

2007 Spring Meeting Destination: Mystic “Country,” CT

(By Joe Gintoli, Bd. 9 CT, and Bob Bernier, Bd. 8 CT, 2007 Spring Meeting Chairpersons)

Calling all IAABO members and their families . . . swab the decks, batten down the hatches and get ready to set sail for 4 days and nights of adventure in Mystic, CT, site of the 2007 Annual Meeting of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials. Thursday, April 26–Sunday, April 29, 2007, are the dates for what is shaping up to be one of IAABO’s best attended spring meetings.

Your host will be Connecticut State Board 5 and the Hilton Mystic Hotel will be the site. The Hilton Mystic is an 182-room, full-service facility conveniently located off Exit 90 of Interstate 95, 45 miles from TF Green International Airport in Providence, RI, and 60 miles from Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, CT. The hotel has recently gone through a \$7 million renovation and is ready to provide IAABO members and guests an affordable and comfortable location for the IAABO business at hand, sightseeing and tourist attractions.

IAABO delegates and guests can make their room reservations now either by calling the hotel directly at 860-572-0731 or can do so online at www.iaaboinmystic.org, the official 2007 spring meeting interactive website. Room rates will be \$109 per night plus tax. When reserving rooms please use the special Group/Convention code: **IAABO** to receive this special room rate. It is anticipated that every available guestroom at the hotel may be used. It is strongly advised that delegates and guests confirm their room reservations as early as possible to ensure a guestroom on site.

Mystic is Connecticut’s seaside city devoted to all things maritime. From the popular Mystic Seaport, a recreated 19th century seafaring village, to the newly updated Mystic Aquarium, where you can mingle with beluga whales, seals and dolphins, there is something nautical at every turn. The Colonial period buildings of Olde Mystick Village offer tasty restaurants, historical atmosphere and a multitude of unique gift shops. The Hilton Mystic Hotel is located within walking distance of all three of these attractions. The Transportation Committee, chaired by Josh Tiven, will provide complimentary transportation to these and other attractions.

A new service being offered to IAABO members by the host committee will be “Kids Korner.” Chaired by Al Vazquez, Kids Korner will offer childcare with onsite activities for children 3–10 years of age. It is being offered to encourage more IAABO members with young children to be a part of IAABO at the national level and at the same time enjoy all the family activities the Mystic area has to offer.

In addition to the standing committee meetings planned, many social activities will be offered. On Thursday, April 26, the annual IAABO golf outing will take place at the prestigious Stonington Country Club, located just 10 minutes from the hotel. The Golf Committee, chaired by Charlie Lee, promise to run a first-class event, complete with a barbecue lunch and

complimentary golf vest for every golfer.

The Tour Committee, chaired by Cheryl Chiari, will conduct two motorcoach tours each with a different theme. On Friday, April 27 an all-day tour to Newport, RI, will be offered. An overview of this exciting city-by-the sea, rich in history and spectacular “summer cottages” will be provided through a narrated driving motorcoach tour. See stunning Ocean Drive and Bellevue Avenue with homes of the rich and famous. Tour The Breakers, the most opulent of the “summer cottages.” This 70-room estate was built for Cornelius Vanderbilt in 1895 and was modeled after a northern Italian Renaissance palace. There will be free time for lunch and shopping at scenic Brick Marketplace and Bowen’s Wharf before returning to the hotel.

On Saturday morning, April 28, a 2-hour visit via motorcoach to the U.S. Navy Submarine Force Museum will take place. The museum, located on the Thames River in nearby Groton, maintains the world’s finest collection of submarine artifacts. It is the only submarine museum operated by the U.S. Navy. The museum strives to become the Nation’s top destination, showcasing outstanding collections and innovative, tangible exhibits that celebrate the honor, courage and commitment of submariners defending their country and citizens.

After a busy day at committee meetings or touring the Mystic area get ready for some first-class gaming, entertainment, shopping and dining experiences at two of the top attractions in the country—Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun Resort and Casinos. Both are less than a 30-minute ride from the Hilton Mystic. The hotel, as well as the Transportation Committee, will provide complimentary scheduled shuttle service to both casinos daily. Also, as both casinos release their April entertainment schedules more information will be available on the 2007 spring meeting website.

The heart of every IAABO meeting is the Roger Sheridan hospitality room. The Hospitality Committee, chaired By Shawn Donovan, will offer three adjacent hospitality areas that will add up to over 3,000 square feet of space for visitors to relax comfortably and enjoy the camaraderie. The host committee guarantees that the words “IAABO hospitality” will be taken to a new level.

On Sunday morning, April 29 the traditional Spouse/Guest breakfast will take place beginning at 9 a.m. The site of the breakfast will be the beautiful Seaman’s Inne and Restaurant “River Room” located on the Mystic River in Mystic Seaport a virtual 1-minute drive from the hotel. The breakfast will be complimentary and transportation will be provided for all attendees who register before April 12 with chairperson Chris Kelly.

The On-Site/Welcoming Committee, chaired by Christian Sarantopoulos, will have a table set up as you enter the hotel and will be on call and available starting on Wednesday afternoon, April 25 throughout the entire weekend. They will pro

vide assistance for all delegates and guests by answering questions, providing directions to local attractions and restaurants and will serve as the “hub” for all meeting information. Exact registration hours can be found on the 2007 spring meeting website.

NOTE: All voting board delegates MUST properly pre-register with the IAABO Office before arriving in Mystic. Please contact the IAABO Office directly or preregister with the IAABO Office through the 2007 Spring Meeting Website. The Spring Meeting registration desk in Mystic will not serve as a voting delegate preregistration area.

Once again for all 2007 spring meeting activities, registration instructions, links plus other pertinent information please go to www.iaaboinmystic.org.

We hope you'll set sail and join us in Mystic!!