

2018 Convention – Richmond, Virginia

SCI's 52nd annual convention will be held in Richmond, Va., July 10 through July 14, 2018. Two days of pre-convention activities are planned: tours on July 10 and a commercial auction by Fox Auctions on July 11. The convention itself is Thursday through Saturday, July 12 through July 14, with checkout on Sunday, July 15. Our host chapter is the Gambrinus Stein Club, which also hosted the 2012 convention in Annapolis, Md.

The convention hotel is the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 S. 12th Street, Richmond, Va. 23219. The hotel is only nine miles from Richmond International Airport, but it is ideally located in downtown Richmond.



The Omni Hotel is literally across the street from a section of Richmond known as Shockoe Slip. Originally the warehouse and mercantile section of Richmond, its buildings have been re-



purposed as restaurants and shops. There are nearly 30 restaurants ranging from fine dining to fast food in an area of a few city blocks. The city has restored the cobblestone streets in this area. The sidewalks are brick and the street lights are gas. The restoration is effective, and Shockoe Slip is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The grounds of the Virginia State Capitol are two blocks from our hotel, in the opposite direction from Shockoe Slip. The Capitol was designed by Thomas Jefferson and has been in use since 1788.



Several tours are planned for Tuesday, July 10. Richmond is a beautiful city with many attractions within a rather compact area. We are offering a city tour designed to provide a good feel for the city and what it has to offer. If you then wish to explore on your own, the Omni Hotel provides a free shuttle within a five mile radius for its guests. For shopping enjoyment Carytown is an eclectic collection of shops not to be missed.



Of course, Richmond is famous as the capital of the Confederacy. Our Civil War tours begin at the new American Civil War Museum, which interprets the Civil War from three perspectives: Union, Confederacy, and African American. The museum is housed in the Tredegar Gun Foundry. We then tour the Museum of the Confederacy, which



has an imposing collection of weapons, flags, paintings and manuscripts. We conclude by touring the Confederate executive mansion.

Important as it was, the Civil War lasted only four years. But English presence in the Richmond area goes back 400 years, to before the Mayflower. A tour will visit Shirley Plantation, which was established in 1613 and is still a functioning plantation. We will tour the mansion, which has been occupied by 11 generations of the same family - 12 if you count a young child. The plantation is unusual in having a number of original out buildings. We will have lunch in the plantation's restaurant before heading back to our hotel.

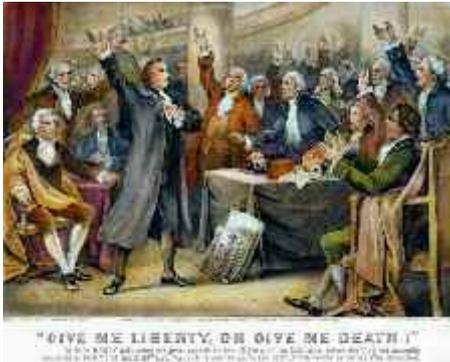


Wednesday July 11 will be devoted to the commercial auction by Fox Auctions. The exhibit will be in the morning and the auction in the afternoon.

The convention itself will run from Thursday July 12 through Saturday July 14. We will have three general session speakers and eight round tables with each round table being given twice. The stein sales room will be

open Thursday and Friday afternoons. The member's auction will be Saturday afternoon. We will have a hospitality room with tempting refreshments during the convention.

Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech in Richmond. We will begin the first evening of the convention seeing a re-enactment of his speech in St. John's Church, the exact spot where he gave it in 1775. Costumed actors re-create the debate in which the speech was given.



Following the re-enactment we will go to the Virginia State Capitol for a catered buffet. We will be in the Rotunda, the Old Senate Chamber and the Jefferson Room. There will be docents in the various rooms to explain them to us.

Afternoon tea will be Friday afternoon in the Jefferson Hotel. When it was built in the 1890's its owner wanted it to be the finest hotel in the United States.



The Jefferson has been fully restored to its original luxury. Afternoon tea at the Jefferson Hotel is a Richmond experience.

The convention will conclude Saturday evening with a final dinner at the Omni Hotel. This will be your opportunity to show off your Lederhosen and Dirndls in the best costume contests. And we can look forward to a final reception featuring regional favorites.



The convention package includes three breakfasts, a catered buffet in the Virginia State Capitol, the hospitality room and the final reception and dinner. It also includes one convention stein per couple and one for an individual attendee. The convention rates are \$290 for a single attendee and \$550 for a couple.

The convention rates at the Omni Richmond Hotel are \$119 per night for a single or double room. Valet parking is \$10 per day. These rates are available three days before and three days after the convention dates. To make reservations call 1-800-843-6664. Say you are with "Stein Collectors International". Use the words, not our initials. We recommend making hotel reservations early to avoid the problems we

have had with late hotel reservations. We anticipate the hotel selling out.

We look forward to welcoming you to SCI's 2018 convention in Richmond, Virginia. If you can spend a little extra time, Richmond has so much to offer. See the SCI website for some of our favorite recommendations. If you have any questions contact Carol Fox at carolfox0622@gmail.com or Richard Strom at stromrwk@gmail.com or 301-530-2403.