



WBU-ICEVI 2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY GUIDE TO ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZATION, AND LOGISTICS

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Welcome

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of the United States welcome you to our country. We are pleased to host the 2016 WBU-ICEVI General Assemblies, and we have committed the resources of our organization to making the work of these Assemblies increase the opportunities for blind people. We say this to ourselves and to our blind friends the world over: We know that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back. Together with love, hope, and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

Mark Riccobono
President, National Federation of the Blind

Overview

This Guide is a supplement to the official program of the General Assembly, which gives the names, times, and locations of all meetings taking place during the Assembly. It is organized in three sections:

The first section gives information about the Orlando area and other things you may find of interest about the United States that will be helpful to you as you are planning your trip. It also gives detailed information about what to expect when you arrive at the Orlando International Airport.

The second section gives information about the organization and logistics of the activities that will be taking place at the hotel during the Assembly itself.

The third section gives a guide to some of the many fine restaurants you may want to try when you are in Orlando.

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We also thank the American Printing House for the Blind for providing the General Assembly materials in English, French, and Spanish Braille.

PLANNING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE 2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Venue

Rosen Centre Hotel
9840 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819
Telephone 1-407-996-9840; toll-free 1-800-204-7234 (dial 00 + 1 if calling from outside the U.S.)

Rising twenty-four stories and containing 1,334 sleeping rooms, the Rosen Centre Hotel is connected to the Orange County Convention Center, the country's second largest convention center. The hotel is at the center of Orlando's famous theme parks, only fifteen minutes from downtown Orlando just a short stroll from the Pointe Orlando shopping, dining and entertainment complex, and only twelve minutes from the Orlando International Airport.

All guest rooms have coffee makers, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards, small refrigerators, in-room safes, and complimentary Wi-Fi internet access. There is free Wi-Fi internet access in the public areas of the hotel, but not in the meeting rooms. Electricity in the United States is 110V 50Hz and uses plug types A and/or B. Plug type A contains two parallel flat pins. Plug type B contains three pins: two parallel flat pins and a round grounding pin. Most hotel sockets accept plug type B.

The Rosen Centre Hotel is a non-smoking hotel; smoking is permitted only at specified areas outside.

Important Reminder about Your Hotel Reservation

If you requested a sleeping room reservation at the Rosen Centre Hotel at the time you completed your online registration for the General Assembly and made a nonrefundable payment of \$125 USD for your first night's accommodation, you must arrive at the hotel on the arrival date you specified in your reservation request. If you do not arrive on that date, the hotel will consider you to be a "no show," and your entire reservation will be cancelled. If for any reason you are not planning to arrive at the hotel on your requested arrival date,

to avoid cancellation you should contact the hotel directly by telephone at 1-407-996-9840 or toll-free 1-800-204-7234 (dial 00 + 1 if calling from outside the U.S.) to request a change in arrival date.

Transportation to the Hotel from the Orlando International Airport

There are a number of transportation options available to take you to the Rosen Centre Hotel including regular taxis, private limousines, and shared shuttles. The trip takes 20 to 30 minutes to get from the airport to the hotel. Mears Transportation Company is a reliable and economical shared shuttle service to get from the airport to the hotel. To get the discounted price for the General Assembly, go to Mears website www.mearstransportation.com before traveling to Orlando and click on “Book Orlando Shuttle Now.” You can then enter your arrival and departure flight information, as well as promotional code 513956056. This will allow you to pre-pay (\$29 USD round trip) for a shared shuttle, which you can take from the airport to the Rosen Centre Hotel and back to the airport on the day of your return flight. Shuttles depart from the airport every 20 to 30 minutes.

What to Expect When You Arrive at the Orlando International Airport

The Orlando International Airport is one of America’s largest international airports, so we have compiled a quick guide to help you navigate your way to where you’ll need to be. Working with the Operations Department of the airport, we have arranged a special welcome and expedited assistance for attendees of the 2016 WBU-ICEVI General Assembly.

The airport is designed with a large central hub, known as the main terminal, with four outlying satellite terminals at each of the four corners, simply known as “airsides.” All of the gates and United States Customs are located in the airside terminals. Each of the four airside terminals are connected to the main terminal by one of four dedicated trams that continuously travel back and forth, which makes getting from your gate (airside) to the terminal, or from the main terminal to your gate, quick and easy.

Airport Assistance

If you are a blind or partially sighted person and travelling on your own, you will need to arrange for assistance in advance with your airline. (For those that are being sponsored by the WBU, we will ensure that our travel agent makes those arrangements on your behalf). If you would like assistance in the airport for clearing immigration and customs, collecting your baggage and getting to the ground transportation point, please make those arrangements through your airline in advance. You can contact the airline ahead of time and arrange for a person known as a “skycap” to help you get from the plane to customs, from customs to baggage claim, and from baggage claim to the Mears Shuttle counters (recommended ground transportation provider) or a taxi stand if you prefer to take a taxi. It is always good to remind the flight attendants when on the plane that you will require that assistance upon arrival so that it will be in place for you.

Direct International Flight Arrivals

If you are arriving on a direct flight to Orlando from outside the United States, you will need to go through customs. This will take place in the airside terminal immediately after you exit the plane and retrieve your luggage. Once you have exited the customs area, you will need to take the tram to the large center terminal, and then make your way to the terminal’s first floor where the Mears Shuttle counters (recommended ground transportation) are located. A detailed set of instructions to get from your gate to the Mears counters can be found below.

