

Examples of Welcome Messages from the MA Hosts

2024 – Virginia WEA

We are so excited to host you in Old Town Alexandria next week for the Virginia WEFMAX. To assist in your planning, we have included information on specific events for the VA WEFMAX. Please reach out to Kathy.rabalais@vwea.org if you have any additional questions.

Weather: The weather in Alexandria will range from a high temperature of 72 to nighttime lows of 50. *There is a chance of rain each day of WEFMAX, so please bring your rain gear!*

Wednesday, April 10th Special Activities

Alex Renew Facility Tour: Meet in the hotel lobby by 1:45. We will shuttle to Alex Renew. **PPE:** Steel toe footwear, safety vests and helmets are required at the plant. The facility has supplies onsite but recommend bringing your own if you are able to do so.

African American Walking Tour of Old Town Alexandria: Meet in the hotel lobby by 4:25 and join VWEA, WEF and the Manumission Tour Company to travel the streets of historic Old Town Alexandria and hear the little-known stories of Africans and African Americans, both enslaved and freemen, at a time when Alexandria, Virginia was one of early American's main centers for the international and domestic slave trade.

Ice-Breaker Social: Join us for a social in the beautiful courtyard of the Alexandrian Hotel at 6:00 pm (an indoor location next to the courtyard will be used if rain is forecasted during the social).

Thursday, April 11th Special Activities

5K Run or 2-3k Walk: Those interested in participating in a 5k Run or 2-3k Walk meet in the lobby at 6:15am. Maps are attached and will be available at WEFMAX check-in.

Dinner Cruise: We will depart the hotel at 5:15 for a short walk down King Street to the harbor dock. Appetizers, dinner and drinks will be aboard the Cherry Blossom, an authentic re-creation of a 19th Century Riverboat, as well as one of only 6 coast guard certified working sternwheelers in the country. We will begin boarding at 5:30 pm and return at 8:00 pm. The boat is enclosed with the opportunity to take in the views on the decks.

Safe travels to Virginia. We can't wait to see you!

2024 – Florida WEA

Greetings to one and all,

Welcome to beautiful St. Petersburg, Florida. Make sure you have packed appropriately for the weather; we are expecting temperatures in the low 90's all week. We wanted to offer up some local places of interest you might want to explore during your stay. The hotel is very close to Tampa Bay and for those that want to get out and get your exercise in the morning we have attached a couple of routes to help

you explore and see the beauty of the area. We will be having morning yoga and stretching at the hotel first thing in the morning.

As a reminder the hotel is located at:

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, 333 1st St. SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Within walking distance:

The Dali Museum: <https://thedali.org/>

The Museum of Fine Arts: <https://mfastpete.org/>

St. Petersburg Museum of History: <https://spmoh.com/>

The St. Pete Pier: <https://stpetepier.org/> We will have our reception here on Thursday

There are a multitude of restaurants nearby, especially along Beach Drive and along Central Ave. A quick Yelp search will give you a plethora of options.

A short Uber ride away:

Tampa Bay Rays are Playing Oakland: <https://www.mlb.com/rays>

St Pete Beach

If you adventure across the bay to Downtown Tampa you can visit:

Florida Aquarium: <https://www.flaquarium.org/>

Tampa Bay History Center: <https://tampabayhistorycenter.org/>

Tampa Museum of Art: <https://tampamuseum.org/>

Glazer Childrens Museum: <https://glazermuseum.org/>

Henry B. Plant Museum: <https://www.plantmuseum.com/>

A little further get's you to Busch Gardens, Tampa: <https://buschgardens.com/tampa/>

These are just some suggestions, there is lots more to do in the area and we are happy to help with any questions or suggestions.

LET'S GET OUR WEFMAX ON!

2018 – Indiana WEA

Good morning, Indy WEFMAX Attendees!

We are anxiously awaiting your arrival for our event next week and look forward to hosting you in Indianapolis. In addition to Dianne's very thorough (*thanks, Dianne!*) details below and attached, we wanted to add a few other items of note for you all. If you have any questions in regard to traveling to Indy or about the event itself, please don't hesitate to reach out.

YP Summit on Wednesday

If you registered for this event that's being held in conjunction with WEFMAX, please note that a separate email will go out following this one with details about that schedule

Weather

We're scheduled to have dry weather ranging from a high of 38F on Wednesday to a high of 58F on Friday. The majority of the event will take place indoors with a very short 2-block walk to the Rock Bottom Brewery for the Thursday night reception.

