

Circus Historical Society 2017 Annual Convention

July 2-July 5, Washington DC

The 2017 annual convention of the Circus Historical Society will be held in Washington DC and coincide with the 50th year of the Smithsonian's Folklife Festival, annually held on the National Mall and this year celebrating the Circus Arts. Our convention will include this country's Fourth of July birthday as well as those of both James A. Bailey (born July 4, 1847) and P.T. Barnum (born July 5, 1810)! We promise you our *Greatest Convention on Earth* for 2017!

Tentative Schedule

If you contemplate arriving in advance of the convention, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival first opens on Thursday, June 29, and continues daily, 11:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. through the start of our convention and after.

Sunday July 2 – Early arrivals can visit the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, open 11:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

- Late afternoon: registration begins at the Key Bridge Marriott
- Evening: opening session and orientation to events and locations

Monday July 3 – Smithsonian Folklife Festival open 11:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

- Morning: Library of Congress circus poster and related collections
- Afternoon: open time to visit festival
- Evening: Circus Sarasota performance

Tuesday July 4 – Smithsonian Folklife Festival open 11:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

- Morning: seminar presentations
- Afternoon: open time to visit festival
- Evening: CHS Banquet and guest speaker, special access viewing of the National Capital Fourth of July fireworks

Wednesday July 5 – Festival is closed all day

- Morning: seminar presentations
- Afternoon: annual benefit auction of circusiana
- Evening: bus trip to special reception and performance of UniverSoul Circus

Thursday July 6 – Optional day, Smithsonian Folklife Festival open 11:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. and continues through July 9

- Evening: U.S. Marine band concert of patriotic and, likely, circus music, U.S. Capital grounds

Throughout the course of the convention, special never-before-seen historical films and rarely viewed circus documentaries will be shown at the hotel.

Hotel and Transportation

Our 2017 convention hotel is the Key Bridge Marriott, located directly off Interstate-66 and the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Arlington, Virginia. The hotel sits on the edge of the Potomac River and overlooks the wooded and attractive Parkway lands. The Washington Monument, site of the Fourth of July Capital fireworks display, is within easy view and offers us a very special and spectacular convention event viewable from the top floor of the hotel following our banquet.

For those who will fly to Washington, Reagan Airport is nearby with quick, easy, and direct (no train changes) subway connections to the Rosslyn station, three blocks from the hotel. Free hotel parking is offered to those who are driving.

This year's convention hotel – also site of the 1982 CHS Washington convention – was selected because it is also the hotel for the several hundred participants in the 2017 Folklife Festival. Nearly every hotel guest will be associated in some way with the circus! However, rooms set aside for our use are very limited and members contemplating going to Washington are strongly urged to make reservations promptly. If you are slow to act, you will find Washington rates much more expensive than the extraordinary discount CHS members are offered by the Marriott. Book now and the money you save can go towards that rare collectible in our always popular auction of circusiana!

In addition to the hotel restaurants, numerous eateries of varying price ranges can be found within a short walking distance. Printed directions to their locations will be provided to CHS members.

The hotel, as noted, is only three blocks from the Rosslyn station of Metro, Washington's subway system. Metro provides quick and direct travel (no change of trains) to the National Mall, site of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and continues on to the Library of Congress that we will visit to see rare posters and other circus source material.