

“The Coming Storm” is theme of 2017 AHSGR Convention

Plans are underway for the 2017 AHSGR Convention, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Milwaukee Aug. 28-31.

The Hyatt Regency is conveniently located in downtown Milwaukee, within walking distance of many local attractions, including nationally famous German restaurants and a German sausage store.



The Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, a distinctive feature of the downtown Milwaukee skyline with its circular rooftop ballroom, is the site of the 2017 AHSGR convention, Aug. 28-31.

The hotel is 10 miles from General Mitchell International Airport. Shuttle services are available. Overnight parking is \$5 a day, with in-and-out privileges. A discount of 20 percent on daily parking, currently \$31, has been negotiated. Hotel reservations will open six months before the convention. Rates are \$139 for single or double occupancy.

Local attractions include the Milwaukee Public Museum, which has a re-creation of the “Streets of Old Milwaukee,” highlighting the impact of various ethnic groups that settled in the city. A live butterfly room, a planetarium, and an IMAX theater are of special interest to younger visitors.

Plans are underway for several bus tours, with emphasis on architecture and churches, breweries, and of course the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Museum, plus a variety of walking tours, either guided or “on your own.” Area attractions include the Milwaukee Art Museum and Discovery World, an interactive museum dealing with the history of the Great Lakes and its eco-systems.

Downtown attractions also include the Pabst Theater, Pabst Mansion, Milwaukee City Hall (of “Laverne and Shirley” fame), the Riverwalk along the Milwaukee River, boat tours, the Milwaukee County Historical Society, the Germania Building (which is on the National Register of Historic Places), and, of course, the bronze statue of “Fonzie” of “Happy Days” fame.

There are many other sights to visit and there will be both pamphlets and volunteers at the reception desk to help you decide what you may want to do. The Brewers will probably be playing home games during this time. There

are many ethnic restaurants in the area and, in case you are not aware, Milwaukee is famous for its beer.

The program’s theme is “The Coming Storm,” referring to the Communist Revolution and Civil War. It will focus on the life of the colonies from 1763 to 1917 and how the Russian Germans reacted to the coming storm. Topics will include the history of Russian Germans in many areas of the Russian Empire, including Siberia. Speakers have been invited from both Russia and Germany.

Topics will include:

- Village area discussions
- Genealogical research using online resources
- Basics of DNA genealogy
- Overview of German colonization of the Russian Empire
- Russian Germans in the Tsarist Army and their involvement in the revolution
- German colonization of Wisconsin
- German language newspapers in the Milwaukee area
- Russian German settlements in Wisconsin
- Railroads in the development of Wisconsin
- History of breweries in the area

Several PBS videos will be shown, including “Schmeckfest,” “The Making of Milwaukee” and a Biel film. Ethnic entertainment will include folk dancing and singing.

Plan now to join other AHSGR members at the AHSGR Convention in Milwaukee and to renew old friendships and establish new ones. Every effort will be made to make this a rewarding experience for our younger generations.