Details

Once you exit your flight and make your way through customs, you will still be on the lower level of the airside terminal. In order to get to the upper level of the gate area where the trams to the main terminal are, you have two options: an escalator or an elevator.

If you choose to take the escalator to the upper level, you have the option of keeping your luggage with you. This is what we recommend. If you choose to use the elevator, you must place your luggage on a baggage belt to the left of the customs exit and retrieve it in the baggage claim area of the main terminal. Please

note, if you opt to use the baggage belt, it may take as much as forty-five minutes to an hour before you are able to retrieve your luggage again. Therefore, we recommend that you use the escalator and keep your luggage with you after you exit customs in order to prevent confusion and extra wait times.

Once you have made it to the upper level of the gate area, you will take a tram to the main terminal. The tram is located immediately at the top of the escalator. From the elevator, you will exit and walk to the left to find the tram. The tram is a direct route to the main terminal of the airport.

Connecting International Flight Arrivals

U.S. law requires international travelers to clear customs at the first airport of entry into the United States. Therefore, if you are connecting from another city within the United States, your flight to Orlando is considered a domestic flight, and you will not be required to clear customs again. From your flight gate you will make your way directly to the tram. The tram is a direct route to the main terminal of the airport. After you exit the tram into the main terminal, you will need to make your way to the first floor (possibly stopping at level two, the baggage claim level, to pickup any checked luggage) to find the Mears Shuttle counters. A detailed description of the airport and a set of instructions for doing so can be found below.

Terminal – Level Three

When you exit the tram into the terminal, you will be on the third level. The airline on which you arrive at the airport will determine in which corner of the main terminal the tram drops you off. Gates 1-59 are in the western half of the terminal. Gates 60-129 are in the eastern half of the terminal. Below is a list of airlines and where they enter the terminal:

Northeast Corner

Southwest Airlines

Virgin America

Northwest Corner

Aer Lingus

AeroMexico
Air Transat
Alaska Airlines
Avianca TACA Airlines
Azul
CanJet
Caribbean Airlines
Copa Airlines
Frontier
GOL
Icelandair
jetBlue
Miami Air
Norwegian
Swift
Sunwing
WestJet

Southeast Corner

Air Canada
British Airways
Delta Air Lines
Emirates Airline
LAN Peru
Lufthansa
Sun Country
TAM
Thomas Cook
Virgin Atlantic
Volaris

Southwest Corner

American
Bahamasair
Silver Airways
Spirit Airlines
United

A quick way to determine which side of the terminal you are in is to look or listen for a fountain. If you can see or hear the fountain, then you are in the eastern half of the airport.

The eastern and western halves of the airport are connected by two large corridors, one in the north, and one in the south. Along the outer edges of these corridors are multiple stores that sell everything from souvenirs to small electronics. Between the two corridors is a large food court with a variety of fast dining options. If you have time and are looking for a more traditional meal, there are also three table service restaurants (Chili's Too, Home Team Sports Bar, and Macaroni Grill) in the western half of the airport between the north and south corridors.

If you have arrived on a direct international flight and need to convert your currency to USD, there are currency exchange desks in the southeast and southwest corners of the terminal (level three). The one in the southwest corner is near the previously mentioned table service restaurants. If you need assistance, airport information centers are located in the northeast and northwest corners of the terminal.

To get to the lower levels of the terminal you will need to use an escalator or an elevator. These are located in the four corners of the terminal outside the security gates. These will be before you enter the large corridors that connect the east and west sides of the airport. If you would prefer to use elevators to get to the lower levels, they are located on the outer walls of the airport past the entrance to the escalators.

Terminal – Level Two

On level two, at the bottom of the escalators, there are air ambassador desks. There are people stationed at these desks until 10:00 p.m., and they often speak a variety of languages. They will be able to help if you have any questions. If you travel with a guide dog, there are also pet relief areas on this level that the ambassadors will help you locate.

Level two is also where almost all of the baggage claim carousels in the airport are located, so you will most likely pickup your checked luggage on this

level. Carousels 1-14 are on the north side of the airport, and carousels 20-32 are on the south side. This is important to remember, because if you descend to the lower levels on the wrong north or south side of the terminal, you will need to go back to the third level to cross to the other side.

From level two you will need to go down one more level to get to the Mears Shuttle counters. Escalators and elevators are located at the east and west ends of the level.

Terminal – Level One

Once you are on the terminal's first level, you will need to locate the Mears Shuttle counter. If you used one of the elevators to get to level one, then the Mears counter will almost be directly in front of you. The Mears Shuttle counters are located at the ends of the terminals and are the last staffed counters.

There are also two baggage claim carousels on this level; 8A on the north side, and 28B on the south side.

Mears Shuttles

Once you have picked up your pre-paid Mears Shuttle ticket, or purchased one at the counter, you will be given directions to go to a podium outside of the airport in the shuttle/bus pickup zone. The exterior Mears podium is located roughly in the middle of the shuttle/bus pickup zone.

