

AAFA ACTION

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Join Us in Virginia!

If you plan to make the 1994 AAFA Meeting in Richmond, and you should, now is the time to act. If you wait to receive the Fall issue of *AAFA ACTION*, which will be mailed shortly before the meeting, you are likely to be too late.

Remember, we always meet on the second weekend of October. The dates and times for our meeting this year are from 9:00 Friday morning, October 7, through noon Sunday, October 10. Note in a separate insert information about other activities which may result in a more extended stay for you.

From all indications this is going to be the biggest and best to date. We have planned to accommodate more people than usual—but even that might not be enough! Some folks waited too late to make arrangements for the meeting last year, found the hotel sold out, and did not come. (There were some overflow facilities available locally, but the hotel did not always pass that information on.) For the dinner Saturday evening we were packed like sardines in a can, and there was not room to set up even one more table.

Here is what you should do after reading the rest of this article and the insert to see what's going to happen:

Phone the Holiday Inn, Richmond Airport at 1-800-964-6886 and make your reservations. Guarantee your reservation with a credit card or check. Be sure to tell them you are with the Alford reunion group and want their special rate of \$49.95 plus tax. Plan to arrive on Thursday if possible to be there for the beginning of things on Friday, and stay through at least noon on Sunday. See the separate information about tours you may want to make before or after our sessions and adjust your dates accordingly. If you need to cancel your plans later, you can always call the hotel to cancel your reservations.

Complete the registration form that was enclosed with this issue, unless you've already received one and submitted it. Fill in all of the spaces on the form so the Secretary and Treasurer can properly process your registration and take care of you upon arrival in Richmond. Send the form and your check along to AAFA Treasurer Doris Alford Vetri at the address on the form. If you have to cancel and can notify Doris by approximately ten days before the meeting, she will refund your money. It is possible you may cancel after that, but if you wait until the last few days and AAFA is committed to the hotel, based on your registration, you are likely to get less than your full amount back.

If you want to participate in any of the planned tours, contact AAFA Events Coordinator Al Alford at Four-Star Travel 1-800-782-7471.

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The meeting this year will be similar to recent years but with some significant changes and improvements. Throughout the meeting we hope to have a research room set up in which members may access the many references that are brought to the meeting. These are the notebooks of state data, lineages, family group records, etc. maintained by the Executive Director. Ample tables and chairs will be available to accommodate a number of folks researching at any one time. Another room will be available where we will be able to schedule groups for photographs. Most of the photographing will be done on Saturday afternoon and evening, and family and geographic groups will be tentatively scheduled as they register.

Another room will be available for our merchandizing operation, and assuming that our Merchandizing Coordinator will have some new items, that will be a busy place.

The Genealogy Workshop on Friday is being conducted by professionals. Everton Publishers, who publish the very popular *GENEALOGICAL HELPER* and a number of genealogy books, forms, etc., will conduct the workshop. They conduct such workshops all over the nation throughout the year—normally in conjunction with some local city or county genealogical society. Everyone who registers and attends the workshop will receive a one year subscription to the *GENEALOGICAL HELPER*. If there is a couple involved, they will receive a two year subscription. Those of us who are already subscribers will receive a subscription extension. You might say that this subscription comes free when you pay the \$21 (per person) registration fee. Others may prefer to say they subscribed to the magazine and got a free workshop. Either way you look at it, that is a bargain for those of us who

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presently subscribe at \$21 a year.

I have subscribed for over ten years and bought a number of back issues from before that period. If I had not stumbled upon this magazine in the local library, it is very unlikely that my interest in genealogy would have advanced beyond a slight curiosity—and if that had not happened it is unlikely that this Association would exist as it does today. The magazine is published six times per year. Five of the six issues always have a very large and special directory—local periodicals, family publications, libraries, genealogical societies, and professional researchers. It would cost more than \$21 to purchase two similar directories elsewhere.

The Friday evening reception will, as usual, be primarily stand-up eating and informal dress. The Saturday morning business will be as thorough as necessary but brisk and quick. The rest of the day will be devoted to the Alford family forum, which we are trying to improve upon. The 3-entree buffet dinner on Saturday evening will be followed by some awards and recognition. The workshop on Alford family history on Sunday morning will be unstructured as usual, with small groups working at tables in their respective areas of interest.

Refreshment breaks will come at mid-morning and mid-afternoon as usual. Al Alford, the AAFA events coordinator, promises that there will be entertainment at the appropriate times and places, and we are expecting some interesting door prizes to be provided by Joe Alford, our VA state rep.

Plans for bus accommodations for groups starting in Texas and advancing across country picking up members enroute to Richmond did not pan out. This may be a possibility in future years but will require more time and planning than could be done this year. ❖