

President's Message

HAC's 2017 Convention & Tradeshow Moves to a New Format

HAC's 2017 Ottawa Convention dates have shifted slightly from November 10-12 2017 to November 9-11 2017. In a move from its traditional Friday-through-Sunday format, HAC's Ottawa Convention dates have moved to a Thursday-through-Saturday format to accommodate attendance by delegates at the 2017 Remembrance Day services at the War Memorial, nearby the Host Hotel – the Ottawa WESTIN.

The Remembrance Day services in Ottawa promise to be one of Ottawa's most memorable Remembrance Day events. This year marks Canada's 150th Birthday, as well as the 100th Anniversary of the Battle at Vimy Ridge. The battle, which took place on April 9 1917, is commonly highlighted as a turning point in Canadian history, where the four Canadian divisions fought together as unified fighting force for the first time. While 3,598 Canadian soldiers were killed during the battle, the victory over German forces is often cited as the beginning of Canada's evolution from dominion to independent nation. Ottawa Remembrance Day services are traditionally attended by thousands of Canadians. Click here for a short video of the 2016 ceremony:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6F82r7Riho>

Remembrance Day services on Saturday would have conflicted with our traditional Saturday Keynote Lunch, so we have shifted the Keynote Luncheon and our Award Presentations to a Closing dinner on Saturday night. We have preserved our popular *Chair's Opening Reception* on the trade show floor, followed by a full day trade show and another reception on Saturday on the floor, before the Closing Dinner.

Any longer-term changes to the format and timing of our Convention will be guided by the results of our recent survey of Members and Associates, and input from the HAC Board. These issues will be discussed more fully at the Board's DFW HAI meeting.