



# FALL 2015 TRANSFORMERS COMMITTEE MEETING



Welcome to the Fall 2015 Meeting in Memphis, home of the Blues and birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll! My wife, Cheryl, and I consider hosting this meeting a distinct honor and privilege, and thank all of you for joining us in Memphis, Tennessee.

Autumn foliage should be at peak colors during our meeting this first week of November. The weather is not always predictable this time of year, but you can generally expect daytime highs to be in the mid-60s to low-70s (18°C to 23°C) with nighttime lows in the low-50s to high-50s (11°C to 15°C). Rain is in the forecast, so you'll want to add a jacket or raincoat to your suitcase!

## **Getting Around:**

Centrally located in downtown Memphis, the historic Peabody Hotel is easily accessible from the nearby **Memphis International Airport (MEM)**. From the airport, you can reach the hotel in a short 15 minutes by car or taxi. Taxi fare from the airport should be approximately US\$30 to downtown. Shuttle/Limo service can be pre-arranged by calling Premiere Transportation Services at +1.901.577.7700 for advance reservations.

Driving is also an option since downtown Memphis is located close to Interstate 40 and Interstate 55, as well as the Interstate 240 Beltway around the Memphis area. Traffic is usually very mild in the Memphis area but is busiest during weekday rush hours in the morning and evening. The Peabody Hotel offers self-parking in an attached parking garage where overnight guests will be charged a rate of US\$18 per night to park (discounted to \$10 per night for our attendees, staying overnight at the Peabody). Valet parking is also available for US\$26 per night. The vehicle entrance to the Peabody Hotel and parking garage is located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. If you do not drive to the meeting or rent a car, you can easily traverse the area by taxi or public bus.

The public transportation bus system, MATA, makes a "Riverfront Trolley loop" around the central Memphis business district. Bus fare is only \$1.75 per person per ride for the downtown loop, and a few dollars more for areas outside the immediate downtown. If you are interested in more details on the bus routes, please visit [www.matatransit.com](http://www.matatransit.com) for a full system map and fare schedule. Please note that the MATA bus does provide transport to and from the airport every day except Sunday.

## **Things to Do**

The hotel is conveniently located in downtown Memphis, in the heart of the business and entertainment districts, near the banks of the Mississippi River and close to a variety of parks, museums and historical sites. Located just a few blocks from historic Beale Street, you can easily experience the sounds of live Blues, Rock 'n' Roll, Gospel and Soul music that have earned Memphis a special place in America's musical and cultural history. A good starting point to plan your trip is [www.memphistravel.com](http://www.memphistravel.com). Other links to several helpful websites are available on the Committee website.

Popular musical history stops in the downtown Memphis area include Sun Studio, the Rock 'n Soul Museum, Stax Museum of American Soul Music, the Gibson Guitar factory, Beale Street and nearby Graceland.

Several great museums are located in the Memphis area, including the Brooks Museum of Art, the Pink Palace Family of Museums, the Cotton Museum and the Civil Rights Museum. For nature lovers, Tom Lee Park offers great views from the bank of the Mississippi River, and access to riverboat tours from Beale Street Landing. Other parks in the area include the Memphis Botanic Gardens, the Dixon Gallery and Gardens and Overton Park.

For a unique shopping experience, be sure to visit the newly opened Bass Pro Shops at The Pyramid. Discover an outdoor wonderland inside the 220,000 sq-ft. riverfront Pyramid retail store that also includes an elevated, glass-floored observation deck, a glass-walled rooftop restaurant and even hotel rooms inside the facility.

If you're looking for delicious food, Memphis is full of great options, many of which highlight traditional Southern cuisine. A must-try during the week is Memphis' legendary barbeque at Central BBQ or other popular barbecue spots, as well as the famous Gus's Fried Chicken. There are many other restaurants close by that cater to every taste and budget, and we suggest you talk to the hotel concierge for more details on finding the cuisine of your choice. For those wanting to dine a short taxi ride distance away from downtown, other popular spots with good food and entertainment options include the Overton Square and Cooper-Young areas, both located in the Midtown district of Memphis. Due to their popularity, where possible, advance reservations are recommended for restaurants in these areas.

We also have many planned events to give you a break from technical meetings throughout the week. All event flyers are available on the website, and we are still taking registrations for some of the events.

*A special note for Saturday Early Birds:* Enjoy food, beverages and a fun night of watching our local NBA basketball team, the Memphis Grizzlies, host the Brooklyn Nets. Meet in the hotel lobby at 5:45 pm to take a two-block walk to the FedEx Forum. Our private party suite event area opens at 6:00 pm with game tip-off at 7:00 pm.

Thank you again for joining us in Memphis, Tennessee for the Fall 2015 Meeting!

Best regards,

***Craig & Cheryl Swinderman***

Fall 2015 Meeting Hosts

Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.

