

# Examples of Welcome Messages from the MA Hosts

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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 spoilt 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/](http://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 33<sup>rd</sup> 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