

## Getting Around the 2014 Annual Meeting, San Diego

### Primary Meeting Location

AAR and SBL sessions will be held in two locations—the San Diego Convention Center and the Hilton Bayfront. The Employment Center will be located in the Grand Hyatt. Additional meetings and receptions will be held in the Marriott Marquis & Marina and the Omni Hotel.

### Distances within and between Buildings

The primary meeting hotels occupy just over a mile-long stretch along the San Diego Bay. The distances correspond with the map below, along East Harbor Drive.

Grand Hyatt (A) to Marriott Marquis & Marina (B) – 0.3 miles

Marriott Marquis & Marina (B) to the first door of the Convention Center (C) – 0.2 miles

The Convention Center is 0.36 miles long and 304 feet wide. (C) to (D)

The last door of the Convention Center (D) to the Hilton (E) – 0.2 miles



There are two ways to move to and from point (A) and point (E)—on the Boardwalk by the Bay or the sidewalk along West Harbor Drive. Both routes are wheelchair accessible, over flat terrain on a smooth concrete surface. The Boardwalk is a slightly longer distance, but offers a wider passage than the city sidewalk.

Attendees can enter the Convention Center via the multiple main entrances on West Harbor Drive, or from a side entrance near the Hilton Bayfront. There is **NO** entry to the Convention Center from the Boardwalk along the Bay. To get from the Marriott Marquis & Marina to the Convention Center on side (C), you must use West Harbor Drive. There is an accessible ramp on this side as well.

### No Shuttle Service between the Convention Center and Other Hotels

Unlike previous years, there will **NOT** be AAR shuttles available to any conference attendee.

### Taxi Reimbursement

For attendees with mobility limitations, AAR will reimburse you for the cost of a private taxi or ride-share service to travel between official AAR meeting locations. To receive the reimbursement, please submit all 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 [SShaharak@aarweb.org](mailto:SShaharak@aarweb.org).

## 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 the following provider to arrange for service:

**Alternative Mobility** (<http://alternativemobility.net/home.html>) is offering attendees a special rate for the Annual Meeting. Please be sure to tell them that you are with the AAR & SBL. Manual wheelchairs are \$75 for your entire visit and power chairs are \$150. Alternative Mobility will deliver the wheelchair or scooter to your hotel the night before you arrive and will pick up the scooter from the front desk at your hotel once you depart. **Please call Alternative Mobility at 619-427-2525 to make individual arrangements.** They suggest that you make your reservation as soon as possible to ensure availability.

## 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](mailto: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

We can equip any room in the Convention Center or the Hilton Bayfront 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](mailto:SShahrak@aarweb.org) **by November 14.**

Assisted listening services will be available in Convention Center 26, 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 us 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](mailto: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. Convention Center Room 20D has a riser for the head table. The rest of the head tables will be on the floor. 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](mailto:annualmeeting@aarweb.org) to arrange for appropriate presentation technology.

### Meeting Room Accessibility

All sessions at the AAR are accessible to attendees using wheelchairs. Meeting room chairs will be arranged to ensure two open spaces for attendees using wheelchairs.

## Designated Room for Religion and Disability Studies Group Sessions

AAR has scheduled all sessions sponsored/cosponsored 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, #26.

## Sighted Guide or Mobility Assistance

Attendees who need a sighted guide or other mobility assistance to navigate the annual meeting should email Soraya Shahrak at [SShahrak@aarweb.org](mailto:SShahrak@aarweb.org) by **November 14**.

## Volunteer to Assist Your Colleagues

Are you able to devote a few hours of your time at the annual meeting to assist a colleague? Please contact Soraya Shahrak at [SShahrak@aarweb.org](mailto:SShahrak@aarweb.org) if you are able to serve as a sighted guide or to provide mobility assistance during a portion of the meeting.

## 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](mailto:careers@aarsbl.org) by October 27 so that we can adequately accommodate you.

## 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. This year, the PWD Committee will sponsor two special topics forums:

- “Negotiating Disclosure” on Sunday 9–11:30 a.m. in Convention Center 26, cosponsored with the Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Committee and the Status of Women in the Profession Committee
- “Invisible Disabilities and Hidden Illnesses in the Academy: Fostering Cultures of Accessibility” on Monday 9–11:30 a.m., cosponsored with the Theological Education Committee

The committee will also host a luncheon, “Connecting Conversations,” on Monday 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. in Convention Center 6C, immediately after the session on “Invisible Disabilities and Hidden Illnesses.”

Registration for the lunch costs \$13 and is limited to 100 people. Advanced registration is required and can be done while you are registering online. If you have already completed registration, contact [reg@aarweb.org](mailto:reg@aarweb.org).

## Additional Information about Accessibility in San Diego

**City of San Diego Accessible Travel Guide**, including information on accessible tours, beach wheelchairs, accessible performing arts, and accessible shopping:

<http://www.sandiego.org/plan-your-trip/travel-guides/accessible-traveling.aspx>

**San Diego International Airport:**

[http://www.san.org/sdia/passenger\\_services/accessibility.aspx](http://www.san.org/sdia/passenger_services/accessibility.aspx)

**Metropolitan Transit System:**

<http://www.sdmts.com/MTS/accessibility.asp>