Parking

Valet parking is available at the Columbia Club – you just need to drive up to the front entrance with the burgundy awning and they'll get you squared away. Daily rate for those coming in for an event is \$15. Overnight rate is \$40 and includes in and out privileges. There are a couple other nearby parking garages as well if you prefer not to valet. On the parking map link below, look for #7, 9 or 12 to be the nearest to the club. https://cdn3.visitindy.com/map/DTParkMap_c040909.pdf

Airport

If you're flying into the Indianapolis International Airport (named the best in America for the 6th year in a row just a few days ago!!) it's quite easy to grab a cab to the Columbia Club or an Uber. The ride should be about 15-20 minutes.

Restaurants & Nightlife

- If you're coming in early or staying a couple days after the event and looking for some great food and drinks, definitely check out the Mass Ave. district (<http://www.discovermassave.com/>) for some great local grub.
- Here's also a map of all the other restaurants within a very short walking distance to where we'll be: https://cdn1.visitindy.com/map/VisitIndy_DWTNRestMap082616.pdf
- Here's a link to the top 25 LOCAL restaurants as well: <https://www.visitindy.com/indianapolis-indys-top-25-local-restaurants>
 - I'm personally a huge fan of Café Patachou and Bru Burger (both downtown) and Brugge Brasserie (a 20 minute drive north) and the Rathskeller is also a historic must-see.

Can't wait to see you all next week!

Julia

2018 – Arkansas WEA



WELCOME TO Little Rock - AWEA

A Great Arkansas Welcome to all of our WEFMAX attendees!

On behalf of AWEA President, Larry Oelrich, we look forward to welcoming you to Little Rock next week!

We are including directions below, if you are traveling by car:

From the East or West on I-40, get off on I-30W (heading south) and cross the river to exit 141A, E 2nd street, turn right on Scott Street after 4 blocks to Markham, turn left to Marriott. The address of the Marriott is Three Statehouse Plaza, (West Markham St.).

The Marriott Hotel provides parking for guests, but their parking facility is a short two block walk from the hotel. Parking passes are available upon check in.

- Valet parking, fee: 25 USD daily
- Valet parking only / USD \$18 for day visitors / \$25 for overnight parking. Garage height clearance 6 feet 8 inches

We hope for beautiful Spring Weather, but it is spring, and rain can pop up in the forecast at a minutes notice so be prepared. We do plan on providing transportation to offsite events however. Springs nights are a little chilly sometimes so a jacket is recommended.

FORECAST is calling for daytime temps in the low 70's and night time in the 50's. Slightly cloudy skies are predicted with some sunshine popping out, and a chance of a stray shower each day, and a better chance of thundershowers on Friday.

As you can imagine, there are many tourist attractions and wonderful restaurants in the area, hopefully, you'll be able to factor in some extra time and enjoy Little Rock and the surrounding area. Please also be sure to bring good walking shoes, there are great walkways, bridges and trails to explore including along the river! If you have never been to Little Rock, we hope you'll enjoy some classic Southern Hospitality. Just a few of the destinations in close vicinity include the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, Central High School National Monument, and the USS Razorback submarine in dock across the river.

We look forward to seeing everyone at either the MA Leaders' Summit, HOD meeting, or at the Icebreaker Social at the Lost Forty Brewery on Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. AWEA will provide trolleys which will leave the Marriott at 6:15 for this event. On Thursday night, we hope everyone will also take part in the Eco Tour of the Heifer International campus and dinner at their facility. Trolleys will leave for Heifer at 5:45 from the Marriott. Safe travels, y'all, we look forward to seeing you in Little Rock!

Larry Oelrich, President AWEA.

2014 – New York WEA & New Jersey WEA

Good Afternoon all WEFMAX Attendees~

On behalf of NJWEA President, Robert Fischer and NYWEA President, Steven Fangmann we look forward to welcoming you to Weehawken later this week!

We are including a link below for travel information for those coming by plane, as you have a couple of different options on how to travel from the airport to Weehawken.

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/area/transportation.html?propertyID=1177>

Also linked below are directions if you are traveling by car:

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/area/directions.html?propertyID=1177>

For those of you driving to Weehawken, the Sheraton offers complimentary self-parking for all attendees. You'll need to go into the hotel, get a pass and display it in your vehicle window to avoid charges. Please let them know you're attending the WEFMAX meeting, and let them know how long you'll be parked in the lot.

Based on this week's weather forecast, it looks like you might need to dress for cooler temperatures. The hotel is located on the water, so please dress accordingly so you can be comfortable during the time

you spend outside. Bear in mind that it will get quite a bit chillier once the sun goes down. Here's the official Weather Forecast:

- Forecast for Wednesday 3/26/14 is high of 41 (feels like 30) and low of 30 (feels like 18), Breezy and Chilly with clouds breaking for some sun, there is a chance of 1" of sloppy snow, so please be prepared for this.
- Forecast for Thursday 3/27/14 is high of 46 (feels like 43) and low of 35 (feels like 28), Sunshine most of day, no rain or snow expected.
- Forecast for Friday 3/28/14 is high of 53 (feels like 42) and low of 37 (feels like 25), overcast and becoming rainy.