When you have located the exterior Mears podium, show your ticket to the attendant there. You will be given a device that will vibrate when your shuttle arrives. When your shuttle arrives, the driver will assist you with your luggage and help you to board the shuttle if you need it. Once you arrive at the Rosen Centre Hotel, the driver will help get your luggage out of the vehicle. It is customary to give the shuttle driver a gratuity in the range of one to three USD.

General Information

Weather

August in Orlando is characterized by high heat and humidity. The average daytime temperature is 92 degrees F (33 degrees C), and the average nighttime temperature is 73 degrees F (23 degrees C). Humidity is around 95 percent, so afternoon thunderstorms are very likely but usually subside within an hour.

Currency

The currency in the United States is the U.S. dollar (USD). The money consists of coins and paper bills. The coins are the penny or one-cent piece (100 cents per dollar); the nickel or five-cent piece; the dime or ten-cent piece; and the quarter or twenty-five-cent piece. Very rarely one might encounter the half-dollar or fifty-cent piece, but this would be most unusual. The denominations of the paper bills are one dollar, five dollar, ten dollar, twenty dollar, fifty dollar, and one hundred dollar. Only U.S. currency is accepted in the United States.

Currency may be exchanged at the airport, at most banks, and at currency exchange stores. U.S. dollars may also be obtained through automatic teller machines (ATMs). There are ATMs at the airport and at the hotel. The hotel does not have a currency exchange service. The Orlando Visitors' Center, located 1.5 miles from the hotel at 8723 International Drive, suite 101, exchanges currency.

Credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover) are widely accepted.

Time Difference

Orlando time is Eastern Daylight Time, which is four hours earlier than Greenwich Mean Time (GMT-4).

Gratuity (Tipping) Practices

In the United States it is common practice to pay a gratuity (tip) to restaurant wait staff, housekeeping staff, bell staff, taxi drivers, and other similar service staff.

Guide Dogs

A guide dog providing mobility assistance to persons with visual impairment is allowed for most airlines. Please check with your airlines before departure.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regulations require that dogs imported into the United States are healthy and are vaccinated against rabies before arrival into the United States. These requirements apply equally to all dogs, including service animals. Please visit the CDC website for more information (<http://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/dogs.html>).

If you wish to bring a guide dog to the United States, please contact the embassy or consulate of your country to confirm pet travel regulations, obtain all of the necessary paperwork (such as health certificates and documentation) regarding your animal's travel, and contact your local veterinarian to ensure your pet is in compliance with foreign health regulations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORGANIZATION, LOGISTICS, AND ACTIVITIES:

This section of the Guide will be included in your registration materials in the format you requested when you completed your online registration. (All sections of the Guide will continue to be available on the Assembly website <<http://www.wbu-icevi2016.org>>.)

Please pickup your registration materials as soon as possible after arriving at the hotel.

Check-in time at the hotel is after 3:00 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 a.m. If you arrive before check-in time, hotel bell staff will assist you in storing your luggage until your room is available. There will be hotel staff and volunteers in the hotel lobby to assist you with the check-in process when you arrive.

The final topic in this section of the Guide (Navigating the Hotel) gives detailed information about the layout of the hotel—elevators, meeting room locations, restaurants, and other services. You may wish to skip forward and look at it now, or you may prefer to look over the information about the Assembly activities and organization before you study the hotel layout.

Welcome Station

Beginning at noon on Thursday, August 18, and continuing through the end of the Joint General Assembly on Thursday, August 25, there will be a Welcome Station to answer your questions and provide assistance to you. It will be located in the Grand Ballroom Pre-function foyer on level 1. Each day it will open prior to the beginning of the Plenary Sessions in the morning and continue until 7:00 p.m. There will be someone available at all times to communicate in French, Spanish, and English.

Pickup of General Assembly Materials, Badges, and Tickets

The registration desk will be located in the Grand Ballroom Pre-function area on level 1. All registered participants in the Joint General Assembly will be given a General Assembly tote bag containing Assembly materials in the requested formats and languages. Each participant will also be given a neck

lanyard with an identification badge. Eligibility to attend and participate in the various events of the Assembly based on registration type will be indicated by color coding on the identification badge. It will be necessary to wear your badge at all times to participate in meetings and events.

The badge holder you will receive has a compartment which will contain a ticket for the cash bar at the Opening Reception as well as coupons which will entitle you to a beverage and a snack each day during the morning and afternoon Express Tea Breaks. It will be necessary for you to have your coupons to obtain beverages and snacks at the tea breaks.

Individuals who wish to participate in the General Assembly who did not register online may do so on-site by paying the appropriate fees. Payment by credit card only will be accepted.

Opening Reception

The Opening Reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, in Grand Ballroom Sections A and B, level 1. All registered participants are cordially invited to join with the Officers of the WBU and ICEVI and members of the International and Local Organizing Committees for refreshments and informal conversation.

Cultural Night Event

Orange County Convention Center, Room W304 (directions below)

The WBU Cultural Night on Monday, August 22, from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m. will be a showcase of American culture for all attendees to experience. The featured theme of the event's first half is the American national pastime, baseball, and the American Wild West. Attractions will include a baseball speed pitch station, stadium themed light snacks, and a mechanical bull. A cash bar will be available for attendees to purchase drinks.

