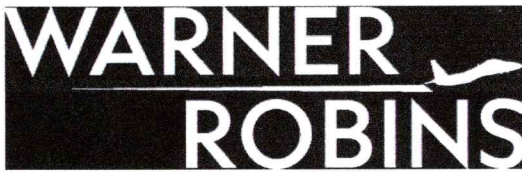


# *Celebrating 250 Years: America the Beautiful*

*Georgia On My Mind!*



## **80<sup>TH</sup> FRA SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONVENTION 78<sup>TH</sup> Aux FRA SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONVENTION**

**July 27 – 31, 2026**

***Newsletter #2***

**HOSTED BY:**

**Middle Georgia Branch 184 Convention Committee**

FRA Chairperson: RVPSE Bill Thornton, (478)952-5522, email, [billmail101@gmail.com](mailto:billmail101@gmail.com)

Aux FRA Chairperson: PNP Sandy Robbins, (904) 463-1181, email [slgr@bellsouth.net](mailto:slgr@bellsouth.net)

FRA Vice Chairman: Bob Trester, (407) 485-8182, email [n1mhv04@gmail.com](mailto:n1mhv04@gmail.com)

FRA Credentials: PRPSE Carl Kirtley, (850) 748-8254, email [carl.kirtley@att.net](mailto:carl.kirtley@att.net)

FRA Member: RPSE Tim Grimes, (931) 248-1619, email [tgrimes48.tg@gmail.com](mailto:tgrimes48.tg@gmail.com)

Aux FRA Member: RCSE Anna Grimes, (931) 337-5718 email [anna.grimes31@gmail.com](mailto:anna.grimes31@gmail.com)

Aux FRA Member: RPSE Ronalee Klase, (727) 642-4091, email [rsklaselafra@gmail.com](mailto:rsklaselafra@gmail.com)

FRA Member: PRPSE Jack Fogel, (931) 787-4833, email [fogeljack0@gmail.com](mailto:fogeljack0@gmail.com)

FRA Member: PNP Robbie Robbins, (904) 599-8730, email [slgr@bellsouth.net](mailto:slgr@bellsouth.net)

## WELCOME TO WARNER ROBINS, GA

The Shipmates & Auxiliary members of the convention committee and Middle Georgia Branch 184 are looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming 2026 FRA Southeast Regional Convention. It will be exciting to greet all our shipmates from the region. So be prepared to have a great time here in Warner Robins, in the heart of Georgia, doing what Southerners do best!

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

**Where:** Courtyard Warner Robins by Marriot, 589 Carl Vinson Parkway, Warner Robins, GA 31088 Phone: [478.602.6200](tel:478.602.6200)

**When:** Actual Convention Dates: Tuesday, 28 July – Thursday, 30 July 2026. Members arrive on Monday or Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> of July and depart on Friday, 31 July 2026 unless staying over to see some sites.

**Room Rate, etc:** \$134.00 plus 25.10 taxes and fee's = \$159.10 per night. Taxes and fees are subject to change. *Reservations must be made before June 27, 2026, to receive preferred group rate.* This rate is available three days before the convention and 3 days after.

**Reservations:** Reservations can be made by calling 1-478-602-6200. Specify that you are making a GROUP RESERVATION under the name of "SE Region Fleet Reserve Association Conference 2026".

**Direct Link to the hotel is:** This will be posted on our website ([FRAsoutheastregion.org](http://FRAsoutheastregion.org)) and national headquarters website ([fra.org](http://fra.org) under events) also. Let us know if you have any problems with the link. *Make your reservations NOW utilizing the link below*

- **To utilize the below link.... press ctrl key and click on the link below.**

[Book your group rate for Fleet Reserve Association \(FRA\) SE Regional Meeting 2026](#)

**Rates include:** FREE parking. All rooms have a refrigerator, coffee pot, iron & ironing board, and hair dryer.

**Meals available:** The Hotel Bistro is available for Breakfast and Dinner meals each day. There are several well-known eateries within a short drive.

**Check-in/Check-out:** Check-in time is at 3:00PM and check-out time is at 12:00PM.

## Welcome Aboard Party

The Welcome Aboard Party will be in the Atrium Area with seating in the main conference room off the Convention Center Lobby on Tuesday evening from 1900 to 2100. There will be a cash bar and only fruit tray, cheeseboard and vegetable tray. So **please go to dinner before** the Welcome Aboard Party!

