

# Get ready for NNA's Convention

**M**ark your calendars now to join the National Newspaper Association in San Antonio, TX, Oct. 2-5, 2014, for its 128th Annual Convention & Trade Show. The theme of this year's convention is "Spurring Newspapers into the future with Texas Size Ideas."

Your planning committee, co-chaired by NNA past presidents, Roy Eaton of the Wise County Messenger in Decatur, TX, and Jerry Tidwell, of the Hood County News in Granbury, TX, has been hard at work putting together an educational program that is sure to send you home with ideas galore.

The headquarters this year is the Grand Hyatt San Antonio, which offers warm hospitality, bold colors and exceptional touches, creating a luxury San Antonio Riverwalk hotel that is perfect for every guest. Discover an array of attractions and things to do convenient to the hotel; in fact almost everything in the area is accessible by foot, river taxi or trolley.

As you stroll the Riverwalk you can breathe in the scent of huevos rancheros, listen to the music of strolling mariachis, and watch as barges float down the San Antonio River. Technically a city park, this stretch of San Antonio's downtown is better recognized as a dining and entertainment haven. Built a full story below street level, it offers three miles of stone pathways where you may find tranquil gardens, Zagat-rated restaurants, trendy bars, night clubs, and shops. Float along in a river taxi—a great way to experience the city's ambiance especially at night.

San Antonio is a "bike city"—one of the few in the country to host a bike-share program. Grab a B-Cycle cruiser at one of the 30-or-so B-Stations downtown and ride about, and with the basket attached to the front of each bike, you can take advantage of all the great shopping and sites the city has to offer.

Shoppers will not be disappointed. Rivercenter Mall offers you shopping and entertainment beside the Alamo on the banks of the Riverwalk, where you will find many of your favorite stores as well as an IMAX Theatre, Morton's Steakhouse and the Rivercenter Comedy Club. North Star Mall an internationally-acclaimed shopping



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN ANTONIO CONVENTION & VISITOR'S BUREAU.

**NNA members will be able to enjoy San Antonio's Riverwalk when they're in town for convention.**

destination with more than 200 stores is conveniently situated in the heart of the city. North Star also is home to the largest cowboy boots in the world, standing 40 feet high and 20 feet long. Inter Artisan International Folk Art is a unique shop carrying exclusive folk art pieces directly from international artisans. Market Square, a three-block outdoor plaza lined with restaurants, shops and produce stands—near the city center—is the largest Mexican market in the U.S. and one of America's top-10 outdoor markets. You will find everything from hand-embroidered dresses to leather belts. Market Square's working artists, musicians, dancers and major cultural events give it a rich and lively cultural atmosphere.

Shopping not your thing? The Tower of the Americas was built in 1968 as part of the World's Fair and remains a big destination for out-of-towners. Take in an unmatched view of the city from the 750-foot tower with a happy hour drink in hand, and finish your visit with dinner at the top-floor Chart House Restaurant.

More than 2.5 million people a year visit the 4.2-acre complex known as "The Alamo" where you will find exhibits on the Texas Revolution and Texas History. For more than 300 years, the Alamo has been a crossroads for Texas history. Here the Spanish colonization first took hold. Although the Alamo fell in the early morning of March 6, 1836, the death of the Alamo defenders has

come to symbolize courage and sacrifice for the cause of liberty. Memories are as powerful today as when the Texan Army under Sam Houston shouted "Remember the Alamo!"

Everyone "Remembers the Alamo" but too many overlook San Antonio's other missions: Mission Concepción, Mission San José, Mission San Juan and Mission Espada. The National Park is a great place to tour the four missions and enjoy the scenery. The 8-mile start-to-end trail is a favorite among runners and cyclists and provides a do-able walk for those looking to stop and explore or join one of the daily tours.

You have no excuse to be uncultured in this town. The San Antonio Museum of Art houses the largest collection of ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman art in the southern U.S. The Witte provides a look at history and science through its myriad displays and the Institute of Texan Cultures gives a glimpse of the vibrant history that shaped the state of Texas. The Texas Air Museum mirrors little of the aircraft you get overcharged to fly on today but Katherine Stinson's Bleriot, a simple and somewhat bicycle-like design of the 1900s, is the perfect picture of the early days of flight. The San Antonio Botanical Gardens founded in 1980 encompasses 38 acres in the center of the city.

Watch this page in future issues of Publishers' Auxiliary for more information on the program, events and things to do in San Antonio. There is so much to do you are going to want to build in a few days at the beginning or end of your trip. Registration information will be in your June issue and at [www.nnaweb.org](http://www.nnaweb.org) late May. So block the dates Oct. 2-5.

**'THE THEME OF THIS** year's convention is 'Spurring Newspapers into the future with Texas Size Ideas.'