

Accessibility Information for Annual Meetings

AAR members with disabilities or any attendees who may have difficulty getting around the meeting are encouraged to note this during registration. AAR will make every reasonable attempt to accommodate you, whether by arranging services such as sign language interpreters, assigning accessible hotel room space, or through the AAR's taxi reimbursement policy. Please contact Soraya Shahrak, Associate Director of Meetings, at SShahrak@aarweb.org if you have any questions.

Getting Around the 2013 Annual Meeting

Access to and between the Convention Center and Main Hotels

AAR and SBL sessions will primarily be held in four main locations—the Convention Center and three adjacent hotels: the Hilton Convention Center, the Sheraton Inner Harbor, and the Hyatt Regency. These three hotels are all connected to the Convention Center and to one another via a wheelchair accessible Skybridge, which runs between the second floor of the hotels and the Convention Center. The Skybridge connects with the Convention Center between the 200/300 levels from the Hilton, so attendees will need to take the elevator or stairs up or down to the 300 level, where sessions will be held. Note that the Skybridge is closed when sessions are not in the Convention Center, 8 p.m.–6 a.m., although there is an extended closing Sunday at 10:30 p.m.

Distances within and between Buildings

The Hilton is 1000 feet long from the east side of the building to the west side. The Skybridge from the Hilton to the Convention Center is 291 feet. The Convention Center is 1000 feet long, from the east side to the west side of the building. The Skybridge from the Convention Center to the Hyatt is 720 feet long. The Skybridge from the Convention Center to the Sheraton Inner Harbor is 434 feet. The skywalk distances include the ramps, rather than walking down the stairs.

Shuttle Service between the Convention Center and Other Hotels

AAR has arranged for shuttle service between the Convention Center and other area hotels. The shuttle routes and schedule is available here:

http://www.aarweb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Annual_Meeting/2013/2013ShuttleFlyer.pdf.

ADA Mini Shuttle

An ADA Mini Shuttle will be available on an on-call basis, whenever the standard shuttle is in operation. Please call the Transportation Desk at **410-649-6118** at least 30 minutes prior to your desired pick up time to arrange for service. Pickups can be arranged as far in advance as you know your schedule. The Transportation Desk will be staffed Friday through Monday, 7 a.m.–7

p.m., with a break in the afternoons when the shuttles aren't running, and 7 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Tuesday. A staff member will also be available to answer the phone after hours, until the shuttles stop running for the night.

Wheelchair or Electric Scooter Rental

Attendees who wish to rent a wheelchair or electric scooter for use during the Annual Meeting are welcome to contact one of the following providers to arrange for service:

[Aronson Medical & Respiratory](#) is \$250 including rental and delivery, must be paid in advance. Questions: 1-443-460-1700.

[Scoot Around America](#) is \$245 for the rental with \$70 delivery. Questions: 1-888-441-7575.

If enough people are interested in this service, starting in 2014, we might be able to make a group reservation, thus lowering the cost of the rental. Look for details next year!

Taxi Reimbursement

In the case that shuttle service is not adequate to meet an attendee's physical needs in navigating official Annual Meeting locations, AAR will reimburse the attendee the cost of making alternative arrangements (i.e., a private taxi). To receive the reimbursement, please submit all taxi receipts with a letter detailing the nature of your physical disability and the Annual Meeting locations that were inaccessible. Only travel between official Annual Meeting locations (i.e., hotels and convention center) will be covered. Questions may be directed to SShahrak@aarweb.org.

Annual Meeting Program Accessibility

ASL Interpreter Services

AAR provides interpreter services for attendees who request ASL interpretation in advance of the meeting. To request interpreter service, contact AAR at annualmeeting@aarweb.org **no later than September 1** to ensure that AAR has sufficient time to arrange for appropriate interpreters. If members inform AAR about their anticipated attendance at particular sessions, AAR staff will coordinate with presenters and session presiders to secure advance copies of papers for interpreters.

Assisted Listening System

The Baltimore Convention Center is equipped with an assisted listening system. AAR will provide receivers to attendees who request them in advance. If you would like to make use of this service, please email Soraya Shahrak at SShahrak@aarweb.org **by November 15**.

Assisted listening services will be available in Convention Center 317, which is designated for sessions sponsored by the Religion and Disability Studies Group and the Committee on the Status of People with Disabilities. Advance notice is needed to provide assistive listening device support in other convention center rooms. If you would like to use the system, please provide Soraya with a schedule of sessions and their room numbers as soon as possible so that the technology can be set up in advance for the sessions.

Materials in Alternative Format

Attendees who need materials in alternative formats should contact the presenters directly. If you need contact information, please email annualmeeting@aarweb.org. If members inform AAR about their needs and their anticipated attendance at particular sessions, AAR staff will do their best to coordinate with presenters and session presiders to facilitate the availability of handouts or other session materials in alternative formats.

Accessibility for Presenters

The room format at AAR sessions commonly includes a podium with a microphone designed for standing presentations. Most session rooms are flat, but Convention Center Rooms 307-308 and 301-302 have a riser for the head table. Rooms 303 and 313 have a tiered head table with half on the floor and then the rest on a riser. Presenters who need an alternative format (such as a tabletop microphone or podium) or who anticipate a problem with the riser should contact annualmeeting@aarweb.org to arrange for appropriate presentation technology.

Designated Room for Religion and Disability Studies Group Sessions

AAR has scheduled all sessions sponsored/co-sponsored by the Religion and Disability Studies Group and the AAR Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession Committee in the same room at the Convention Center, #317.

Employment Center Accessibility

AAR is committed to maximizing accessibility for employers and job seekers who are making use of the Employment Center. AAR can arrange for a quiet booth, to minimize noise or distraction from adjacent booths, or may be able to arrange for a private interview room if space is available. If you need a quiet room or have other accessibility needs, please contact careers@aarsbl.org.

Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession Committee

In 2013, AAR established a [Committee on the Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession \(PWD\)](#), which works to assure the full access of people with disabilities within the Academy and to advance their status within the profession. PWD will be having an open forum at the annual meeting on Sunday from 1–2:30 p.m., in Convention Center 317. We encourage interested members to join us for conversation.

Additional Information about Accessibility in Baltimore

BWI Airport:

<http://www.bwiairport.com/en/service/disability>

Maryland Transit Administration:

<http://mta.maryland.gov/content/accessibility>

Accessible Taxi:

<http://www.accessibledispatch.com/2013/03/baltimore-adds-wheelchair-accessible-taxis-to-city-fleet/>

The Convention Center:

<http://www.bccenter.org/index.php?target=64>

Mayor's Commission on

Disabilities: <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/BoardsandCommissions/Disabilities.aspx>

Baltimore Eats:

<http://www.baltimoreeats.com/guide.php>

Baltimore Museum of Art:

<https://www.artbma.org/visit/accessibility.html>

Baltimore Aquarium:

<http://www.aqua.org/visit/baltimore/~~/media/Files/AccessibilityGuide2013.pdf>