

2024 Horatio Alger Society Convention

“The Fredericksburg Fourth”

May 2 – 5, 2024

Hampton Inn, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Schedule of Events



Updated schedule for “Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg,” Hampton Inn and Suites, Fredericksburg-South, 4800 Market Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408.

Convention Host: Jack Bales, 422 Greenbrier Court, Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5517.
email: jbales@umw.edu; phone: (540) 846-4828.

Wednesday, May 1, 2024	
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Get-together for early arrivals at the home of Jack Bales. Buffet includes shrimp cocktail, carved turkey breast, Swedish meatballs, artichoke dip with pita and artisan breads, cheese and roasted vegetables, chocolate mousse, assorted petit fours and French pastries.
Thursday, May 2, 2024	
6:00 am – 8:45 am	Hot breakfast available at the Hampton Inn
9:00 am – 10:00 pm	Registration in the Spotsylvania Room (the H.A.S. Meeting / Hospitality Room), lower level of the Hampton Inn
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Board of Directors meeting in the Washington Room (also known as the Board Room), lower level of the Hampton Inn
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner on your own (see restaurant listing in convention packet). Hospitality Room closes at 5:00 pm.
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	H.A.S. Hospitality Room opens after dinner
Friday, May 3, 2024	
6:00 am – 8:45 am	Hot breakfast available at the Hampton Inn
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Registration in the H.A.S. Hospitality Room
9:00 am – 9:10 am	Welcome by H.A.S. President Carol Nackenoff and Host Jack Bales
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Presentations: “Ragged Dick’s Pocket Change,” by Liane Houghtalin New York City during the Gilded Age, by Will Mackintosh

10:45 am – 11:45 am	“Book Collecting: Then (Before the Internet), Now, and in the Future,” a panel discussion featuring Porter Blakemore, Michael Dirda, Jeff Looney (moderator), Keith Thompson, and Peter Walther.
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Break to set up tables for lunch and business meeting
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Business meeting and lunch (H.A.S. Hospitality Room)
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Consignment/Donation Auction (which may or may not take four hours). Hospitality Room closes at 5:00
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Buffet dinner at Hope Heroes Southern Kitchen, 9677 Patriot Highway, (Route 1), Fredericksburg, in the “Cosner’s Corner” shopping center. Buffett includes marinated grilled chicken, Cavatappi pasta, macaroni and cheese, street corn, sauteed vegetables “hope cakes” (southern cornbread), banana pudding, and assorted beverages. Announcement of <i>Strive & Succeed</i> award.
8:30 pm – 10:00 pm	H.A.S. Hospitality Room opens upon return from dinner
Saturday, May 4, 2024	
6:00 am – 8:00 am	Hot breakfast available at the Hampton Inn
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Set up for book sale, H.A.S. Hospitality Room
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Annual H.A.S. book sale (open to the public)
10:15 am – 11:30 am	Finish Friday auction (if necessary; otherwise, book sale continues)
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own. H.A.S. Hospitality Room closes at 12:00.
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Afternoon open. National Park Service ranger-led tour of Chatham Manor. Meet at 120 Chatham Lane in Fredericksburg at 1:30 pm. Tour lasts about an hour. Chatham was the U.S. Army headquarters and field hospital during the Battle of Fredericksburg. Hospitality Room opens afterwards, though caterers will arrive at about 5:00 to set up for dinner.
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Annual H.A.S. Banquet, Hampton Inn, Hospitality Room. H.A.S. annual awards. Keynote speaker: Mike Hill, author as well as researcher for many well-known writers and filmmakers, including David McCullough, Jon Meacham, and Ken Burns. Mike will compare themes in Horatio Alger’s books to those in the works of McCullough.
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	H.A.S. Hospitality Room will remain open after dinner
Sunday, May 5, 2024	
6:00 am – ????	Farewell breakfast on your own