*This year's Welcome Aboard theme is:*

*“Celebrating 250 Years: America the Beautiful”*

*Wear your best Red, White and Blue to the Welcome Aboard Party!*

## LOCATION

The Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and on-site Warner Robins Convention Center is located off I-75, in Midtown Warner Robins, minutes from Robins Air Force Base, with every popular eatery also in close proximity.

## Air Travel

It is recommended to fly into Atlanta, rent a car and drive to Warner Robins. Rental car access is fairly easy in Atlanta. Take the bus to/from the car rental terminal. Like most big airports, make sure you pay attention to time from terminal to rental desk as you will need to calculate this into your return trip time.

It is about an hour and a half drive to Warner Robins, depending on Atlanta traffic.

Follow I-75 South to I-475 South returning to I-75 (Macon By-Pass) South.

Exit 146 (Watson Blvd) and go east. Hotel is on the corner of Watson Blvd and Carl Vinson Across from the Cracker Barrell restaurant. There is good signage, so you cannot miss it.

## DONATIONS

Donated items for a silent auction and/or sale are welcome. Please bring them to the convention Hospitality Room 106. Please, only NEW or Slightly Used items only.

**JOURNAL ADS**

Ads must be submitted in a MS Word or PDF format by 27 June 2026. Email ads to [billmail101@gmail.com](mailto:billmail101@gmail.com) with “Journal Ad” in subject line, followed with check or money order payable to SE Region Convention” Put “Journal Ad” in the remarks. Mail to FRA SER Convention, C/O Bill Thornton, 105 Parade Ct, Bonaire, Georgia 31005-4039.

**Journal Ads available locations**

- Front inside and back cover  
(color) (8x10) \$250.00
- Full page (8”x10”) \$150.00
- Half page (8”x5”) \$75.00
- 1/4 page (4”x5”) \$40.00
- Business card size \$15.00

**FRA BRANCH BOOSTER ROLLS**

Booster rolls must be submitted in a MS Word or MS Xcel format ONLY by June 27, 2026. A donation of \$.50 per name is requested. Email your booster rolls to [billmail101@gmail.com](mailto:billmail101@gmail.com) with “Booster Roll” in subject line, followed with check or money order payable to “FRA Branch 184”. Put “Booster Roll” in the remarks. Mail check to FRA SER 2026 Convention, C/O Bill Thornton, 105 Parade Ct, Bonaire, Georgia 31005-4039.

Example:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Br./Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Br./Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Br./Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**DOOR PRIZES**

In order to have a door prize for all shipmates and auxiliary members at our banquet, we ask all the branches that attend to bring 2 small door prizes in bags, so we have enough. It will be greatly appreciated. You can always bring more than 2 if you want to help ensure we have enough.

## **Local Area Activities**

- The Museum of Aviation, 1942 Heritage Blvd., Robins AFB, GA 31088 – 6.5 miles from the hotel.
- Hawkinsville, GA. The city is known as the “Harness Horse Capital of Georgia” and is the home of the largest harness racing training facility in the country. The town has a long history of horse racing and celebrates the Hawkinsville Harness Racing Festival every spring. Just 28 miles from the hotel.
- Buc-ees just off I-75. 6.8 miles from the hotel.
- Historic Depot Row & Georgia Artisan Center Highlights: Explore the city’s railway history, southern railroad cars, and purchase locally made crafts and souvenirs. Great for history buffs and cultural enthusiasts. Located at the end of Watson Blvd and Intersection of SR 247.
- Andersonville National Cemetery hosts a great gift shop and displays various military conflicts. Most interesting car audio tour.

# 2026 FRA/Aux FRA SE Region Convention Meals & Order Form

*Any dietary restrictions can be accommodated. Please make a note on this form, email, or call.*

## Meals Order Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, 28 July, Conference Center Atrium 1900 - 2100:

**Welcome Aboard Party** "Celebrating Our Beginnings" \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Veggie Tray, Fruit Tray and Cheese Board

Cash Bar (Hospitality Room Closed)

NOT DINNER! Supper on your own, please eat before.

\*\*\*

Wednesday, 29 July, FRA & Aux FRA RPSE's Luncheon (*Open to All*) 1130 – 1230

**Deli Lunch** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Includes: Sliced Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef, American, Swiss,  
Cheddar Cheese, Assortment of Breads, Lettuce,  
Sliced Tomatoes, Onions, Pickles, Mustard, Mayonnaise  
Served with coleslaw or garden salad. Iced water, sweet  
Tea, and assorted cookies.

