



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

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Washington, D.C. 20006-1846

www.navpa.org

NAVPA's 34th Annual Conference – October 18–25, 2009

The 2009 Conference Committee is pleased to announce that plans for the 34th Annual NAVPA conference are well under way. If you haven't already done so, please **mark your calendars "Gateway to the West for Education" from October 18th through the 25th, 2009.**

The 2009 conference will be held at the Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel & Suites, St. Louis, Missouri. The hotel has given us an exceptional per night rate of \$111.00 (single or double) plus appropriate state and local taxes, currently 15.491%. You may call the hotel to make your reservations now. **The number is 314-231-5007.** Please indicate that you are registering under the **"National Association of Veterans Program Administration Conference Block"** to insure that you will be given the rate reserved for those attending the conference. To take advantage of this room rate, you must register by September 27, 2009. Please don't wait too long because reservations for the St. Louis NAVPA Conference will fill up quickly.

All 288 spacious guestrooms of the hotel offer high-speed Internet access, complimentary weekday newspapers, compact refrigerators, and Sweet Sleeper Beds with plus-top mattresses.

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (STL): Approximate distance to Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel and Suites is 16 miles (25 minutes).

Driving directions from airport: From Lambert-St. Louis International Airport take I-70 East and exit at 170 South. Exit at 40/I-64 East to 14th Street and turn left onto 14th Street. The hotel is on the right.

Other options: Taxis (at least \$36), shuttles (\$16-\$25), and light-rail trains (less than \$5) provide transport between the airport and this Sheraton Hotel and Suites. A Metro Link station is across the street from the hotel. Sharing a taxi would minimize your costs. Car rentals are available online.

The theme for this year's conference is **"Gateway to the West for Education."** In keeping with the scheme of things, the theme for the President's Reception is **"The Archway to Higher Learning."** Show your support by wearing your favorite school attire, (tee-shirt, sweat shirt, polo shirt, etc).

Don't forget our famous baffle raffle. Please bring at least one item from your school to be raffled off. There will also be grand prize drawings on Friday, October 23. **You must be present to win.** You don't want to miss the fun!

The Conference Committee will make every effort to implement your suggestions and ideas to offer an informative and exciting agenda. Our focus will be on four aspects: unity, fabulous service, communication and the knowledge for serving veterans. The preliminary agenda currently will include pre-conference registration and a full day Basic Training Workshop for new certifying officials.

Please join us for another outstanding conference. Get involved and get to know other program administrators who are serving veterans all over the world. We are very proud of our network and collaborative efforts.

Make your plans now to be in St. Louis in October **2009.** Go to www.navpa.org and click on "Conferences" to register.

Josie Adams
Conference Chair 2009