester NH Airport (MHT) is an hour away but has no public transport. The rental cars are there as well. Stay tuned as there may be someone to bring you to Portsmouth from MHT.

Hotel – If you know that you will attend, **please make your hotel room reservation early** – we can easily

add rooms to our block if they are available, with no penalty if we don't use the rooms. Fall is tourist season in NH.

Best Western Plus Portsmouth Hotel and Suites, 580 US Hwy 1 Bypass

You **must** book your room **ONLINE** to get the Convention Rate and for ARCOA to get credit!

Hotlink for hotel reservations: [American Red Cross Overseas Association Annual Meeting](#)

Note that this reservation link defaults to the **5 nights** for which the rate is valid – checking in on Sunday Sep 17th and departing Friday Sep 22nd. Use the **EDIT** at top right to change to the nights that you want.

Rooms: 1 King Bed or 2 Queen Beds; \$169/night (at current state tax rate, total cost is \$ 183.37/night)

ADA Compliant Rooms: make your reservation online, then email Mark Woolley: mwool@jhmus.com

Deadline for room reservations is August 15, 2023. You must cancel at least 10 days before your arrival. Your reservation is considered “pre-paid” and will be charged on Sep 7th. The hotel cannot split the room charge for shared rooms. Your confirmation email will show a summary of the charge, so you will know the split cost.

Pat Rowan is willing to help you make the online reservation if you find it difficult.

512-335-6329 and prowan@austin.rr.com

Check in is 4pm, out is 11am. We have a Hospitality Room all day on the 19th, 20th, and 21st if you arrive early.

The Roundabout Diner is attached to the hotel. It has a bar lounge and great diner food. Breakfast is available there. The center of Portsmouth is a 1.4 mile walk from the hotel.

Parking at the hotel is free.

Schedule – Business Meetings Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Gundalow – Wednesday – 4:30-6:30 pm

This is a two-hour cruise (think Gillian's Island)! The boat, a special design for the work it had to accomplish in the marshy low water of Portsmouth Harbor, meets ADA guidelines. We will provide a few refreshments. The Gundalow can carry 46 passengers.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard – Thursday afternoon – time to be determined

This is a sign-up event in that they have elevated security and need to know who, as well as how many, will attend. We need to collect at one point to enter as a group. If you think you want to participate in this tour, we need the following information, IN ADVANCE: Name (best if it matches your driver's license name), address, citizenship status. If you decide not to go on the tour, no problem, but going on the tour will require this information at least a week in advance. The shipyard will provide a bus with a pickup at our hotel. We do not have a start time yet but, the tour will take 1½-2 hours.

Banquet – Thursday evening – 5:00-8:00 pm

The banquet is booked at the Service Credit Union Building in Portsmouth. It is a beautiful building, and we are being hosted by SCU for the banquet. We have contracted with a bus to take us to and from the event. Be aware that SCU is honoring us by giving us this whole evening without cost to us....except for the bus and cash bar. Make your entrée selection on the registration form. The SCU has been incredibly generous; please be sure to express your thanks to their representatives who will welcome us and join us for dinner. They are excited to honor us and our service.

Weather

It's New England. September can be hot and humid or cold and rainy. Let's hope for something in between! Fall is lovely but be prepared to have a jacket or sweater when the sun goes down. Best you check your favorite weather website as we get closer.

The Planning Committee really hopes you will take advantage of all that is planned and sign up!! It's all about reconnecting with old friends and meeting new.

Convention Registration may be made on [www.arcoa.org / News / Events](http://www.arcoa.org/News/Events) after April 1, 2023. (The webmistress is having fun traveling!)

If you need to do a paper registration, the Registration Form and Check should be mailed by Aug 15th to:

Ronald A. Stockdreher – ARCOA 2023
1424 N. LBJ Drive
San Marcos TX 78666