



State Bar of Georgia

Why State Bar Annual Meetings are Held Outside of Georgia

Some people have questioned why the State Bar of Georgia holds its Annual Meeting outside of Georgia. It is not that the officers just want to take the meetings out of state; rather, there are several practical reasons for this decision.

The three primary factors are:

1. The required number of hotel rooms (425+) and amount of meeting space (50,000+ square feet)
2. Members' preference for a beach location
3. Members' preference to stay at the host hotel as opposed to multiple hotels

Many hotels in Atlanta can meet factors 1 and 3. Since most attendees commute to meetings in Atlanta, our challenge is the meeting space and hotel charges rather than the number of sleeping rooms. We are not an attractive group to those hotels due to the small number of rooms we use.

The only non-metro Atlanta hotel that can come close to meeting all three factors is the Westin in Savannah. It has 403 rooms and 35,000 square feet of meeting space. The adjoining Savannah International Trade & Convention Center adds 250,000 square feet, but presents contract challenges because it is not owned by the Westin. The two owners have conflicting needs and we cannot meet both.

Other Georgia properties that can accommodate Board of Governors' and smaller meetings are:

- The Ridges Resort & Club Lake Chatuge, Young Harris – 66 sleeping rooms, 8,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Barnsley Gardens, Adairsville – 87 sleeping rooms, 8,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Club, Cordele – 88 sleeping rooms, 10,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Foundry Park Inn , Athens – 119 sleeping rooms, 9,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris – 135 sleeping rooms, 14,298 sq. ft. meeting space
- Jekyll Island Club Hotel – 157 sleeping rooms, 15,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- The Cloister, St. Simons Island – 175 sleeping rooms, 17,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Hilton Garden Inn , Athens – 185 sleeping rooms, 4,100 sq. ft. meeting space
- King & Prince, St. Simons Island – 198 sleeping rooms, 10,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Marietta Hotel & Convention Center – 198 sleeping rooms, 26,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- The Westin Jekyll Island – 200 rooms, 5,350 sq. ft. meeting space
- The Ritz Carlton at Lake Oconee, Greensboro – 251 sleeping rooms, 15,000 sq. ft. meeting space

- Chateau Elan Winery & Resort, Braselton – 275 sleeping rooms, 25,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Legacy Lodge and Conference Center at Lake Lanier Islands Resort – 287 sleeping rooms, 20,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Atlanta Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort, Stone Mountain – 336 rooms, 64,302 sq. ft. meeting space
- Hyatt Savannah Riverfront – 351 sleeping rooms, 33,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Augusta Marriott Hotel & Suites – 372 sleeping rooms, 45,000 sq. ft. meeting space

While the State Bar's Midyear Meeting is typically held in Atlanta or Savannah, we hope that new development in the future will offer us a good **Georgia** location for our Annual Meeting that is favored by our members.