**Dinner On Your Own**

\*\*\*

Thursday, 30 July Sept, **Boxed Lunch**, Available to all 1130 – 1230

Includes: **Chicken Salad on Croissant** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

or

**Tuna Salad on Croissant** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Both Come with Chips, Cookie, Bottled Water or  
Sweet Tea, Cutlery & Condiments.

**Social Hour** - 1800-1900 Cash Bar Atrium Area (Hospitality Room Closed)

**Banquet Dinner** - 1900 - 2200 Falcon Room (Hospitality Room Closed)

**Baked Chicken** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 50.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

or **Roasted Pork Loin** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 50.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Both Entrée's come with a House Salad, Garlic Mashed Potato, Southern-style Green Beans and Peach Cobbler for dessert. (w/Ice cream)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send Meals Order Form with payment no later than **July 3, 2026** to:

FRA SE Region Convention

c/o Bill Thornton

105 Parade Ct

Bonaire, Georgia 31005-4039

**Make all checks payable to: SE Region Convention**

# CELEBRATING OUR BEGINNINGS



**2026 80th FRA & 79th Aux FRA Southeast Region  
Convention Schedule and Agenda  
Hosted by Middle Georgia Branch 184  
\*\*\*Times are approximate and are subject to change**



## Monday, July 27, 2026

1500-2400 (3:00-midnight) Check into hotel for early birds  
1400-1600 FRA & Aux FRA Registration (Atrium by Meeting Rooms)

## Tuesday, July 28, 2026

1200-1800 (Noon-6:00 pm) Hospitality Room (Room 106) \*\*\*  
1500-1700 (3:00 pm-5:00 pm) FRA & Aux FRA Registration (Atrium by Meeting Rooms)  
**1900-2100 (7:00-9:00 pm) Welcome Aboard Party Casual Red, White And Blue Attire –  
“Celebrate Our Beginnings – 250 Years”**  
**Atrium and Falcon - Cash Bar with Light HorsDouvrs (NOT DINNER!) Tickets Required**  
2100-2330 (9:00-11:30 pm) Hospitality Room (Room 106) \*\*\*

## Wednesday, July 29, 2026

0730-0830 (7:30-8:30 am) FRA & Aux FRA Registration (Atrium by Meeting Rooms)  
0900-1100 (9:00-11:00 am) Opening Ceremonies (Falcon Room)  
1130-1230 (11:30-12:30 pm) FRA & Aux FRA Regional President’s Luncheon (**Open to All –  
Located in J-STARS Rooms - Tickets Required**)  
1130-1300 (11:30-12:30 pm) Hospitality Room (Room 106) \*\*\*  
1200-1300 (Noon-1:00 pm) FRA & Aux FRA Registration (Atrium by Meeting Rooms)  
1300-1600 (1:00-4:00 pm) FRA First Business Session (J-Stars Room)  
1300-1600 (1:00-4:00 pm) Aux FRA First Business Session (Hercules Room)  
1600-2330 (4:00-11:30 pm) Hospitality Room (Room 106) \*\*\*  
**Dinner On Your Own**

## Thursday, July 30, 2026

0730-0830 (7:30-8:30 am) FRA & Aux FRA Registration (Atrium by Meeting Rooms)  
0900-1100 (9:00-11:00 am) FRA Second Business Session (J-Stars Room)  
0900-1100 (9:00-11:00 am) Aux FRA Second Business (Hercules Room)  
1100-1300 **Lunch On Your Own**  
1100-1230 (11:00 am-12:30 pm) Hospitality Room (Room 106) \*\*\*  
1200-1300 (12:00 noon-1:00 pm) FRA & Aux FRA Registration (Atrium by Meeting Rooms)  
1300-1600 (1:00 pm-4:00 pm) FRA Third Business Session (If Needed) (J-Stars Room)  
1300-1600 (1:00 pm-4:00 pm) Aux FRA Third Business Session (If Needed) (Hercules Room)  
1600-1730 (4:00-5:30 pm) Hospitality Room (Room 106) \*\*\*  
1800-1900 (6:00-7:00 pm) Social Hour (Atrium by Meeting Rooms) **Cash Bar)**  
1900-2200 (7:00-10:00 pm) Banquet (Hercules Room) **Tickets Required**  
**Dress: Business Casual (Cash Bar)**  
2200-2330 (10:00-11:30 pm) Hospitality Room (Room 106) \*\*\*

Friday, July 31, 2026 - Departure of Shipmates and Unit members

**“Middle Georgia Branch 184 Thanks You for Contributing To A  
Most Successful Southeast Region Convention And  
Wishes You A Safe Drive Home”**