The second portion of the program will feature National Federation of the Blind (United States) singer and guitarist JP Williams performing a medley of American popular music from the past seventy-five years. Williams has toured with numerous famed country music acts from Randy Travis to Charlie Daniels,

and has performed at Washington, DC's prestigious John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Orange County Convention Center

The magnificent Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) is conveniently located directly adjacent to the Rosen Centre Hotel. The two buildings are connected via a covered, open-air walkway (Rosen Centre Skywalk), which safely allows pedestrians to walk above traffic and not have to worry about navigating a crossing at street-level. There will be volunteers stationed along the way to give directions as you proceed along the route to the Cultural Event in Room W304.

The Rosen Centre Skywalk can only be accessed from the hotel's second floor. When you exit the elevator bank on the second floor, you will turn left to walk south, past the Grand Staircase, and meeting rooms 13-19. After you pass the entrance to meeting room 19, turn right and walk until you come to a set of double doors. These doors open out onto the Skywalk. You will continue walking all the way across the outdoor Skywalk, approximately the equivalent of one city block, until you reach another set of doors at the opposite end. These doors open into the OCCC's second floor.

From this point, the simplest way to get to W304, the room in which the Cultural Night festivities are taking place, is to make an immediate right turn inside the doors and ascend the first escalator you encounter. From the top of this escalator make another right turn, and the entrance to W304 is merely a few steps away. However, if you would prefer to use the elevator, there is one located in the first alcove on the right once you enter the Convention Center from the Skywalk. Use the elevator to go up one level to the third floor, exit to the left, and then make the first right into the large walkway. The entrance to W304 will be in the second alcove on the right.

Technology Exhibition

During the Technology Exhibition, vendors will showcase their products and services in the Junior Ballroom, located on the east side of the Pre-function foyer just beyond the Grand Ballroom on level 1. The Technology Exhibition will be open Sunday, August 21, and Monday, August 22, from 10:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, August 23, from 10:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. All registered

participants are invited to browse the Technology Exhibition during this time and discover the latest technology available for blind people.

Gala Dinner

President Riccobono and the members of the National Federation of the Blind of the United States are pleased to invite all registered participants of the General Assembly to a concluding dinner to celebrate the work we are doing together through the World Blind Union and the International Council for the Education of the Visually Impaired to make it possible for blind people the world over to say with conviction, "I can live the life I want; blindness is not what holds me back."

You will find your personal confirmation of attendance (for you and any guests for whom you have purchased a dinner) to the Gala Dinner in your badge holder. If you are planning to attend, we ask that sometime before the close of the day on Monday, August 22, you turn in your confirmation of attendance at the Welcome Desk or hand it to one of the members of the host team who will also be collecting them at various locations. Turning in your confirmation will help us plan how to work with the hotel to create a magnificent celebration with good service, good food, and good wine.

WBU and ICEVI Offices and Committee Rooms

The WBU and ICEVI offices and committee rooms are located on level 2 in Hospitality Suites 243, 247, and 251. The offices will be open on the following days and times:

August 18:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

August 19 to 24:
8:30 – 9 a.m. (before the first session of the day)
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (morning tea break)
12 noon – 2 p.m. (lunch)
4 – 6:30 p.m. (afternoon tea break to 30 minutes after the last session)

Plenary Sessions

All Plenary Sessions of the General Assembly will be held in Grand Ballroom Sections C, D, and E, located on level 1. Please remember that you will need your identification badge for admittance and seating in the Plenary Sessions. These Sessions will have simultaneous translations in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. There will also be limited Russian translation through a portable system.

Headsets and receivers to hear the simultaneous language translations can be obtained at Registration Desk 2 located in the Grand Ballroom Pre-function area outside of Section D of the Grand Ballroom. Those who fail to return their receivers by the end of the Assembly will be required to pay \$100 USD for the cost of the lost receiver.

Concurrent Sessions and Workshops

All Concurrent Sessions and Workshops will be held in meeting rooms located on level 2 of the hotel. The meeting rooms being used are consecutively numbered from 1 through 14.

Activities in Grand Ballroom Sections A and B, level 1

Grand Ballroom Sections A and B are conveniently located adjacent to the Plenary meetings. These large rooms will have free Internet access and will be set with lots of tables and chairs. Assembly participants are welcome to gather in these rooms at any time for work, rest, lunch, informal meetings, or conversation.

Each day the morning and afternoon Express Tea Breaks will be served in these rooms. On Exhibit days and days when there are many Concurrent Sessions, there may also be additional locations near those activities where you can use your Tea Break coupons to obtain beverages and snacks.

Lunch

You may wish to have lunch in one of the hotel restaurants or a nearby restaurant outside of the hotel. In addition to these options, each day the hotel will offer an Express Lunch in the Grand Ballroom Pre-function area near Sections

A and B. The cost of the lunch will not exceed \$15.00 and will include your choice of sandwich or salad, a bag of chips, fruit, dessert, and a soda or bottled water. You may pay with credit card or cash or charge the amount to your hotel room.

