

BUS HISTORY ASSOCIATION 2014 Convention Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

February 1, 2014

To all BHA Members:

We are pleased to announce that the Bus History Association's 2014 Convention will be held in the twin cities of **Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN** from **Thursday, June 12th to Saturday, June 14th, 2014**. A full and interesting program, including two pre-convention days, is being arranged to allow everyone to renew acquaintances and discuss the transportation industry.

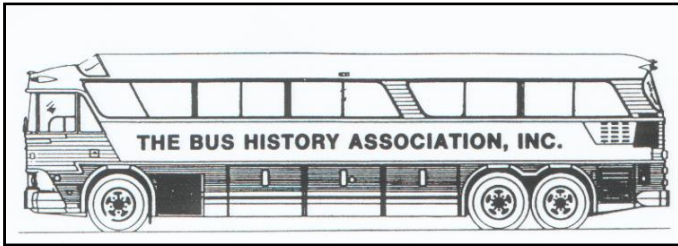
The Itinerary for the convention has not been finalized, but tentative details (subject to change) are shown below:

- **Thursday, June 12** will see us travel north and west to St. Cloud. The New Flyer plant will be toured followed by a visit to view the impressive historical collection of Voigt's Bus Service. Metro Bus, the local transit provider in St. Cloud will also be toured. Finally, the late afternoon peak period will be spent at Marquette and 4th in downtown Minneapolis to view the non-stop commuter bus action.
- **Thursday evening** will be the annual meeting of the BHA, followed by a slide show.
- **Friday, June 13** will see us travel south and west. Richfield bus garages in Bloomington, Cannon Falls and Rochester will be visited to see over 50 historical coaches (both restored and unrestored) in their fleet. Commuter operations in Eagan and Eden Prairie will also be visited.
- **Saturday, June 14** will see us remain in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. We will charter a Twin City Lines TDH-5105 (owned by the Minnesota Museum of Transportation) for part of the day. We will visit the Heywood bus garage of Metro Transit, Jefferson Lines and the Minnesota Streetcar Museum (to ride the former right-of-way used by the Como Harriett line). We will conclude with a visit to the Minnesota Museum of Transportation.
- **Saturday evening** will be free allowing BHA members to ride the newest light rail line, the Green Line between Minneapolis and St. Paul via the University of Minnesota. The line is scheduled to open on Saturday which is perfect timing for the BHA.

For BHA members who arrive in Minneapolis early, there are also two pre-convention days planned:

- **Tuesday, June 10** will be a pre-convention day. Car pools will be arranged to travel to and from the Greyhound Museum in Hibbing, MN. A stop in Duluth is also being planned for the return trip back to Minneapolis.
- **Wednesday, June 11** will be a pre-convention day to explore the Minneapolis-St. Paul area via local transit, including LRT, BRT and local/express transit routes. We will also travel to the University of Minnesota to ride the Campus Shuttle route along the exclusive transitway. We will then head out to St. Paul before returning to downtown Minneapolis for the afternoon rush hour. An optional afternoon tour will allow BHA members to ride the Northstar commuter train to and from Big Lake.
- **Wednesday evening** will be a pre-convention barbecue hosted by Richfield Bus Company at their garage in Bloomington. Transportation to and from the hotel will be provided.

The host hotel, **Country Inn & Suites at Mall of America** (2221 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington, MN) is ideally suited for the convention and BHA members. It is only a short five minute walk from the Mall of America light rail station. It is also only a short shuttle van ride or light rail trip from the Minneapolis – St. Paul International Airport. Numerous restaurants are nearby, including some inside the mall.



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For BHA members taking transit to the hotel, the hotel is easily accessible via Metro Transit:

- For Megabus, the bus stop is located at the Target Field light rail station. Board a southbound Blue Line train destined to the Mall of America station. The hotel is a short walk away.
- For Greyhound, the terminal is located at 950 Hawthorne Avenue. Walk east along Hawthorne Avenue and 1st Avenue West to the Warehouse light rail station (approximately 0.4 miles or 5 city blocks). Board a southbound Blue Line train destined to the Mall of America station.
- From the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, board a Blue Line light rail train at either the Terminal 1 – Lindbergh Station or the Terminal 2 – Humphrey Station. Board a southbound Blue Line train destined to the Mall of America station.

