

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, as well as on the housing section of registration if applicable. 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 & SBL's taxi reimbursement policy. Please contact Soraya Shahrak, Associate Director of Meetings, at SShahrak@aarweb.org if you have any questions.

Getting to the 2015 Annual Meeting, Atlanta

MARTA – Rapid Transit Train

The MARTA Station is located directly in the airport and is easily accessible. Tickets can be purchased as you enter the station (\$2.50 fare, one-way plus \$1 card charge). The MARTA station at the airport has a staffed kiosk, as well as accessible ticket machines. The elevator at the MARTA station is in the center of the platform. Trains have wheelchair seating available. Trains provide station information via audio announcements and via visual message boards.

Take the MARTA train to the Peachtree Center Station. (All trains departing from the airport go to Peachtree Center Station.) Once you reach the station, there is an elevator to Peachtree Street that is left of the platform. That will bring you to roughly 218 Peachtree Street (to the right of Jalapeño Charlie's). The Hyatt Regency entrance is 1.5 blocks north, and across John Portman Blvd.

More detailed information can be found here: <https://www.aarweb.org/annual-meeting/hotels-and-local-transportation-information>.

Getting Around the Annual Meeting

Primary Meeting Location

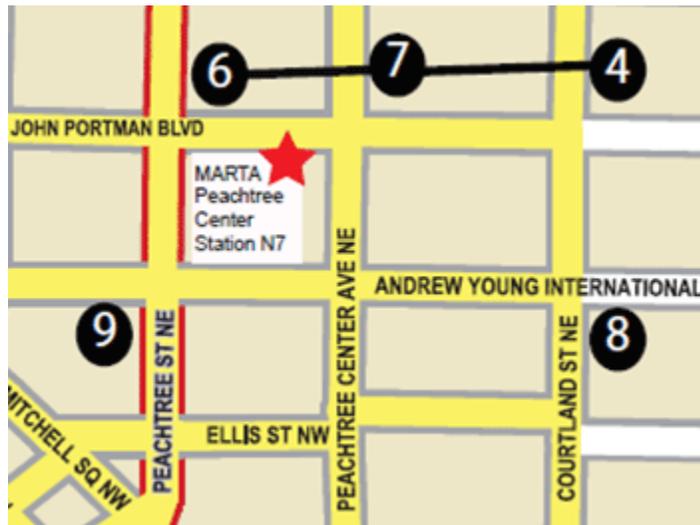
AAR and SBL sessions will be held in three locations—the Hyatt Regency, the Marriott Marquis, and the Hilton Downtown. The Employment Center will be located in the Sheraton Downtown. Additional meetings and receptions will be held in the Sheraton Downtown and the Westin Peachtree Plaza.

The Hyatt, Marriott, and Hilton are all connected via a wheelchair accessible Skybridge. The Skybridge connects the Hyatt #6 (Lobby Level) to the Marriott #7 (Atrium Level). The Marriott (Marquis Level) then connects with the Hilton #4 (Second Floor). At the Marriott, the Skybridges are on different levels; the Atrium Level is two floors up from the Marquis Level. The Skybridge from the Hyatt to the Marriott is 130 feet long, and the Marriott to Hilton is 158 feet long.

The most accessible way to get to the Westin #9 is from the Hyatt #6. You'll exit the front doors and travel south, crossing John Portman Blvd. and Andrew Young International Blvd. Once you have crossed Andrew Young, cross Peachtree St. and continue west to the accessible entrance just past the loading docks. (The street becomes quite hilly just beyond the accessible entrance.)

The most accessible way to get to the Sheraton #8 is from the Hilton #4. There is an accessible ramp on the first floor to the left (if standing inside, looking outside the main doors) by the gift store. Travel south on Courtland and cross Andrew Young. Once you have crossed the street, take a left on Andrew Young and look for the accessible entrance to the left of the UPS Store. (The main entrance, located on Courtland, is also accessible. However, it has a steeper ramp and sidewalk access is somewhat impeded by tree roots.)

In general, roads running north and south tend to be relatively level, but roads that are east and west often have steep hills. Attendees might want to plan their routes accordingly.



No Shuttle Service between the Convention Center and Other Hotels

AAR no longer provides shuttle bus service at the annual meeting.

Taxi Reimbursement

AAR & SBL will reimburse attendees with disabilities for the cost of a private taxi or ride-share service to travel between official AAR meeting locations, if needed. To receive the reimbursement, please submit all receipts with a letter detailing the nature of your disability, your departure point, and your destination. Only travel between official Annual Meeting locations (i.e., hotels and convention center) will be covered. Questions may be directed to SShahrak@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:

Atlanta Scooter Rentals (<http://atlantascooterrentals.net>) is offering attendees a special rate for the Annual Meeting. Please be sure to tell them that you are with the AAR & SBL to get \$5 off your reservation. Manual wheelchairs are \$125 for your entire visit. Rates for renting an electric scooter vary, depending on length of your stay. Please click the link for details: <http://atlantascooterrentals.net/1213195.html>. Atlanta Scooter Rentals will deliver the wheelchair or scooter to your hotel and will pick up the scooter from the front desk at your hotel once you depart. **Please call Atlanta Scooter Rentals at 770-309-3699 to make individual arrangements.** They suggest that you make your reservation as soon as possible to ensure availability.

Onsite Accessibility Issues

Should you encounter an accessibility issue at the Annual Meeting, please notify the hotel's front desk so they can get the issue resolved. You may also report the problem at the AAR & SBL Registration Desk (located in the Hyatt Regency) or email reg@aarweb.org.

Food at the Annual Meeting

During weekdays, two underground food courts provide fast and inexpensive meal options for attendees during business hours. The SunTrust Food Court can be accessed via an indoor walkway in between the Marriott Marquis Atrium Level and the Hyatt Lobby Level. Access is fully accessible via wheelchair. The Hyatt is connected by an indoor walkway to the Mall at Peachtree Center. The Hyatt walkway is NOT accessible; to

use this path, you must navigate three steps. There is an alternate accessible but circuitous route that leads from the Hyatt, through the Marriott, and back around to the Mall.

Accessible Dining Guide

Warm thanks and KUDOS to the Emory Disability Studies Initiative, particularly Sam Van Horn and an awesome team of undergraduates, who created this accessible restaurant guide: http://disstudies.org/downloads/FINALSDS_uDSI_AccessibilityAssessment%20with%20OCR.pdf. Please confirm the restaurant hours with them prior to making plans, as hours of operation and other details are subject to change.

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

We can equip any room in the Marriott Marquis 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 14**.

Assisted listening services will be available in Marriott Marquis A707, the room 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 Marriott 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.

Accessible Presentations

AAR encourages all presenters and presiders to make their presentations fully accessible to attendees with disabilities. The following guidelines suggest best practices for accessible presentations: <https://www.aarweb.org/annual-meeting/guidelines-for-accessible-presentations>.

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. The Hyatt Regency Ballroom and the Marriott Marquis Ballroom AB have 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 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 Marriott Marquis, A707.

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 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 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 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:

- “Disability Justice and Racial Justice: Intersections and Imperatives,” Monday 9–11:30 a.m. in Marriott Marquis A707, cosponsored with the Status of LGBTIQ, Racial and Ethnic Minorities, and the Status of Women in the Profession Committees
- “Cultivating Cultures of Accessibility in the Academy and the Classroom: An Interactive Workshop with Margaret Price,” Tuesday 9–11:30 a.m., Marriott Marquis A707

The committee will also host a luncheon, “Connecting Conversations,” on Monday 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. in the Marriott’s Room A703, immediately after the session on “Disability Justice and Racial Justice.”

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.