Volunteer Support

The local hosts will have volunteers posted at various locations in the hotel to give directions and to offer assistance in moving along to the next destination. The welcome desk staffed throughout the conference from before meetings get underway in the morning until 7:00 p.m. There will always be someone at the welcome desk to answer questions in English, French, and Spanish. There will also be volunteers in at the Express Coffee break area and the Express lunch line to help with getting beverages and food and seating. There will be volunteers helping with finding the right seats in the General Assembly. There will be volunteers in the breakout areas to help people find the meetings they want to attend. The volunteers will do the best that they can to assist but they will not be able to provide personal guiding assistance on an individual basis to participants. The local host plans to have enough volunteers stationed throughout the hotel to provide information and directions, and on a limited basis to accompany an individual in going from one point to another when the need arises.

Voting Procedures for the Ninth General Assembly of the WBU

This document outlines the methods of voting which will be used at the ninth General Assembly of the World Blind Union. It covers voting on any matters undertaken on the floor of the Assembly as well as the election of table officer positions conducted outside the Assembly hall.

As stated in the WBU Constitution, article IV, section 4(i): "Voting may be by acclamation (viva voce), by roll call, by show of hands or, if twenty percent or more of the delegates present so demand, by secret ballot. At elections when there is more than one candidate, voting shall always be by secret ballot."

Procedure for Secret Vote during Plenary Sessions

Secret voting will take place in the Assembly hall using a system of red and green cards. The cards will be marked in Braille and large print to indicate yes (green card) or no (red card) votes. “No” will also be identifiable with a corner cut.

The two cards will be issued in a packet with an additional smaller envelope used for returning the selected card, with the unselected card returned in the original envelope. For each round of voting, the smaller envelopes will be marked with a hole at a certain place. Only votes in envelopes having the hole at the proper place will be valid; cards from previous votes cannot be kept.

A Delegate will receive the appropriate number of packets for voting based on the number of proxies that she or he may be carrying.

Scrutineers appointed by the WBU will take responsibility for distributing the voting packets based on the eligibility of voters and approved proxies, and the scrutineers will also be responsible for collecting and counting the votes under the supervision of the returning officer.

Election Procedure for the Election of Table Officers

We have allocated a secure room (Hospitality Suite 244, located on level 2) to use as the polling place.

During the break following presentation of the candidates at the plenary session, each Delegate will visit the polling place. Delegates will be identified by their official conference badge and will show additional credentials if they are carrying proxy votes.

Delegates admitted to the room to vote will receive an envelope labeled in large print and Braille with the name of the position being elected (e.g., president, treasurer, etc.). The envelope will contain cards for each nominated candidate giving the name of the position being elected and the candidate’s name in large print and Braille.

To distinguish among the days of election, the envelopes will be marked with a different colored sticker every day. If more than one position will be elected the same day, each delegate and proxy receives the appropriate number of small envelopes and the corresponding cards of candidates to place in those envelopes for each position.

When casting their votes, the delegates will insert the card of their selected candidate into the smaller envelope and deposit the envelope in a ballot box in the polling place.

Once the time reserved for the election is over, the cards will be counted by the scrutineers appointed by the WBU, and results of the election will be provided to the Assembly by the returning officer.

A vote shall be regarded as invalid if:

Handed in after the close of the election time;

More than one card with the same position indicated on it is in the envelope;

The envelope is from a previous election;

The ballot cards are damaged in any way;

Cards have names of people who haven't been nominated.

Navigating the Hotel

As you enter the hotel through the revolving doors at the main entrance you will be facing south. You will be at about the center of the 24-story east-west wing of the hotel. The main hotel elevators will be directly ahead of you in a U-shaped elevator lobby. Slightly to your right (west) of the opening into the elevator lobby is the entrance to the long two-story north-south wing of the hotel. Turning slightly to your left (east) takes you to the hotel check-in desk, which is located on the south wall of the east-west wing. Opposite the hotel check-in desk on the north wall of the east-west wing is the bell stand and the concierge desk.

All of the sleeping rooms are located in the twenty-four-story east-west wing. The first three elevators on each side of the U-shaped elevator lobby serve floors 2 through 15. The last two elevators on each side serve floors 16 through 24. A short passageway on the west side of the elevator lobby between the third and fourth elevators serves as a shortcut between the elevator lobby and the north-south wing. It also serves as a convenient landmark to separate the low-floor elevators and the high-floor elevators. When you exit the elevator lobby on the sleeping room floors, the rooms ending in numbers 1 through 32 are east of the elevator lobby, and the sleeping rooms ending in numbers 33 through 64 are west of the elevator lobby.

West of the main entrance along the north wall of the east-west wing is Smooth Java, a full service coffee bar featuring Starbucks coffee. Beyond the coffee bar across the end of the wing is the entrance to the Spa and Fitness Center. Just before the entrance to the Spa and Fitness Center is a door on the north wall to the outside. The hotel gift shop is located on the south wall just before the Spa and Fitness Center.

All of the hotel meeting rooms, restaurants, and other food and beverage areas are located in the two-story north-south wing. (There are a few meetings which will take place in hotel hospitality suites, which are located on the second floor of the east-west wing.)