For reference, we are attaching Dianne Crilley's email from earlier this week that is packed full of good information. As you can imagine, there are many tourist attractions and wonderful restaurants in the area, hopefully, you'll be able to factor in some extra time and enjoy Weehawken and the surrounding area. Please also be sure to bring good walking shoes, *there are miles* of magnificent sidewalks to explore on the river! If you have never been to Weehawken, you're in for a nice surprise, there's nothing quite like the experience of seeing the NYC skyline so close. The views are breathtaking and a 10 minute ferry ride to NYC is only a short walk from the hotel.

We look forward to seeing everyone at either the HOD meeting, the YP Mini-Summit or at the Icebreaker Social in the Masina Lounge room on Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm. Safe travels!

Jack Lagrosa, NJWEA Executive Director

Patricia Cerro-Reehil, NYWEA Executive Director

2014 – Montana

Montana WEFMAX Attendees,

On behalf of the Montana WEA, we're excited to *meet you in Montana* later this week!

All events will be held at the Grouse Mountain Lodge, with the exception of the special Thursday night social which will be held at your very own dude ranch!

Please note that Grouse Mountain Lodge has a free shuttle service from the airport, but it does need to be reserved two days in advance.

Weather in April in Montana can be iffy, so please bring warm clothes. The Thursday night social at the dude ranch will include a horse drawn wagon ride around the ranch, and if the weather is nice- campfire and s'mores.

A steak dinner is planned, but if you prefer grilled chicken, please let me know ASAP.

Weather:

Wednesday- Rainy/snow, 47/21

Thursday – Partly cloudy, 54/34

Friday – Rainy, 54/34

<http://www.weather.com/weather/tenday/Whitefish+MT+59937>

Hopefully you'll have a little time to explore the area before or after your visit. Flathead Lake and the Mission Mountains offer a spectacular view, just down the road. Glacier National Park is also nearby. Here are a few links, if you're looking for activities.

<http://www.fcvb.org/thingstodointheflatheadvalley.php>

<http://www.makeitflathead.com/things-to-do/attractions/>

<http://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

We look forward to an excellent conference filled with lively discussion. Travel safe!

~Cora

MWEA Delegate

2014 - Michigan WEFMAX in Grand Rapids, April 30-May 2

Welcome all Grand Rapids WEFMAX Attendees!

On behalf of the Michigan Water Environment Association Board of Directors, we look forward to welcoming you to Grand Rapids, Michigan, on April 30-May 2. We're excited to get know each and every one of you and networking together about WEF and our Associations.

Grand Rapids is a beautiful city with quaint shops, unique dining options, breweries and museums. We are proud to say that Grand Rapids was voted "Beer City USA" and we are looking forward to showing off our fine city!! Click on either of these websites to find out more about Grand Rapids:

<http://citytwist.experiencegr.com/> <http://www.experiencegr.com/>

Social Itinerary and Special Meetings: (attached is a map of the Amway Grand Plaza)

- For those of you joining us for a casual, yet informative discussion at the MA Leaders Summit from 3:00pm – 5:00pm, we will see you inside the GP Sports Lounge/Restaurant at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Everyone is Welcome to attend. You didn't have to previously sign up for this. Attached is an agenda for this meeting. The meeting is very informal and the discussion could lead beyond the content of this agenda.
- The House of Delegates Meeting will be held from 4:00pm – 6:00pm in the Haldane Room at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. The Haldane Room is located on the 3rd floor of the Amway Grand Plaza.
- The Icebreaker Reception will be held from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at GP Sports Lounge/Restaurant inside the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.
- The Thursday Night Social Event will be held from 7:00pm – 9:00 at a restaurant called San Chez Bistro. San Chez won awards for being one of the “hippest places on Grand Rapids’ downtown restaurant scenes”. It is a trendy tapas style restaurant offering a Mediterranean-style cuisine. Comfortable, business casual attire is suggested.
- For those of you who want to enjoy the Grand Rapids nightlife following dinner, we are walking a short distance to Grand Rapids Brewing Company to enjoy one of Grand Rapids popular Micro-Breweries. Or you can choose to walk to the many other hot spots in the city. Refer to the links above for options.

Travel and Parking Tips:

Below is a link for travel information for those of you flying into the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids: <http://www.mapquest.com/?version=1.0&hk=4-f7YuJemC>

For those of you driving to Grand Rapids, the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel charges \$16-\$20/night for parking. You should bring your parking ticket to the Hotel Registration Desk with you when you check-in and have it stamped in order to get the \$16/night parking rate. The parking fee can be added to your hotel bill or paid by cash when you check-in. If your parking ticket does not get stamped, you will have to pay \$20/night when you leave the lot.

