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October 16, 2012

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Re: RPPTL Section Executive Council Meeting at Biltmore Estate in Asheville (November 14-18, 2012)

Dear Executive Council Members and Fellows:

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Our out-of-state meeting at Biltmore Estate in Asheville is just around the corner. Although we plan to have a productive meeting and take good care of Section business, the emphasis will be on slowing down and relaxing for a few days in this exquisite self-contained setting.

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Our current room reservation count at the Inn on Biltmore Estate is approximately 125. If you hold a room reservation and need to cancel, remember two things: (1) before contacting the Inn, notify Yvonne of your intentions by e-mail and wait for her response before canceling so that your room can be kept in our room block and transferred to another member; and (2) the cancellation charge increases from \$50 to your entire deposit if the hotel is not given notice of cancellation by the end of October. If you do not have a room at the Inn and need one, please also send an e-mail to Yvonne as soon as possible.

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It is a pleasure to assist with your planning for this meeting by providing considerable information concerning many events and available activities. Most of you know that our venue for this meeting, Biltmore Estate, is an 8,000 acre self-contained mountain resort which includes the Inn, shops and restaurants (Cedrics and the Bistro) at Antler Hill Village, a winery, magnificent scenery, and also offers a very interesting variety of quality (but not inexpensive) activities. The iconic centerpiece of the Estate is Biltmore House, which was built by George W. Vanderbilt more than 115 years ago. Biltmore House has 255 rooms, is three times the size of the White House, and has a yard that is nine times the size of Central Park.

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The Estate (or its title entity, The Biltmore Company) is held by George Vanderbilt's grandson, William A.V. Cecil and his children, Dini Cecil Pickering and William, Jr. The Biltmore's longtime General Counsel and former President of the North Carolina Bar, Jack Stevens, will speak at our Executive Council meeting on Saturday morning, and we are hopeful that Mr. Stevens will be accompanied by George Vanderbilt's great-granddaughter, Dini Cecil Pickering.

The evening highlights of our meeting will be our group Candlelight Christmas Tour of Biltmore House and following reception at the adjacent Italian Gardens on Thursday evening, and the elegant "Diana" reception and dinner on the hill in front of the holiday-decorated Biltmore House and grounds on Saturday evening. Under a very special arrangement with the Biltmore, your payment of the \$125.00 registration fee (per person) for the "Diana" reception and dinner on Saturday evening will also provide you with access to Biltmore House during the day from Wednesday through Sunday, as well as admission to the group Candlelight Tour of Biltmore House (but not to the reception that follows at the Italian Gardens) on Thursday evening at no additional cost.

For your own comfort, please remember that the Asheville weather in November is a little different than south Florida in July. The average high temperature for this time of year in Asheville is 55 degrees; the average low is 35 degrees; and the average daily temperature is about 45 degrees. Please come prepared with warm clothes.

Detailed information concerning our meeting events and activities (planned for our group and on-your-own) is contained in the following attachments to the e-mail that transmitted this letter (which Rohan and Laird would characterize as "electronic service"):

E-Mail Attachment # 2 - Registration Form. This Form is short and cryptic because its only purpose is to get you registered. Detailed information concerning all events and activities may be found in attachments 3-8 (described below) to the e-mail that transmitted this letter. This Form must be properly completed and returned to our Section Administrator, Yvonne Sherron, with payment or credit card information, not later than **November 6, 2012**. Even though we have been very generous with the length of the time period within which you may register, due to the need to finalize commitments (particularly with outside vendors) as soon as possible, please give the Registration Form your **immediate** attention and submit it no later than Monday, October 29. In any

event, please register on time and don't attempt to board the train after it has left the station. If you do not register by November 6, then your only option is late registration at the Biltmore on a space-available basis. Please do not attempt late registration with Yvonne after November 6 when she will be very busy packing, shipping, finalizing details with the Biltmore and making other last-minute preparations for our meeting. Admission to events for which timely registration is required will be closely monitored at this meeting.

E-Mail Attachment # 3 - Detailed Schedule of Events and Activities.

E-Mail Attachment # 4 – On-Your-Own Activities at the Biltmore.

E-Mail Attachment # 5 – On-Your-Own Specialty Tours at the Biltmore.

E-Mail Attachment # 6 – On-Your-Own Kids' Activities Off-Site.

E-Mail Attachment # 7 – Zipline Participant Requirements.

E-Mail Attachment # 8 – Zipline Participant Agreement.

Here are a few additional miscellaneous tidbits of information that you may find helpful:

1. There is a very comprehensive, informative and well-prepared Asheville guide called "Asheville – any way you like it." We will have printed copies of the Guide for you at the Inn. In the interim, the link for accessing it online is:
<http://www.exploreasheville.com/about-asheville/request-travel-guide/digital-travel-guide/>.
2. If you are one of the brave and adventurous creatures that will be participating in the zipline adventure on Thursday morning, please remember that prompt registration is needed and that your prior e-mail reply expressing an interest in this activity does not get you on the list or give you any priority. Also, please carefully review: (i) the criteria (i.e., minimum age, minimum weight, maximum weight, etc.) which zipline participants must meet, as set forth in the E-Mail Attachment # 7, "Zipline Participant Requirements;" and (ii) the terms of the "Zipline Participant Agreement," as set forth in E-Mail Attachment # 8.

3. Very special areas that you will want to visit in your free-time include Asheville's:
 - A. Biltmore Village shopping and dining district just outside the entrance to the Biltmore Estate (unique shops; great cafes and food (Rezaz Mediterranean in Bohemian Hotel just outside Biltmore gate, Corner Kitchen, Fig, Chelsea's Tea Room, etc.); and all types of art and handmade items (New Morning Gallery is a must).
 - B. River Arts District (serious art/artists, great wall art, and good lunch places).
 - C. Downtown (old; unique; hip; cafes/restaurants (Market Place, Asheville's oldest and reputed best, serving continental food; Limones, serving best margaritas in town; Curate Tapas; and Cuban restaurant in historic Grove Arcade); art; music halls (great music scene on Friday and Saturday evenings). Immediate Past Chair (and World traveler) George also calls our attention to a sort of spontaneous flash-mob type of "Drum Circle" (drumming, dancing and watching) that sometimes occurs from about 6 to 10 on Friday nights downtown in Pritchard Park on Patton Avenue at College Street. However, the Drum Circle appears to be a warm-to-moderate weather sport and may not occur in chilly/cold mid-November.

Please join me in doing your part to make this meeting a smooth success by promptly completing and returning the Registration Form so that all arrangements can be finalized as soon as possible. If you have any questions that cannot be answered after your careful review of this letter and the other e-mail attachments, or if you experience any difficulty in making your arrangements for this meeting, please contact Yvonne or me. I very much look forward to visiting and working with each and every one of you in Asheville.

Very truly yours,

Fletch

Wm. Fletcher Belcher