As you enter the north-south wing from the north end and head south, Sam & Bubbe's which serves "New York Deli noshes" as well as beverages is located on the west side. Beyond Sam and Bubbe's are many doors leading to the outside

deck, pool area, and the tropical Harry's Poolside Bar and Grille. On the east side is the 98Forty Tapas and Tequila Bar featuring forty premium tequilas and Spanish and Mexican specialties. Just beyond 98Forty is the Banshoo sushi bar followed by Red's Deli. This deli is open twenty-four hours a day and is a combination of convenience store and quick-service restaurant. The restaurant part of the operation opens at 6:30 a.m. and continues until midnight, offering hot and cold deli-style sandwiches, salads, pizza, hot entrees, and desserts, either for dine-in or takeout to your room or the outside eating area near the pools. Continuing south beyond Red's Deli you will find the hotel's two full service restaurants—Café Gaugin (which is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and Everglades (which is open for dinner only).

Opposite the Everglades Restaurant you will find the grand staircase. Two separate curved flights merge into one on a landing and continue in a single flight to the second floor meeting rooms. When you enter the curved stairs from the lobby level you are heading west. The single flight from the landing reverses direction so that when you come off the stairway onto the second floor, you are facing east.

Continuing south beyond the grand staircase the floor surface changes from terrazzo to carpet, and you enter the Ballroom Pre-function foyer. The General Assembly Welcome Station and Registration Desks are here.

Along the east side are seven sets of doors leading into the various sections of the Grand Ballroom. Opposite the fifth set of doors are escalators and a staircase leading to the second floor meeting rooms and to the covered bridge walkway to the West Building of the Convention Center, where the Cultural Event will take place on Monday, August 22. The staircase is between the two escalators. The "up" escalator is on the west side of the staircase. The "down" escalator is on the east side of the staircase. Beyond the escalators and staircase is an elevator to the second floor.

Just beyond the Grand Ballroom are two additional, smaller ballrooms, one on each side of the Pre-function Foyer. The Junior Ballroom, where the Technology Exhibition will be held, is located on the east side of the Pre-function foyer. The Executive Ballroom is opposite the Junior Ballroom on the west side of the Pre-function foyer. There are no General Assembly activities in the Executive Ballroom.

The second floor meeting rooms consist of twenty-four salons numbered 1 through 24 and the Signature Two meeting room. Salons 1 through 12 are located along both sides of a U-shaped east-west corridor found immediately opposite the opening to the Grand Staircase. The numbering system begins with Salon 1 starting on the left (north) side of the corridor as you enter it continuing consecutively through Salon 6 on the north side, crossing over to Salon 7 on the south side and running back up the “U” through Salon 12 on the south side of the “U,” which is opposite Salon 1 at the entry point into the “U” on the north side.

Leaving the “U” you are facing west. Turning left (south) the first salon on the east side of the north-south corridor is Salon 13. Salons 14 through 24 follow consecutively south along the east side of this corridor. General Assembly meetings will be held in Salons 1 through 14 only. No activities will be held in Salons 15 through 24. If when leaving the “U” you turn right (north), you are headed toward the intersection of the north-south second floor meeting room corridor with the east-west corridor of the twenty-four-floor sleeping room wing. Turning left (west) at this intersection takes you to a number of hospitality suite parlors, where some meetings are scheduled. The numbering system of the hospitality suites follows the same pattern as the numbering for sleeping rooms. Turning right (east) at the intersection takes you to the elevator lobby serving the sleeping rooms. All ten elevators in the main bank of elevators serving the sleeping rooms have a stop on the second floor.

Salons 13 through 24 are located directly above the Grand and Junior Ballrooms along the east side of a north-south corridor that is above the north-south Ballroom Pre-function foyer. The escalators and staircase originating in the Ballroom Pre-function foyer opposite the fifth set of Grand Ballroom doors terminate on this second floor corridor opposite Salon 19. Signature Two meeting room is located opposite Salon 17 west of the escalators and staircase. The entryway to the covered bridge to the Convention Center West Building is located west of these escalators.

The covered bridge walkway to the West Building of the Convention Center is 343 feet—slightly longer than the length of a football field. It connects to the second level of the West Building. You enter the West Building at the extreme east end of the West Concourse running from east to west.

RESTAURANT GUIDE:

All of the following Rosen Centre Hotel food and beverage places, listed in alphabetical order, are located on level 1 of the north-south wing of the hotel except for Smooth Java Coffee Bar, which is located where the north-south wing and the east-west wing intersect:

98Forty Tapas & Tequila: open daily from 5 to 10 p.m.; Spanish tapas and Mexican dishes along with forty premium tequilas.

Banshoo Sushi Bar: open daily from 5 to 10 p.m.; sushi, sashimi, and signature rolls along with cocktails, wines, and sake.

Café Gauguin: open daily; buffet and ala carte breakfast 6:30 to 10:30 a.m.; ala carte breakfast only 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; dinner 5 to 10 p.m.; there are buffets for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, or you may order from the menu.

Everglades: open daily from 5:30 to 10 p.m.; reservations suggested; gourmet dishes created from local seafood, meats, and produce.

Harry's Poolside Bar & Grill: lunch service 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; dinner service 5 to 10 p.m.; "Floribbean" cuisine such as conch fritters and mango crab cakes. All day pool menu from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. only offers starters, salads, burgers, and sandwiches.

Red's Deli: open 24 hours a day; sandwiches, soups, salads, and pizzas; also offers snacks, baked goods, and convenience items; made-to-order sandwiches and pizzas available 6:30 a.m. to midnight.

Sam & Bubbe's: lobby lounge open daily at noon; complete selection of beer, wine by the glass, and spirits; offers noshes and bar bits from Banshoo Sushi Bar and 98Forty Tapas & Tequila.

