



PRE-REGISTRATION BROCHURE

JULY 22-26, 2017

Welcome to New Orleans known as the Crescent City. Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler! *Let the Good times roll!* New Orleans is happy to host the 118th VFW and 104th Auxiliary National Conventions and offers a vast array of attractions to make your visit fun and memorable. New Orleans means coming to a city that knows how to do big events. It means dining at world-class restaurants and staying in some of the finest hotels. It means you're coming to the home of the hospitality pros. And it also means when business is done, you can loosen your tie or kick off your heels in a city like no other. Toast your success in the place that does business better than anywhere else—New Orleans.

GETTING TO NEW ORLEANS

LOUIS ARMSTRONG NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MSY)

This gateway to one of the most exciting and eccentric cities in the world recently completed \$300 million in capital improvements and plans to complete further expansion in preparation for the city's tri-centennial celebrations in 2018. Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport offers 138 daily departures to 44 cities on 12 airlines. Just 15 miles from the Central Business District and French Quarter, it is a quick ride away – whether you go by bus, shuttle, taxi or limousine. Airport Shuttle New Orleans is the official ground transportation of the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and offers transportation to and from Downtown, Uptown and French Quarter hotels as well as the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

AIRLINES SERVICING NEW ORLEANS: American Airlines, Air Canada, AirTran, Delta, Frontier Airlines, Jet Blue Airways, Southwest, Spirit Airlines, United, US Airways, Vacation Express, Alaska Airlines

Car

To determine driving distance between your city and New Orleans go to: <http://www.travelmath.com/driving-time/>

GETTING AROUND NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans is one of the world's busiest port cities and the cultural capital of the South, yet is remarkably compact and easy to navigate. Visitors are always pleasantly surprised to learn that many of the city's attractions, accommodations and event venues are within walking distance of each other; in fact, "hoofing it" (in New Orleans' case, translated as walking or grabbing a mule-drawn carriage) is a favorite means of transportation in the Crescent City and a great way to network.

BUS SERVICES/STREETCAR Where else can you actually ride a historic landmark? Get around town easily and conveniently via bus or historic streetcars. A buck-twenty-five is all it costs to take one of the 30 different bus routes RTA offers, or one of the city's famed streetcars – which travel along the Riverfront, St. Charles Avenue, Loyola Avenue and Canal Street. Or for unlimited rides, purchase a 1, 3 or 5-day "**Jazzy Pass**" at most Walgreens locations, any RTA ticket vending machine or any CVB Visitor Center.

PEDICABS This new, fun, efficient and environmentally friendly form of transportation has made it to the streets of New Orleans! Whether you want to hustle to the other side of the French Quarter, take a leisurely ride to dinner or just see the town in comfort and style, call on pedal power.

HOP-ON-HOP-OFF BUS TOURS - Unlike the traditional bus tour, you can come and go at any stop you like and experience the city as one big outdoor museum while being effortlessly transported to your next destination. City Sightseeing New Orleans and Bus Vision New Orleans offer their own unique bus tours as well as guided and self-guided tours when you hop off the bus

CONVENTION LOCATION

Convention activities will take place at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, located at 900 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70130

WHAT TO WEAR

A general guideline for attire for the convention is business casual for meetings. For VFW members, it is always appropriate to have your cap on hand for meetings. Jackets are not required unless you are an award recipient (e.g. Community Service Post, All American Commanders). You may be on stage to receive your award as photographs are taken. You may wish to bring and wear patriotic themed apparel for the Tuesday Patriotic Celebration. (*See Patriotic Celebration information in this document*).

WEATHER

The climate of New Orleans is humid subtropical, with short, generally mild winters and **hot, humid summers**. The monthly daily average temperature ranges from 53.4 °F in January to 83.3 °F in July and August. The average precipitation is 62.7 inches annually; the summer months are the wettest, while October is the driest month. For up-to-date weather information, please visit the National Weather Service website at www.weather.gov.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Airport Shuttles

None of the Downtown hotels have private shuttle service to and from the airport. Other transportation options from the airport are as follows:

Airport Shuttle, Inc. is the official ground transportation for Armstrong International Airport, with service to and from New Orleans' hotels and other designated locations. Fare is \$24 per person one way and a discounted \$44 per person round trip is now available. [2017 VFW National Convention Official Discounted Airport Shuttle](#)

- In order to be able to book travel online you must book at least **24 hours prior to your flight arrival time**.
- The group has been set up to book online to both make and change their existing reservation online.
- The discount **only applies to reservations made through this web portal** — if not the discount doesn't apply.

Taxi Service

With more than 1,200 taxis around the city, if "hoofing it" isn't your style, a ride is never too far away. A fixed rate of \$36 (one to two people) is charged from the airport to most areas of New Orleans. For parties of more than two, the fare is \$15 per person.

Car Rental Companies (located at the airport)

PARKING

Parking information, costs etc., for the convention center will be available at a later date.

RV PARKING/CAMPING

New Orleans West KOA

11129 Jefferson Hwy.

River Ridge, LA 70123

Phone: (504) 467-1792

Website: <http://koa.com/campgrounds/new-orleans/>

Email: neworleanskoa@bellsouth.net

Description:

Closest KOA to French Quarter. Large, level cement sites with shade trees and grass. Daily tours from campground. KOA shuttle to French Quarter. Casino nearby. Rental cars available. City bus to French Quarter. Pool, laundry.