For BHA members travelling by car:

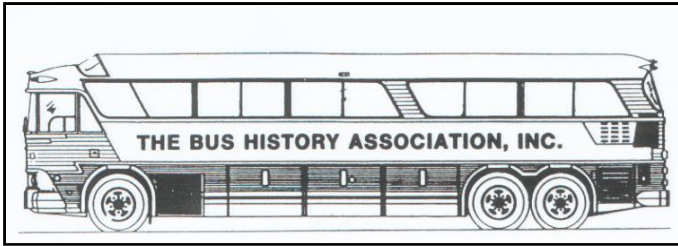
- From the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (Terminal 1 – Lindbergh), follow the internal roadway signs to exit the Airport to MN-5 highway west. Merge onto I-494 west and take exit 2A for 24th Avenue south. Turn right on Killebrew Drive, just past the Mall of America. The hotel will be on the left.
- From the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (Terminal 2 – Humphrey), depart the terminal and follow the signs for 34th Ave towards I-5/I-494, continue down 34th onto Old Shakopee road, cross 24th Ave and continue onto Killebrew, and turn at the next left for Country Inn and Suites.
- From the south, follow I-35 to I-35W northbound. Take I-494 east and take exit 2A for 24th Avenue South. Turn right on Killebrew Drive, just past the Mall of America. The hotel will be on the left (south side)
- From the east, take I-94 west to I-494 west and take exit 2A for 24th Avenue South. Turn right on Killebrew Drive, just past the Mall of America. The hotel will be on the left.

The Convention Registration Form and Hotel Registration Form have been included with this letter. An information package and detailed itinerary will be issued with your registration package upon arrival at the convention. Please note the following regarding the convention activities:

- The pre-convention tour on Tuesday will leave the hotel at **7:30 AM sharp**. The tour on Wednesday will depart at **8:45 AM sharp**.
- All convention tours (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) will leave the hotel at **8:00 AM sharp**.

The BHA last visited the Twin Cities in 1987. There has been quite a bit of change in the local transportation scene since that time. We look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis in June 2014 and hope you take advantage of this opportunity to see old friends and new sights.

Paul Leger
Chairman, Bus History Association, Inc.



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Hotel Reservation Information – Bloomington (Minneapolis-St Paul), MN

A block of rooms for convention attendees has been reserved at:

Country Inn & Suites at Mall of America – Bloomington, MN

2221 Killebrew Drive
Bloomington, MN 55425

Tel: (952) 854-5555

Fax: (952) 858-9011

The special **BHA convention rate is US\$ 114.00 per night, plus applicable sales and occupancy taxes of 14.275%**, for up to four individuals in a room. The reserved room block consists of rooms with two queen beds or one king bed with sofa sleeper. This room rate includes a hot breakfast, which will be provided in the Breakfast Nook, and free high-speed internet access in all rooms. Free parking is available for room guests. Check in time is 3:00 pm and check out time is 11:00 am.

The room block has been set up for arrivals on Wednesday, June 11 and departures on Sunday, June 15. A smaller number of rooms have been reserved for those planning to arrive at the hotel on Monday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 10, in order to assist those planning to participate in the pre-convention days. **If you require rooms for arrival on June 9 or June 10, we recommend that you make your reservations as soon as possible.**

The convention rate will be offered for reserved nights outside of the room block on a first-come basis, subject to availability, for arrivals on June 7, 8, 9 and 10, and for stay overs on June 15 and 16.

Please reserve your room by calling the hotel directly at (952) 854-5555. It is essential that you quote the **group name (Bus History Association)** at the time of making your reservation. (**Do not call** Country Inns & Suites central reservations to reserve your room). Please note that all reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card.