Smooth Java Coffee Bar: open daily 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Starbucks® coffee and drinks, real fruit smoothies, gourmet pastries, and sweet treats.

In addition to the excellent restaurants located in the Rosen Centre Hotel, there are many other fine restaurants nearby. Here are some of them listed by category:

Steak:

Charley's Steak House; 8255 International Drive (1.5 miles); 407-363-0228
Delmonico's Italian Steakhouse; 6115 Westwood Blvd. (.4 miles); 407-226-2662
Ruth's Chris Steakhouse; 7501 Sand Lake Road (1.9 miles); 407-226-3900
Spencer's; 6001 Destination Parkway (.4 miles); 407-313-8625
The Capital Grille; 9101 International Drive (.6 miles); 407-370-4392
Vito's Chop House; 8633 International Drive (1.1 miles); 407-354-2467

Seafood:

Big Fin Seafood Kitchen; 8046 W. Sand Lake Road; 407-615-8888
Bonefish Grill; 6730 Central Florida Parkway (1.2 miles); 321-677-0025
Boston Lobster Feast; 8731 International Drive; 407-248-8606
FishBones; 6707 Sand Lake Road (1.8 miles); 407-352-0135
Red Lobster; 9892 International Drive (.2 miles); 407-363-0399

Fine Dining:

A Land Remembered; Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel; 407-996-3663
Christinis Ristorante Italiano; 7600 Doctor Phillips Blvd.; 407-345-8770
Jack's Place; Rosen Plaza Hotel (.6 miles); 407-996-9700
The Melting Pot; 7549 Sand Lake Road (1.9 miles); 407-903-1100

American Style:

Brick House Tavern & Tap; 8440 International Drive (1.4 miles); 407-355-0321
Café Matisse; Rosen Plaza; 407-996-9700
Cooper Canyon Grill; 9101 International Drive (.7 miles); 407-363-3933
Marlow's Tavern; 9101 International Drive (.7 miles); 407-418-0096
Miller's I-Drive Ale House; 8963 International Drive (.9 miles); 407-370-6688
Perkins Restaurant & Bakery; 6813 W. Sand Lake Road (1.8 miles); 407-351-0373
Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando; 9000 International Drive (.8 miles); 407-996-8585
Tony Roma's (barbecue); 8560 International Drive (1.2 miles); 407-248-0094
Village Inn; 6275 Westwood Blvd. (.3 miles); 407-352-1997
Yard House; 8367 International Drive (1.4 miles); 407-351-8220

Family, Fast Food:

Denny's; 9880 International Drive (.1 miles); 407-351-5127

Hot Krust Panini Kitchen; 8015 Turkey Road (1.8 miles); 407-355-7768

Johnny Rocket's; 9101 International Drive (.6 miles); 407-903-0763

McDonald's; 9814 International Drive (.2 miles); 407-345-8996

Subway; 6143 Westwood Blvd. (.3 miles); 407-370-0454

Other:

Bahama Breeze (Caribbean); 8849 International Drive (1 mile); 407-248-2499

Café Tu Tu Tango (Mexican); 8625 International Drive (1.2 miles); 407-248-2222

Chuy's (Mexican); 8123 International Drive (1.7 miles); 407-730-3602

Emeril's Tchoup Chop (Asian Fusion); 6300 Hollywood Way at Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Orlando (5.8 miles); 407-503-2467

Ginther's Swirls Ice Cream; 11036 International Drive (1.4 miles); 407-477-1212

Kings Orlando; This entry may seem a bit odd, but we include it here because in one listing it received a rating of #16 out of a total of 2,707 restaurants; (American cuisine and a bowling alley); 8255 International Drive (1.5 miles); 407-363-0200

Kobe (Japanese); 8350 International Drive (2 miles); 407-352-1811

Maggiano's (Italian); 9101 International Drive (.7 miles); 407-352-0028

Mi Casa Tequila Taqueria (Mexican); Rosen Shingle Creek; 407-996-3663

Olive Garden (Italian); 8984 International Drive (1 mile); 407-239-6708

Seito Sushi (Japanese, Asian); 8031 Turkey Lake Road (1.8 miles); 407-248-8888

Thai Thani; 11025 International Drive (1.4 miles); 407-239-6986

Tommy Bahama's Tropical Café; 9101 International Drive (.6 miles); 321-281-5888

Interesting Places to Visit in Orlando

Of course, the main reason to come to Orlando in August is to attend the General Assembly, but most of us want to do more than meet and work—we want some time to play and relax. The following is a small taste of various attractions you may want to visit.

Because Florida is warm and ideal for water sports, there are several water parks in the area. Disney's Blizzard Beach and Disney's Typhoon Lagoon are both relatively close. The water parks are a separate ticket, no regular park admission required. Blizzard Beach has a ski resort theme and offers over seventeen slides, a wave pool, an area for pre-teens, and an area for young children. Typhoon Lagoon is a Disney version of a typical water park themed in a tropical island setting, containing the usual slides, pools, and slow river. They also have unique features such as a surf pool and a saltwater artificial coral reef pool full of tropical fish you can snorkel through. A one-day water park ticket is \$61.77 for those ages ten and up, \$53.25 for those ages three through nine.

