A. Top 10 Things to do during the 55th Annual DRAP Conference:

1. Learn to speak the native tongue.

Since you probably don’t have a “Yinzer” app on your phone, let me help you. You’ll need to say “yinz” instead of you; “n’at” instead of “and that”; “Jagoff” instead of jerk; “pop” instead of soda; “gum band” instead of rubber band; “nebby” instead of nosey; “crik” instead of creek; “slippy” instead of slippery; “jumbo” instead of bologna; “redd up” instead of clean; “buggy” instead of shopping cart; and “sweeper” instead of vacuum. Please take note that we use “yinz” to start most of our sentences and “n’at” to end them.

2. Dip your feet in the Fountain (or one of our three rivers) at Point State Park.

Be careful, it can be “slippy” near the Fountain!


Take a bunch of selfies from the Observation Decks that run along Grandview Avenue. There’s no finer skyline in America!

If you’re going with a vendor, dine at Altius, Monterey Bay or Le Mont. If you’re on a County budget, grab some wings at the Bigham Tavern or stop by the Melting Pot, Gandy Dancer Saloon or Tupelo Honey in Station Square.

4. Tailgate before the Steelers (pronounced “Stillers” by Yinzers) Home Opener at Heinz Field (we are never going to call it Acrisure Stadium).

If you can’t get a good parking spot or aren’t able to crash some Yinzers tailgate party, you can always go to the Rivers Casino, Tequila Cowboy, McFadden’s, Southern Tier Brewing Co., Bar Louie, Burgatory, The Foundry, North Shore Tavern, Mike’s Beer Bar or Shorty’s Pins x Pints on the North Shore.

5. Take a ride on the Gateway Clipper.

You can take the short ride from Station Square to the North Shore before the Steeler’s Home Opener on Sunday, September 18th or the one-hour boat ride on the following Wednesday or Thursday.
6. Eat, drink and shop in the Strip District.

Get some “dippy” (over easy) eggs at De Luca’s Diner or crepe-style pancakes at Pamela’s; a fish sandwich at Wholey’s; the “#2 Best Seller” at the world-famous Primanti’s (which is best eaten on the hood of your car after a night of drinking); or a pepperoni roll at Sunseri’s. And, of course, you’ll want to pick up some Steelers or Penguins gear to wear back in Philly.

7. Get Cultured.

The Burgh has the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Science Center, Andy Warhol Museum, Heinz History Center, August Wilson Center, Heinz Hall, Benedum Center and Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, n’at.

8. Be Entertained.

The Burgh also provides home to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, the National Aviary, Kennywood Park (make sure that you get some potato patch fries while you are between rides), PNC Park, Heinz Field (again, we are never going to call it Acisure Stadium), PPG Paints Arena and the Rivers Casino.

9. Pay homage to the late, great Pat Quinn.

Have a seat on his bench overlooking Duquesne University’s Rooney Field, see the playground dedicated to him at the Family Court Center or stop by for a drink at his “home away from home”, Satilio’s (27 Bailey Avenue on Mt. Washington).

10. Enjoy an evening at the best ballpark in America, PNC Park.

Come watch a mediocre baseball team play ball in the most beautiful ballpark in America, PNC Park. If you’re lucky, it will be a fireworks or bobble head night!

In addition to the traditional hot dogs and peanuts, you can munch on a Primanti’s sandwich, a Pittsburgh Cone (which is a waffle cone filled with kielbasa and pierogies), or a pulled pork sandwich at Manny’s BBQ (which is often frequented by Pirates catcher Manny Sanguillen himself).

Take a selfie with Pirate legends Honus Wagner, Roberto Clemente, Bill Mazeroski and Willie Stargell (or, at least, with their statues) or walk down river and visit with Pittsburgh icon, Mr. (Fred) Rogers, because it’s always a beautiful day in the neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!
B. Top Restaurants (on a Vendor’s Budget):

Our Hoity Toity Steakhouses – Capital Grille, Ruth’s Chris, Hyde Park, Eddie Merlot’s, Sullivan’s

Eddie V’s Prime Seafood
Altius
Monterey Bay Fish Grotto
Grand Concourse
Centi Anni Alla Famiglia

C. Top Places to Eat within a walking distance of the Conference:

1. If you’re on a Vendor’s Budget --

   Capital Grille, Ruth’s Chris, Eddie Merlot’s, Sullivan’s
   Eddie V’s Prime Seafood

2. If you’re spending more that your County reimburses you --

   Gaucho Parillo Argentina 146 Sixth St.
   Butcher and the Rye 212 Sixth St.
   Meat & Potatoes 649 Penn Ave.
   Sienna Mercato 942 Penn Ave.
   Cioppino’s 2350 Railroad St.
   The Commoner 458 Strawberry Way

3. If you’re stuck with your meager County budget --

   Proper Brick Oven & Tap Room 139 Seventh St.
   Condado Tacos 971 Liberty Ave.
   Tako 214 Sixth St.
   Bakersfield 940 Penn Ave.
   Nicky’s Thai Kitchen 903 Penn Ave.
   The Eagle 732 Penn Ave.
   Osteria 350 2350 Railroad St.
   Primanti’s 46 18th St.
   August Henry’s 946 Penn Ave.
   Chinatown Inn 520 Third Ave.
D. Top “Dahn Tahn” (Downtown) Happy Hours (listed by proximity to the Doubletree):

- Bill’s Bar & Burger 1001 Liberty Ave.
- Condado Tacos 971 Liberty Ave.
- Bridges & Bourbon 930 Penn Ave.
- Speckled Egg 501 Grant St.
- McCormick & Schmick’s 301 Fifth Ave.
- Red Beard’s 144 Sixth St.
- Gaucho Parilla Argentina 146 Sixth St.
- The Warren 245 Seventh Ave.
- Emerson’s Bar 435 Market St.
- The Yard 100 Fifth Ave.
- City Works 2 PPG Place
- Revel 242 Forbes Ave.
- Cioppino’s 2350 Railroad St.

E. Top Pittsburgh Bars (that are not on the South Side, North Shore or Lawrenceville):

- The Warren 245 Seventh Ave.
- Bridges & Bourbon 930 Penn Ave.
- Il Tetto 942 Penn Ave., 3rd Floor Roof Top
- Emerson’s Bar 435 Market St.
- Kingfly Spirits 2613 Smallman St.
- Ollie’s Gastropub 535 Smithfield St.
- Wigle’s Whiskey 2401 Smallman St.
- Maggie’s Farm Rum Room 3212 Smallman St.
- Bar Marco 2216 Penn Ave.
- The Speakeasy 530 William Penn Place
- Olive & Twist 140 Sixth St.
- Howl at the Moon 125 Seventh St.