Access & Activities
For the 2012 AVSA/AVSC Convention City

By Bill Farrand

Previously, you read about the background and history of the 2012 AVSA/AVSC Convention city in this magazine. Now it's time to discover how easy it is to travel to the convention location and what activities are available. Planning to attend the 2012 Convention is complimented by the convenient location of the Convention Center. The RenCen is directly accessible by I-75 from as far south as Florida in the USA and from as far north as Sault St. Marie, Ontario, Canada. From the west and Midwest of America, I-94 reaches to the RenCen. Ontario and eastern Canada can reach Detroit by King's Highways 401 and 402 which link to the Interstates noted above. This system of expressways for vehicular travel to the Convention is very convenient and very direct. In addition, Detroit Metropolitan International Airport, (DTW), is world class, offering two new terminals and direct access to the Interstate system and the RenCen. Traveling to Detroit to participate in the Convention will be an easy task.

The RenCen and Wintergarden Atrium facing the Detroit River
Photo by Bill Farrand

Once you've arrived, the June weather is expected to be very agreeable. There is much to do downtown and in the vicinity of the RenCen. The activities available downtown are immediately accessible from the RenCen by using the Detroit People Mover which has a station attached to the building. The DPM runs seven days a week, with a very low fare, agreeable operating hours, and is accessible to elderly and disabled riders. There are thirteen stops including the RenCen. Destinations such as Bricktown, Greektown, Broadway, and Grand Circus Park are great areas to visit. All these locations have restaurants, shopping, and other points of interest such as casinos, theatres, Comerica Park (home of the Detroit Tiger baseball team), and various historical buildings. Also, a short drive west in the City of Dearborn is the world famous Greenfield Village featuring ninety historic buildings, period presenters, and artisans. Combined with the Village is The Henry Ford, a museum that brings historical experience to life offering thousands of uniquely American innovations. A short distance east you can step back in time visiting the Edsel & Eleanor Ford Estate on Lake St.Clair in Grosse Pointe Shores. All of these points of interest are easily accessible from the Convention Center.

If the idea of venturing out of the RenCen Convention complex is not for you, then the RenCen has a multitude of shops, restaurants, and theaters. The RenCen also offers the GM Wintergarden with views from the five story glass atrium overlooking the Detroit River and Windsor, access to the International RiverWalk to stroll along, and the park at Hart Plaza. What could be more fun than all this exploring of new places AND an African Violet Convention too? Plan on visiting Detroit and having a grand time next year between June 3 –10 at the AVSA/AVSC Convention.

The RenCen and International RiverWalk
Photo by Bill Farrand