

Prepare for the Great Minnesota Get Together USGS Retirees' Reunion 2018

Hotel and Transportation from airport

The Reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza AiRE, near both airports (Terminals 1 or 2)
The Hotel address is: 3 Appletree Square (Interstate I-494 & 34th Avenue South), Bloomington, MN 55425. The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport includes two terminals located across Interstate 494 from the Hotel. The Crowne Plaza AiRE Hotel operates a shuttle to and from Airport Terminals 1 and 2. Follow the signs from the baggage claim to shuttle transportation for Terminal 1. From Terminal 2 (Humphrey), one must call the Hotel for shuttle pickup. Taxi cabs and rental cars also are available at the terminals. **Free self-parking** is available at a structure near the hotel—obtain a parking pass from the Hotel registration desk. If you want to upgrade room beds from double size, try requesting that when you register at the hotel desk.

Weather and general information about the Twin Cities Area

The Twin Cities area is a great place to visit in early September, temperatures average in the low 70s during the afternoon and in the low 50s at night. Of course, temperatures can vary greatly from that. The average rainfall for September is about 3 inches. Go to <https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=44.8211&lon=-93.3055#.W5FeAOgqzUk> for updated weather and forecast in the Twin Cities area.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Reunion Registration: 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. (official hotel room check-in time is 3:00 p.m.)

Reunion information packages will be available at "Reunion Registration" desk near the Hotel Ballrooms, second floor. The **Hospitality Room (rm 1212) will open at 2:00 p.m.** (cost is included in registration fee).

Informal Reunion Ice-breaker, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. [Concorde Room-3rd floor]. Be sure to visit NW Airlines museum across the hall. The event will include hors d'oeuvres and a free first drink coupon for each attendee. The cost is included in the Reunion registration fee. A cash bar also will be available.

Friday, September 14, 2018

Breakfast 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on your own at Hotel restaurant. Suggest go early to make 8:00 meeting

Business Meeting 8:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. [Ballrooms 3&4]. All attendees are invited to participate in the business meeting. An agenda for this meeting will be in tote bag. Coffee, tea, water and some pastries will be provided (cost included in registration fee).

St. Croix River Cruise 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bus from Hotel to riverboat docks in Stillwater, MN. Includes food on boat and cash bar. Bring your camera for this scenic cruise. **Load either of two buses from 10:45 – 11:00**

Free Time – Dinner on your own, links to many restaurants linked on Reunion Web site: Mall of America is close and downtown Minneapolis is reachable via the light rail—station next to hotel. If you choose to drive, be aware of significant road construction (refer to the road conditions link;

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/35w94/pdf/detourmaps/downtown-access-map.pdf>

Downtown Minneapolis is alive during the day and evenings. Numerous restaurants, bars, music venues, museums, theaters, art galleries, parks, and more are available to the visitor. See also the suggested "Things to do," suggested restaurants and associated maps provided by the Local Planning Committee:

<http://wrdretirees.org/Reunion2018/index.html>

Also, the following link might help with other activities: <http://www.minnesotamonthly.com/>

Hospitality room (rm 1212) open from 3:00 – 10:00

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Pre-Tour Breakfast 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is part of room rate on your own at Hotel restaurant.

St. Paul and Gangster Tour 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Load one bus 8:30-8:45. Bus from Hotel to St. Paul sites. Includes pop and water refreshments. Lunch on your own after.

Hospitality room (rm 1212) open from 3:00 – 5:15

Banquet 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Event is hosted in the **[Hotel Ballrooms 3&4]**, and the event will include a cash bar, dinner, remarks by the USGS Retirees President, Guest Speaker, and an awards and recognition ceremony.

Free-Time Ideas near Hotel

Mall of America—West of hotel. Walking distance or use Light Rail. See maps and handout for Mall including discount coupon instructions in tote bag.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge—Walking distance just east of hotel. Visitor center open from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m., but outside trails open anytime. See brochure in tote bag.

Fort Snelling Historic Site—Short drive from hotel. After Labor Day, open only Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, \$10/person. Located 200 Tower Ave., St. Paul MN at confluence of Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. Built in 1824 as the first military fort in Minnesota. Learn about military history from before the Civil War through World War II, fur trade history, the U.S.- Dakota War of 1862 and more. Ph: 672-726-1177.

<http://www.historicfortsnelling.org/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Local Arrangements Committee Chair, Jeff Stoner (J_stoner@comcast.net) or any Committee Member: Mark Have, Jim Stark, and Linda Stoner (Minnesota), Gregg Wiche (North Dakota), Ken and Judy Lindskov (South Dakota), Marv and Rosann Sherrill (Wisconsin), and Lee Case (Colorado).