In order to assist us with our planning for the convention, please provide the following information, if you plan to stay at the Country Inn & Suites:

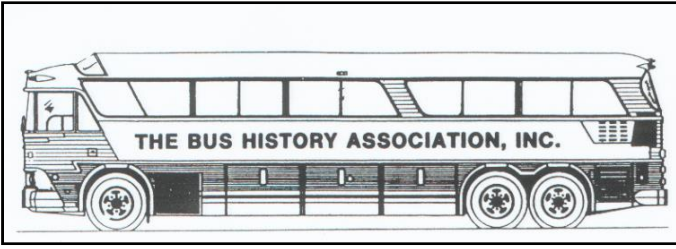
Group Name **Bus History Association**

Name _____

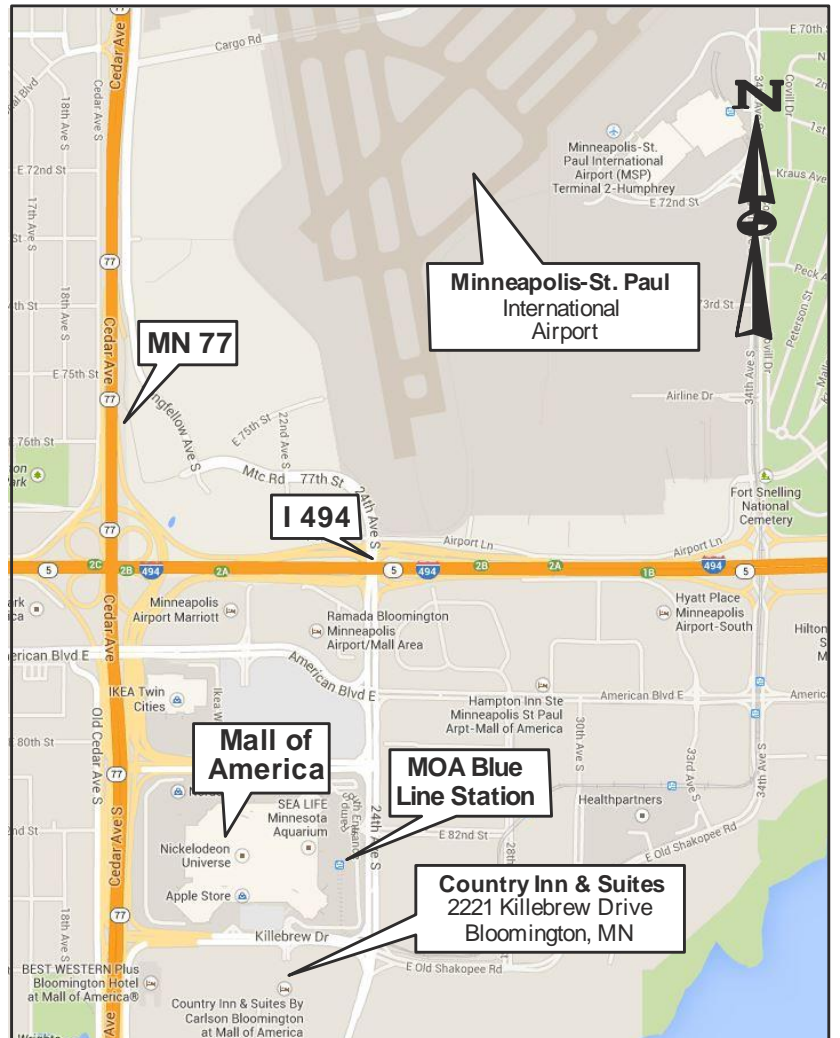
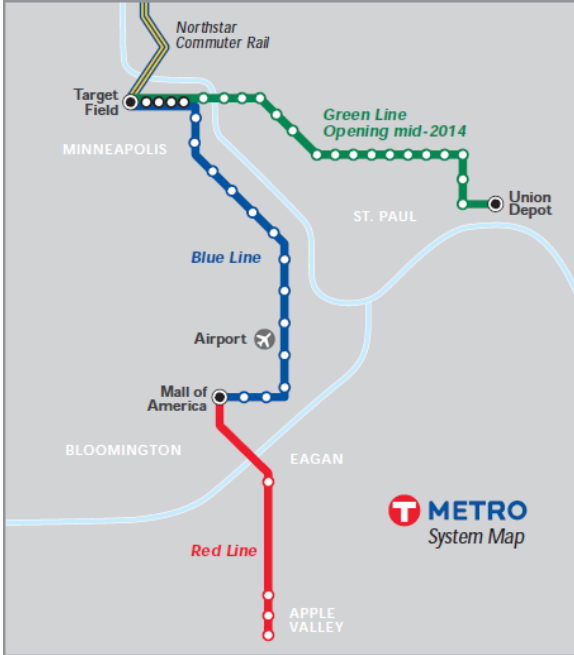
Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

