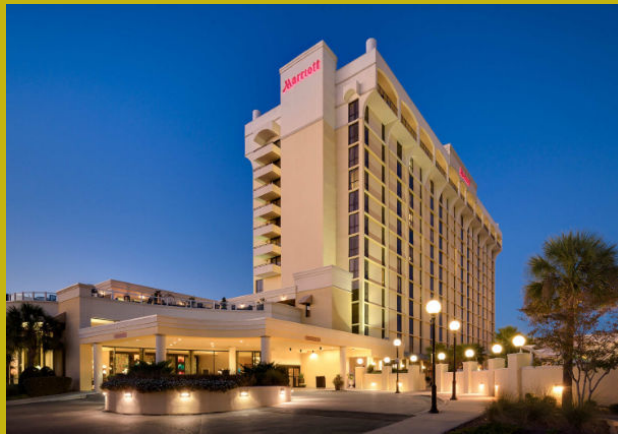


## 2016 Anniversary Reunion



50 Years Commissioning  
30 Years Association

### Reunion Hotel Update



As a result of construction delays J W Marriott Corporation has decided that the remodeled Charleston Plaza will not open until September 1.

As a result, they will not be able to accommodate us and have made other arrangements.

Our reunion will now be hosted by the Downtown Charleston Marriott at 170 Lockwood Boulevard. The room rate remains the same at \$125 per night. Your ever vigilant reunion committee traveled back to Charleston this past week to look over the new facility as well as meeting with the sales and event staff to make sure that all was in order.

Both hotels as well as your reunion committee regret any inconvenience this change may cause. We do believe, however, that you will be pleasantly surprised and satisfied.

We can report that the Downtown Marriott is a superior facility to the current Charleston Plaza and has some amenities that we would not have in North Charleston. The hospitality room is the largest we have ever had, our banquet space is equally grand with a great area for individual photos as well as our group shots, the pool is saltwater and there is even a rooftop bar. There is complimentary parking, Wi-Fi in all public spaces, guest rooms and the business center and for a small daily fee, shuttle service to the downtown historic area. Service animals are allowed, the hotel is ADA compliant and has a smoke free policy with the exception of outdoor spaces. For more information and photographs of the hotel, please visit their website at [www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chsmc-charleston-marriott/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chsmc-charleston-marriott/).

To reduce confusion, please continue to make reservations at [www.thecharlestonplazahotel.com](http://www.thecharlestonplazahotel.com) using the group code USSWAI. If you prefer to call, the number is 1-888 747-1900. The two properties will work together to transfer that information.

For those of you that planned on using the shuttle buses provided by the Plaza for transportation to/from Tanger Outlets or the airport, that service will still be available. Tanger schedules will be in your welcome packet and for rides from the airport please contact the Plaza at 843 747-1900 prior to arrival so they can schedule pickups.

One issue, however, concerns availability of rooms. This Marriott is the only full service hotel in the downtown area and as well as having more expensive non-group rates, has a greater occupancy rate. It is **CRITICAL**, therefore, that you make your reservations **NOW**. Our room block is currently set at 50 for 7/13 and 70 for the other nights based on the Plaza's assurances that if we needed more that would not be an issue. The longer it takes to reach those numbers the more difficult it will be to obtain additional rooms. The same issue covers rooms three days before or after the reunion. Our rate is guaranteed but only based on availability. Like all special rates, there are limits. If you want to come into town earlier or stay later, make your 7/13-7/17 reservation and then contact [jcooper-fulton@jmhotels.com](mailto:jcooper-fulton@jmhotels.com). Remember, it costs you nothing to make a reservation and you can cancel a day or two before if you decide to not attend the reunion but it may be difficult to get a room in this hotel if you wait too long.

We have been asked about reunion event pricing for children (ages 3-12). To determine what it will cost per child, we need to know how many are coming. Please email Manny at [dlgsailor@gmail.com](mailto:dlgsailor@gmail.com) no later than May 1 with ages so

we can set prices and allow time for registration prior to the May 15 deadline.

The hotel also informed us that we must tell them our choice of food for the banquet and the registration form has been updated accordingly. For those who have already registered and not been contacted to obtain your choices, please contact Manny (email above).

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[usswainwright.org](http://usswainwright.org)