Pontchartrain Landing

6001 France Rd
New Orleans, LA 70126
Phone: (504) 286-8157

Website: <http://www.pontchartrainlanding.com>

Email: request@pontchartrainlanding.com

Description:

New Orleans unique marina resort just 12 minutes from the French Quarter with beautifully furnished Seabrook and Floating Villas, Pavilion Restaurant and Lighthouse Bar with live music, full RV hook-ups, pool, hot tub and shuttle.

French Quarter RV Resort

500 N. Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112
Phone: 504-586-3000
Website: www.fqrv.com

VISITOR INFORMATION

If you have access, visit www.neworleanscvb.com/visit/ to plan your trip or request an Official Visitor Guide.

VISITOR CENTERS:**New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau**

2020 St. Charles Ave
New Orleans, LA 70130
**This is a stop on the Hop-On-Hop-Off Bus*

Basin Street Station

501 Basin Street
New Orleans, LA 70112
**This is a stop on the Hop-On-Hop-Off Bus*

French Quarter Visitor Center

419 Decatur Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
(No parking available)

REGISTRATION PACKET PICK-UP

See on site convention agenda (event guide distributed on-site on 7/22/17) for times and locations of registration/packet pick-up. Registration for both VFW and Auxiliary will be located in Exhibit Hall B of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

Note: Auxiliary "Want to get your packet early? Try Remote Registration." Auxiliary (**only**) remote registrations set up as follows:

Auxiliary (only) 'remote' **pre-registration only:**

Locations/times: **To be advised.**

Note: On-site (not pre-registered) registration **must** be done at Ernest N. Morial Convention Center - Exhibit Hall B beginning Saturday, July 22 at 8a.

SHUTTLES

A shuttle schedule will be provided closer to the July convention dates.

If you require special transportation (handicap/scooter/wheelchair), contact the shuttle provider at the number on your event schedule (**obtained on-site**). A final shuttle schedule will be included in the on-site event guide and will be updated on the VFW convention web page prior to the convention dates.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Housing opens February 21 – you may access housing information and the reservation form beginning February 21 by going to www.vfw.org at the convention website. VFW Department hotels/housing assignments may also be found at the website beginning in February.

HOTEL PARKING

Check with your assigned hotel for parking costs and details.

LUGGAGE STORAGE

If you wish to store your luggage at the hotel before you check in, or after checking out before departure, please make arrangements with guest services.

GRATUITIES

You are responsible for all gratuities during your stay. Tipping is personal, however as a guideline, we recommend gratuities of \$1-\$2 per day for your housekeeper and \$1 per bag for ground transportation providers and hotel bell staff.

PHONE MESSAGES

Messages may be left with the hotel operator, who will make sure you get them as soon as you return to your hotel. In case of emergency, call the VFW National Headquarters 816-756-3390. We encourage you to provide your emergency contact information when you pick-up your registration materials at the convention center.

SAFETY TIPS *(See hotel information located in room)*

SPECIAL SERVICES

Scooter Rentals

We encourage individuals requiring scooters to make those arrangements prior to arriving on-site in New Orleans as scooter rentals are based on availability and first-come, first-served. Please contact the company below to confirm pricing and availability.

Scoot-around Personal Transportation Solutions

Phone: (888) 441-7575

Wheelchair rental: \$195 per week

Scooter rental: \$295 per week, up to 300 lbs.

Scooter rental: \$345 per week, over 300 lbs.

Delivery to hotel: \$25

www.scootaround.com

<https://locations.scootaround.com/VFW>

Special Screenings

(Information available on-site at Health Fair located at Ernest N. Morial Convention Center - check event guide for location and times)

First Aid Room Location

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center; open during convention hours, Saturday, July 22-Wednesday, July 26 (6p)

Emergency

Emergency after hour's numbers will be provided before convention or call 911.

Religious Services

Catholic Mass is scheduled for Saturday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 23 at 7:00 a.m. at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. *Check event guide for room locations*

Protestant Services are scheduled for Saturday, July 22 at 6p. *Check event guide for room locations.*

VFW MEMORIAL SERVICE

The joint VFW/Auxiliary Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, July 23 at 8:30 a.m. at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center – Exhibit Hall C.

VFW PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION

The 2017 Patriotic Celebration will be held on **Tuesday, July 25** at Ernest N. Morial Convention Center – Hall C. Details will be disseminated closer to the July event.

To keep the Patriotic Spirit of this yearly event, check out the patriotic apparel at VFW Store.

<http://www.vfwstore.org/?Action=SkipLogin>

AGENDA

See tentative web agenda at www.vfw.org for the 118th National Convention information. A final agenda will be included in the convention event guide.

CHARITY AUCTION

The VFW will hold a silent auction Saturday, July 22 through Monday, July 24 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B of the convention center. Winners will be listed at the "Buddy"® Poppy/Silent Auction desk on Tuesday morning, July 25. **All items must be paid for and picked up during the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. on July 25.** Payment will be accepted via check, cash or credit card (Visa, Master Card or Discover). If an item has NOT been picked up prior to 3:30 p.m., it will be shipped to National Headquarters to be dispersed from there. The winners will be contacted for a shipping address and shipping costs will be applied to their bid. Silent auction items are donated by VFW Departments, individual members and vendors. Auction proceeds will benefit **The VFW National Home for Children.**

THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND NEW ORLEANS

Go to the www.VFW.org and access the Microsite at the convention web page for additional information on what to do, where to go, where to eat in New Orleans.

On the Town Concierge booth: <http://www.neworleansonthetown.com/>

For more information:

Refer to the VFW convention web page via www.vfw.org which is updated as new information is added.

2/23/2017 updated