If animals intrigue you, Aquatica SeaWorld's water park might be more your style. Attractions include a pair of giant side-by-side wave pools, water slides, a lazy river, and the opportunity to see and even swim with Commerson's dolphins. Offers, discounts, and tickets are available online at <http://aquaticabyseaworld.com/orlando/book-online/buy-tickets-and-passes>.

You may want to check out Wet 'n Wild Orlando, since the water park will be closing at the end of 2016. Wet 'n Wild is definitely the most intense and thrilling of the water parks, with slides including freefalls, enclosed tornado-style slides, and a mat-slide attraction called Aqua Drag Racer. It also includes lazy river, wave pool, and children's play area. Single day admission is \$57 for those ages ten and up, \$52 for children ages three through nine.

If the thought of fresh air after all of those meetings appeals to you, but water parks aren't of interest, there are a number of other outdoor attractions in the Orlando area. For the dinosaur lover, check out Dinosaur World. It's a little farther away from the Rosen Centre Hotel, but this twenty-acre outdoor museum has over two hundred life-size dinosaurs in a natural setting. There are interactive

shows and activities for those of all ages to enjoy, but you should eat before you go; there are no restaurants on-site.

For the gardening enthusiast, Leu Gardens is a fifty-acre botanical garden minutes from downtown Orlando with the mission to inspire visitors to appreciate and understand plants. Also on the grounds is the Leu House Museum, which showcases turn-of-the-century living of the families who once owned the land. Mixing the outdoors with music, Bok Tower Gardens is a national historic landmark well worth the visit. Bok Tower Gardens is one of the greatest works of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. The grounds are a designated site on the Great Florida Birding Trail, and the gardens are home to 126 different species of birds, as well as the threatened gopher tortoise and the endangered eastern indigo snake. What truly makes the gardens unique, however, is the Singing Tower carillon. The tower was designed by architect Milton B. Medary, crafted by stone sculptor Lee Lawrie, and is home to one of the world's finest carillons. Concerts from the sixty-bell carillon ring out over the garden at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. daily, though short selections play on the hour and half-hour. For an extra \$5, you can get a guided one-hour tour of the gardens. Please email programs@boktower.org one week in advance to arrange for a tour guide.

Do you want something more educational, but still active? Orlando has plenty to offer there, too. Not only does the Orlando Science Center offer audio tours of certain exhibits that promise a "significant amount of additional information that visitors would not normally get while visiting the exhibition," but it also has a number of interactive exhibits that give visitors a chance to get hands-on understanding of the principles of science and engineering. Alternatively, there is WonderWorks, billed as "an amusement park for the mind, with 35,000 square feet of edu-tainment. The attraction combines education and entertainment with more than 100 hands-on exhibits that challenge the mind and spark the imagination."

If you're interested in history, the Orange County Regional History Center is housed within a restored 1927 courthouse. The museum features permanent exhibits tracing the area's history from a Native American settlement to its development as a tourist community. The center is a Smithsonian affiliate and hosts biannual traveling exhibitions. The center also has a Florida cracker-style

pioneer cabin, a replica tepee from a 1950s motel, a recreated Seminole Indian village, interactive displays about Florida industries, and the adjacent Heritage Square Park.

The Orlando Eye is a newer attraction. It is the signature attraction in a dining, entertainment, and shopping complex. The 400-foot observation wheel contains thirty air-conditioned capsules that fit fifteen riders each. You can purchase tickets for just the Eye, or combination tickets for two other attractions in the complex: Madame Tussauds Orlando Wax Attraction and Sea Life Aquarium. If you have a sweet tooth, Chocolate Kingdom, the factory adventure tour may be for you. The tour is an interactive journey that shows the transformation from the bean into the chocolate bar. Your personal chocolate tour guide joins forces with a handsome prince and his dragon sidekick to take you through a cacao tree greenhouse, a one-of-a-kind chocolate museum, a mystical river of chocolate, and a micro batch bean-to-the-bar factory utilizing old world machinery. Tours are \$16.95 per adult, children ages four through twelve are \$12.95.

Of course, you can't mention Orlando without mentioning the theme parks. Some of those who have been to the National Federation of the Blind's national convention in the last few years have visited Gatorland, a park offering a petting zoo, a free-flight aviary, thousands of alligators and crocodiles (including four rare leucistic "white" alligators, and a Gator Zip Line experience. There's also LEGOLAND Florida, the newest of the theme parks in central Florida. LEGOLAND is specifically designed for families with children from age two to twelve, with over fifty rides, life-size LEGO displays, interactive activities, shows, and attractions. Universal Studios Orlando has two parks filled with roller coasters, rides, shows, and experiences including the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, the Simpsons, Minions, Transformers, and more.

No description of the tourist activities in Florida would be complete without mentioning Walt Disney World. It consists of parks: Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, Disney Hollywood Studios, and Animal Kingdom. Assistive Technology Devices are available at guest services to provide audio information about attractions and wait times as you pass them, and Braille guides are also available.

For concerts, Orlando is home to the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra with Music Director Eric Jacobsen. There are many clubs and venues such as Hard Rock Café in Universal Orlando's CityWalk and House of Blues in Disney Springs (formerly Downtown Disney). Check with the concierge desk for suggestions or to arrange transportation to where you want to go.