

New Orleans Orientation

Why Did the Scholar Cross the Road ...? To Get to the French Quarter!

By Terry Lueck
Program Chair

Look forward to starting your convention mornings with coffee from the Starbucks in the Sheraton lobby. But for that traditional New Orleans breakfast pastry, the beignet, you'll have to head to Cafe du Monde or Bailey's. Bailey's is in the Fairmont Hotel on Baronne, which is left out of the hotel and up about three blocks.

This restaurant specializes in regional cuisine and is the proposed site for the Commission's business meeting (Noon, Thursday, Aug. 5). The Fairmont, whose Guilded Age lobby is worth a walk-through on the way out, was the inspiration for the Arthur Hailey novel *Hotel*.

Since the Sheraton, the convention hotel, is on Canal Street across from the French Quarter, quick outings between sessions are a must. Streets bear different names on either side of Canal Street, so when the French Quarter, or Vieux Carre', is your destination, the concierge recommends that you first cross Canal Street, then locate the cross streets.

Cool off on Bourbon Street

For example, to get to Bourbon Street, leave the hotel by the front entrance and cross Canal Street; on the other side of Canal, take the sidewalk to the left about three blocks. Bourbon Street will go off to your right.

If you venture down Bourbon Street and come to St. Peter, you can head to Pat O'Brien's, at 718 St. Peter Street. For 65 years, this has been the place to cool off with its trademark Hurricane drink.

If you don't have time to venture down Bourbon Street that far, and even

though August doesn't have an "r" in it, you may want to stop and slide some oysters.

Or you may want to get real local and suck some crawfish. The Acme Oyster Bar, said to be one of the best, is just off Bourbon about a block from Canal. If the lines are too long outside Acme, equally appetizing are others nearby including Remoulade.

Fans of Emeril Lagasse will want to dine at one of his restaurants, whether it's the more formal Emeril's or more casual NOLA, which is walking distance from the hotel in the French Quarter.

For dining at either of Emeril's eateries, especially for dinner, you'll want to make reservations well in advance (Emeril's: 504-528-9393; NOLA: 504-522-6652).

Shop around the corner

New Orleans shopping is also right around the corner from the hotel. In the shops that line Canal Street or the rues of the French Quarter, you are sure to find unique souvenirs, whether you're looking at alligator heads for the kids or hot sauces for the spicy ones in your life. Several locations in and around the French Quarter also offer a variety of antiques.

The city has developed a modern mall of stores and eateries along its Mississippi River harbor, a five- to ten-minute walk from the hotel. To get to the Riverwalk, as this area is called, step out of the hotel and take a right on Canal Street. It also features calming wharf vistas as well as entertainment that includes IMAX and an Aquarium of the Americas.

You can satisfy your historical hungerings with a visit to the Garden District. Stepping out of the hotel, turn



Convention sessions will take place in the Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal Street, with room rates starting at \$99 for a single. Check WWW.AEJMC.SC.EDU for details.

left on Canal Street. Two blocks up, at St. Charles, you'll want to catch a streetcar, which will take you uptown.

Two miles the other direction from the French Quarter, the Garden District is about a 20-minute ride. Streetcars run about every 15 minutes and cost \$1 each way. You can purchase tokens in the hotel or at the corner, or you can pay dollars as you go.

Try historic walking tour

Disembark when you wish to start a self-guided walking tour of the historic district, highlighted by the varied 19th Century architectural styles of its homes. The streetcars don't loop, so you'll want to catch a second one back to the corner of St. Charles and Canal Street when you're ready to return to the hotel.

Laissez les Bons Temps Roulez!
Or Let the Good Times Roll!

