It’s my pleasure to welcome each of you to Arkansas -- the Natural State.

It’s hard to believe a year has passed since I saw many of you in South Dakota. Since then, our agents have worked long, hard hours and endured countless planning meetings preparing for this year’s national convention.

There are a few things we’d like you to know about Arkansas before you get here:

• Agriculture is Arkansas’ leading industry. It’s a $20 billion-plus industry here and nearly one in six jobs is related to agriculture.
• If you’ve ever eaten chicken or breakfast cereal or enjoyed rice with a meal, chances are you’ve already tasted our biggest products. Arkansas leads the U.S. in rice production, growing more than half of the nation’s acres. We’re also No. 2 in broilers.
• Are you an angler? You might know that Arkansas is ranked No. 1 in baitfish production.
• Chances are that the jeans you’re wearing are made with Arkansas cotton -- a crop in which we’re ranked No. 4 in the U.S.
• Arkansas has a thriving horticulture sector, with a globally renowned fruit breeding program. It has also home to some of the world’s biggest -- and best-tasting watermelons.
• Forestry and wildlife management are major players in our economy. Outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing are estimated to have a $1.8 billion impact each year in Arkansas.
• Arkansas is home to the only public diamond mine on earth -- and it’s all finders keepers.

We hope you’ll find time during your visit here to refresh your professional outlook, find inspiration in your colleagues, and explore all that Arkansas has to offer.
YEP, WE HAVE STUFF TO DO!

LITTLE ROCK RIVER MARKET
The Little Rock River Market District offers a market hall with an exciting mix of food vendors that will entice your senses and fit any taste buds. You can also shop for fresh fruits and veggies, visit several art galleries and souvenir stores, dine at a variety of restaurants, take a trolley ride or stroll through the park, take in multiple pieces of public sculpture, experience several museums and attractions, or enjoy the incredible view of the river.

FARMERS MARKET
Filled with farmers selling farm-fresh produce straight to consumers from the backs of their trucks, come check out the Little Rock Farmers’ Market on Saturday or Tuesday from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Market, located in the two open-air pavilions just down from the conference site at 400 President Clinton Avenue, offers patrons bargains on Arkansas crops, as well as bountiful array of handmade arts and crafts.

Looking for a night on the town? The downtown area is the best place to find live entertainment and local music. Offering entertainment from acoustic, techno, alternative, piano bars, rock, jazz, classical and country – we love music, and we’ve got it all. If a lively, high-energy atmosphere is what you are looking for, the District’s plentiful bars and pubs offer a night on the town you’ll never forget! The Rock Region METRO Streetcar is a 3.4 mile streetcar system connecting the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock. METRO Streetcar is a fun, unique way to take in the downtown sights of central Arkansas’ “twin cities.” Spanning the beautiful Arkansas River, the system links some of the most vibrant destinations in Pulaski County, including the Clinton Presidential Center and headquarters of the global nonprofit Heifer International; North Little Rock’s historic Argenta district; the Little Rock River Market and Creative Corridor; and favorite restaurants, hotels, brewpubs, cultural attractions, shops and more.

Visit https://rrmetro.org/services/streetcar/maps-schedules/for streetcar schedules and fare information. You can also download the NextBus app to find out how many minutes away the next streetcar is from the stop nearest you.

DID YOU PACK THESE?
• Sunscreen
• Bug spray
• Swimsuit
• Sunglasses
• Shorts
• Rain gear
• Fan
• Walking shoes
• Hat
• Camera

DON’T WORRY, BE APPY!
Conference Program? There’s an app for that. Download the Eventbase App from: https://free.eventbase.com/download or search for Eventbase from your app store of your device. Once installed, search for our meeting with the keywords “NACAA AM/PIC Little Rock 2016.”
SOUTH SPEAK

TERMS YOU MIGHT HEAR:

ALL Y’ALL -- Used when addressing a group.

COKE -- Generic term for a carbonated beverage, known in other parts of the country as “pop,” or “soda,” or “soda pop.”

FIXIN’ TO -- A helping verb indicating an intended action.

OUACHITA - pronounced “WASH-ih-tah” - Name of a native American tribe, a river and a range of mountains that run from west of Little Rock into Oklahoma.

TUMP - Verb meaning to turn over.

Y’ALL -- Used when addressing one person.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE/TAXI

Both the Marriott and the DoubleTree have complementary airport shuttles. Depending on your hotel, please call the following to arrange pick up:

Marriott
Shuttle phone: 1-501-906-4000
Calling 24-48 hours before you land will decrease wait time. However, you may call when you land as well.

DoubleTree
Shuttle phone: 1-501-372-4371
Call when you land.

You might also call Yellow Cab: 501-222-2222.

HOTEL INFO

Hotel and Convention Center Parking Information

Marriott
Valet parking fee: $22/day
Off-site parking: $2/hour, $12/day
Valet parking only, visitors: $12/day
Garage height clearance 6’8”

DoubleTree
Self-parking: $12/day
Valet parking not available

The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau operate three parking decks and one additional surface parking lot in close proximity to our convention centers:
• A 550-space underground public parking garage at Robinson Center (400 W Markham) that provides guests well-lighted, weather-protected parking
• A 650-space public parking deck located only one short block south of the Statehouse Convention Center (201 Main St.)
• A 50-space surface parking lot located across from the Statehouse Convention Center on the corner of Markham and Scott Streets (176 E Markaham).
• A 600-space parking deck in the River Market District at 2nd and River Market Avenue is also available.
• In addition, several hundred on-street parking spaces are available within a few blocks of Statehouse Plaza.

FORECAST

7/17 - High 95, Low 75
20% chance rain

7/18 - High 96, Low 76
10% chance rain

7/19 - High 98, Low 76
10% chance rain

7/20 - High 100, low 77
0% chance rain

7/21 - High 101, Low 77
10% chance rain

7/22 - High 101, low 78
40%, T-storms

7/23 - High 101, low 77
20% chance rain

7/24 - High 100, low 77
20% chance rain

7/25 - High 99, Low 77
20% chance rain

7/26 - High 99, low 75
20% chance rain

Forecast courtesy Weather.com