

OK – the train to the AG is on! Thanks to some timely assistance from Austin Horowitz, the AG Tour and Travel Coordinator, we have an Amtrak fare code (No. X20B-981) that will give anyone traveling to and/or from the AG a 10% discount on the base fare. Note that those of us who are 62 and over will probably want to use Amtrak's Senior Discount (15%) rather than the 10% convention discount. Either discount will apply only to the basic rail fare, but not the additional charge for sleeping accommodations, but note that the sleeping car charge includes all meals on the train. Also, the convention discount is good for all travel to and from the AG from 6/27 through 7/8, not just for our group, so if you only want to ride with us part of the way or just in one direction, or you want to go by train but on a different day, you can still get the discount. However, note that the convention discount is not available online – you will have to make your reservations by telephone at 1-800-USA-RAIL. The senior discount can be reserved online.

To recap the travel plans, Leslie and I plan to leave Dallas on Monday, 6/28 via Train 22, the Texas Eagle, which departs San Antonio at 7am, Austin at 9:31am, Ft. Worth at 2:20pm; Dallas at 3:40pm, and Longview at 6:15pm. Upon arrival in Chicago at 1:52pm on Tuesday, 6/29, we change to Train 354, the Wolverine, departing Chicago at 6pm and arriving at Dearborn no later than 11:59pm. Since the travel time from Chicago to Dearborn is only 6 hours, there is no sleeper on the Wolverine, and the extra fare for business class is probably not worth it.

Returning, we will leave Dearborn via Train 351 on Tuesday, 7/6, at 7:11am, arriving in Chicago at 11:24am, then changing to Train 21, which departs at 1:45pm. We will have 4 hours to do a very small amount of sightseeing in Chicago on the way to the AG, and I'll be glad to take anyone who wants to go on an excursion to the top of the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower, now the tallest building in North America, but I suggest you not make any plans to leave Union Station on the way home, as we will have only 2 hours between trains.

Summer is Amtrak's busiest season, so I encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible, either directly with Amtrak or through your travel agent.

In the meantime, membership renewals are due next month, so don't forget to get your renewal in to the National Office as soon as possible. Early renewals save money for Mensa that can be used for the support of valuable membership services.