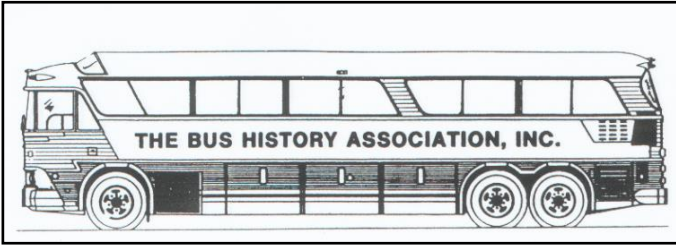
in Room _____ Rooming With _____

The room block is available until 6:00 pm CDT on Wednesday, May 7, 2014. At that time, any unreserved rooms in the block will be released for re-sale by the hotel.



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**BUS HISTORY ASSOCIATION
2014 Convention
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN**

ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State / Province _____ Zip / Postal Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

To better help us plan, please indicate which nights you intend to stay at the hotel and the days you plan to join in on the BHA activities.

Hotel – Night of:

Mon. June 9 _____ Tues. June 10 _____ Wed. June 11 _____ Thurs. June 12 _____

Fri. June 13 _____ Sat. June 14 _____ Sun. June 15 _____

Extra Nights _____

Or - I will have other accommodation elsewhere _____

BHA Pre-Convention Events:

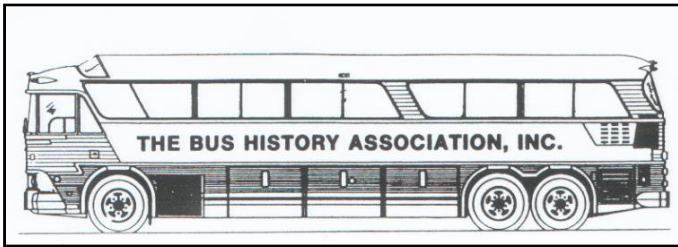
Tues., June 10 _____ Wed., June 11 _____ Wednesday Evening BBQ _____

On Tuesday, I will need a ride _____ or I can offer a ride _____ for _____ additional people.

If you have already agreed to a ride sharing arrangement, please provide the names of the other participants:

Please note that any fuel costs for the car pooling trip to Hibbing will be split evenly amongst all of the participants for that vehicle. The BHA will try to accommodate all car pools requests received but it cannot be guaranteed. On Wednesday, a Metro Transit day pass (\$ 6) will be needed. BHA members who ride the Northstar commuter train will be responsible for paying their own fare.

Please turn over to page 2 to complete the registration ...



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ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM (Page 2)

BHA Convention Events:

Thurs., June 13 _____ Fri., June 14 _____ Sat., June 15 _____

Please check above for all days that you will be attending. Also, please enclose the **appropriate convention registration fee**, summarized below by day and by member/non-member (entrance fee to the Minnesota Museum of Transportation and the Minnesota Streetcar Museum are included):

Please circle all squares that apply	Registration Fee (All Three Days)		Registration Fee (Individual Days)					
			Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	Cdn \$	U.S. \$	Cdn \$	U.S. \$	Cdn \$	U.S. \$	Cdn \$	U.S. \$
BHA Members	100	90	35	32	35	32	40	36
BHA Non-Members	110	100	40	36	40	36	45	40

Note: For the New Flyer factory tour on Thursday, a maximum number of registrants will be set, at the request of New Flyer. Preference will be given to BHA members first, then second to non-members who have registered for all three days. Single day registrants will be accommodated as best as possible, but it cannot be guaranteed.

***** Non members may pay the lower fee by becoming a BHA Member at the rate of \$25.00 US or \$35.00 CDN *****

In the event that the registration fees do not cover the cost of the charter vehicles and other expenses of the convention, would you be agreeable to a small surcharge? _____

Please make your registration cheque or money order payable to “The Bus History Association Inc.” and remit with this form to:

Mr. Bernie Drouillard
 Bus History Association
 965 McEwan
 Windsor, Ontario, CANADA, N9B 2G1
 (519) 977-0664 bdrouillard3@cogeco.ca

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Please advise as soon as possible your intention to attend the 2014 Convention to enable the Association to complete all the arrangements. Thanks and we will see you in Minneapolis-St. Paul.