

## Let the Good Times Roll, update #6

### **Join me in New Orleans!!**

The operative word here is “**join**”. That means you “hafta” be here to join in the fun! If you have been following the updates your convention committee has provided, you will know one central theme has been “please come to New Orleans, your Society needs you to attend.” It has been ten years since the Society updated the bylaws and they cannot be updated unless there is ten percent of the membership voting. As of mid-July, that number would be 120 members. And, as of mid-July, there are 95 members who have submitted their registration to Armed Forces Reunions. However, there are 125 registered at the hotel. This is a friendly reminder, **August 1 is the final day to register!** The registration form is attached to this update and it can be found on the website ([www.safn.org](http://www.safn.org)). Please submit your registration ASAP! And, call your SAFN friends and make sure they plan to “join” you in New Orleans.

One fun thing you should know: everyone attending the business meeting on Friday, 6 September will receive a **free gift** (it is military oriented). And, one lucky member will receive one free hotel night. The **drawing** will be after the voting during the business meeting.

If you want to learn more about the hotel, ASTOR CROWNE PLAZA NEW ORLEANS FRENCH QUARTER (877) 408-9661, you can read more in update #1 on the website. If you have not made your hotel reservation, please call the number above and reference the 2019 Society of Air Force Nurses Reunion.

The hotel offers valet parking for standard vehicles at \$47 + tax per day. Parking for oversized vehicles is \$57 + tax per day. This parking is NOT in the hotel; they do not have parking. This Crowne hotel “valet parking” is in a garage off sight. I googled parking garages & made a reservation at Commerce Garage at Hilton Garden Inn. It’s located at 821 Gravier Street and cost \$8/day (compared to the hotel at \$35/day). There is NO in/out with this, just park & leave it. If you haven’t checked into parking, you should do so before you arrive. Many garages do not take reservations but the one I mentioned will.

One more thing about the hotel, the NY Times called Bourbon House (the Crowne’s restaurant) "one of the best people watching perches in the City." And, Bourbon House is more than just a name with over 250 Bourbons and American Whiskeys to offer. Their frozen bourbon milk punch has been featured in many publications, including Wine Enthusiast, enjoy it at the restaurant, or take it with you as you stroll through the French Quarter. Bourbon House is the official home of the New Orleans Bourbon Society (aka NOBS) -- a spirited society dedicated to the appreciation of fine

bourbons (free to join). Kentucky may be the birthplace of this distinctly American Spirit, but it was New Orleans who serendipitously helped develop the aging process that produces the bourbon we know and love. In the 1820's, bourbon was in high demand in New Orleans with almost 2.5 million gallons of the clear liquid (now known as "White Dog") being shipped downriver from Kentucky. For transport, every available barrel from fish to nail storage was pressed into action and the inside charred to prevent contamination. The journey took 5 months, and soon after it arrived in New Orleans, distillers started getting orders for more of that "red liquor". Puzzled by the "red liquor" comments, Kentucky distillers discovered that the whiskey was taking on a different color and taste due to the journey time and barrel charring. This gave rise to the aging process of the Kentucky Bourbon that consumers around the world enjoy. Dickie Brennan, owner of four NO restaurants, including Bourbon House, was intrigued by New Orleans' bourbon connection and wanted to pay homage to the spirit at Bourbon House. Today, Bourbon House offers over 250 American Whiskeys, many of which are rare and/or hard to find. Bourbon House is home to the city's most extensive bourbon list.

So sorry we had to cancel the cocktail tour however, that doesn't mean you can't book it on your own. Maybe ask a few friends and do it together. It is a great way to see different nooks and alleys in the French quarter without having to deal with the mainstream parts of Bourbon street! You will be introduced to some of the history, a bit of architecture and, of course, to many of the famous New Orleans drinks. Not only do you get to try signature cocktail drinks from historic establishments, you hear about the history of the drinks and the French Quarter and see some places that could be museums!

Another similar tour is the [haunted pub crawl tour](#). Follow the lead of a guide during a New Orleans haunted tour, and hear stories of ghosts, pirates, vampires, witches, unsolved murders and mysterious hauntings and voodoo that'll give you goosebumps as you walk from bar to bar, and grab drinks to go. You'll hear very interesting stories that are both historical and spooky. This tour usually includes stopping at four bars/pubs along the way including Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop.

I hope you will **join** me in New Orleans. Laissez les bon temps rouler, let the good times roll!

Kay