



March 9, 2012

## On-Line Registration for NACo's 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition Now Open

Allegheny County (Pittsburgh) PA, July 13-17, 2012

Now that the NACo Legislative Conference is behind us, it is time to turn our attention to the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition of the National Association of Counties to be held this year in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), PA beginning July 13. On line registration is now open, [and can be linked here](#).

CSAC will be staying at the [Westin Convention Center](#), which is the host hotel for the conference and is adjacent to the Convention Center. I suggest you book your rooms early. Here is a rundown of the conference hotels:

[Westin Convention Center](#) - Connected to the convention center, headquarters hotel. Nice, modern-style. It's at the upper end of the restaurant and cultural district.

[Courtyard by Marriott](#) - 945 Penn Ave, 2 blocks, 0.1 miles. Architecturally not your usual Courtyard, it's a restored and converted turn-of-the-last-century office building. Like the Westin, it's also at the upper end of the restaurant and cultural district, only one block closer.

[Omni William Penn](#) - 530 William Penn Place (Mellon square), 5 blocks, 0.4 miles. Pittsburgh's Grande Dame hotel. Think Portland's Benson on steroids, think world headquarters of US Steel, Alcoa, Gulf Oil, Heinz and the moneyed visitors they brought in. And Lawrence Welk, one of Pittsburgh's polka gods.

[Hampton Inn](#) - 1247 Smallman Street, 3 blocks, 0.4 miles. A large version of the standard Hampton Inn, it's just north of the Convention Center in the city's Strip District, formerly (and in part still) its wholesale market area but in the last number of years also increasingly home to trendy and unique restaurants.

[Doubletree](#) - One Bigelow Square, 7 blocks, 0.4 miles. A standard Doubletree. Put it close to the bottom of your list, not because of quality but because of location; while it's close to the convention center it feels remote because it's on the upper edge of the downtown district, close to the cross-town

expressway, and a farther walk from restaurants and entertainment. It is, however, close to a T stop (Pittsburgh's subway) which can get you down to the point, over to the North Shore sports complexes and casino (a just-opened link, and sponsored by the Steelers and the casino so the ride's free), and elsewhere.

Renaissance - 107 6th street, 6 blocks, 0.5 miles. Accurate name, this hotel has been reborn, it's in the tradition of the William Penn but a bit smaller. It's along the Allegheny River by the Clemente bridge (Roberto Clemente, the bridge is one of the three sisters bridges, more on that subject in a future note). It's in the heart of the restaurant and cultural district.

Fairmont - 510 Market Street, 8 blocks, 0.5 miles. About the most distant but still only a half mile. This new property is an up-scale modern design, and is also in the restaurant and cultural district.

Marriott City Center - 112 Washington Place, 8 blocks, 0.6 miles. Rank this last or next to last in your choices, not because of the quality of the facility but only because it is the most distant (walking) from the restaurants and entertainment.

NACo published an article about Pittsburgh and some of the sites. [You can link that article here](#), or you can also go to [www.visitpittsburgh.com](http://www.visitpittsburgh.com) for more information on the area. As the program details of the annual meeting become more clear, we will write about speakers and other events.

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