Weather Forecast:

The weather forecast looks like it will be near 50 degrees. Plan to bring a jacket with you so that you will be comfortable if you feel like walking around downtown.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Safe travels!

Jerry Harte, Executive Director

Karlyn Wickham, Deputy Director

Note: Please print this email and bring it with you for a reference on the schedule of events.

2013 – WEA of Ontario

Good Afternoon All WEFMAX attendees,

On behalf of WEAO President, Christine Hill and our House of Delegate Representatives Vanessa Chau and Rosanna DiLabio, welcome to WEFMAX in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada!

I know that Dianne Crilley has already sent out documentation for our meeting but I just wanted to welcome you all and give you a little Canadian info that you might find useful for your trip.

For travel to and from the hotel you may opt to take a taxi but you may prefer to utilize the Niagara Airbus Shuttle as transportation to and from the airport to the Hilton hotel. (See Online reservation information attached for your reference.) The Niagara Airbus Shuttle offers online reservations with a 30% discount for those arriving and departing the Buffalo International and Toronto Pearson airports. A special discount code of "072" is offered when making your reservation. Simply go to www.niagaraairbus.com - at the beginning of the booking page, you will need to insert the code "072" where you see Conference/Promo code - and your discount will automatically be calculated as long as the code is entered. You may also call their reservation line at 905/374.8111 or email any inquiries to airsales@niagaraairbus.com. Our hotel address is Hilton Hotel and Suites Fallsview, 6361 Fallsview Boulevard, Niagara Falls, Ontario

You will not need skis, mukluks or Parkas, but based on this week's forecast you just might need a combination of clothing for the differing day and nighttime temperature ranges. Forecast high for Wednesday is 20C or 68F, but feeling like 24C or 75F – small chance of scattered showers. Forecast high for Thursday is 19C or 66F, but feeling like 70F – sunny. Forecast high for Friday is 18C or 64F and that's what it will feel like – sunny.

Also bear in mind it will get quite a bit chillier once the sun goes down around 8:30 p.m.; when it is quite acceptable to pick-up a Tim Horton's coffee to keep warm. As you can imagine there are so many tourist activities and wonderful restaurants in Niagara Falls you will be spoiled for choice – so hopefully you have factored in some extra time to enjoy what the town has to offer. If you haven't already figured out what you plan to do - visit www.visitniagaracanada.com/ for some exciting ideas!

US Visitors don't forget your Canadian \$ and passports!!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Welcome Reception in the Myst Lounge on 33rd Floor of the hotel on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Safe travels J

2013 – Mississippi WEA

On behalf of the Mississippi Water Environment Association, we would like to extend a welcome and special thanks for selecting WEFMAX in Biloxi, MS to attend on March 27-29! We look forward to meeting and discussing WEF with all of you. We have wonderful food, events, and great weather (hopefully), waiting for you.

On Wednesday, the House of Delegates meeting (4pm - 6pm) and the WEF Social (7pm - 9pm) will be held at Mary Mahoney's Old French House. Mary Mahoney's is approximately 2 blocks East of the Beau Rivage, which should be easy walking distance. Mary Mahoney's was built in 1737, during the French occupation of the coast, and began as a restaurant in 1964. You'll enjoy the magnificent architecture and artwork, as well as some of the best food the coast has to offer. Attire is business casual.

WEFMAX meetings will be held Thursday and Friday at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino. Beau Rivage provides the ideal merger of sophisticated service, incomparable amenities and the most technologically advanced business tools - all in a beautiful resort setting that is sure to leave an indelibly favorable impression.

On Thursday, join the MWEA for a truly unique way of enjoying the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Step on board an authentic replica of a Biloxi schooner for a sunset cruise beginning at 5:30 Thursday evening and lasting until 8:00 pm. These "White Winged Queens" once sailed the Coast from the late 1800's to the early 1900's; however the introduction of marine engines and the changes in oyster harvesting laws caused these beautiful crafts to disappear. Dress is casual. Deck shoes or rubber soles are preferred. The departure point is approximately 1.2 miles East of the Beau Rivage, so we will coordinate shuttling guests through personal vehicles.

PLEASE NOTE: Seating for the Cruise is limited to 49. The MWEA is sponsoring the event as free to all WEFMAX attendees, but requests a \$20 fee for all guests. As space is limited and our registration numbers build, **please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to confirm your spot aboard the sunset cruise.** Please mail checks for guests by March 15 and payable to MWEA (with "Cruise Guest" in the memo line):

MWEA

Attn: Bryan Lane | 100 North Heard Street | Senatobia, MS 38668