

Action of the 2010-2011 American Sociological Association Council On Relocation of 2011 Annual Meeting

By Unanimous Email Vote of those responding on December 28, 2010

Email Voting Participation

Present on Email Vote: Catherine White Berheide (Secretary), Randall Collins (President), Sara Fenstermaker, Evelyn Nakano Glenn (Past President), Rosanna Hertz, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Jennifer Lee, John Logan (Past Vice President), Joya Misra, Omar M. McRoberts, Cecelia Menjivar, Debra Minkoff, Mario Small, Sandra Smith, David Snow (Vice President), Sarah Soule, Edward E. Telles (Vice President-Elect), and Erik Wright (President-Elect)

Absent on Email Vote: Robin Wagner-Pacifici

Introduction

As requested by Executive Officer Sally Hillsman, Deputy Executive Officer Janet Astner sent to all Council members by email a memorandum prepared by Meeting Services Director Kareem Jenkins on December 23m 2010, detailing relevant factors in Council's decision regarding the selection of a new 2011 Annual Meeting site. On December 13, 2010, Council had voted to move the meeting from Chicago.

Background

Acting on ASA Council's decision, the Association has notified the host hotels in Chicago that we will not hold our meeting there this coming August. Meeting Services staff have explored alternate site options based on ASA Council feedback. Those cities include: New York City, Minneapolis, and Las Vegas. Staff requested proposals based on the August 13-16 and 19-23 meeting date options with each city. ASA staff researched Hilton and non-Hilton properties in these cities.

New York City

Council indicated a preference for moving the meeting to a destination popular with ASA members such as New York City. Appropriate space and dates in August 2011 were not available.

Minneapolis

Council also expressed an interest in Minneapolis as an alternate site. There was appropriate no space available during the necessary dates. While Minneapolis does not have availability in 2011, it is eager to be considered in future site selections.

Las Vegas

Hilton representatives have helped Meeting Staff identify other destinations within the Hilton brand that could hold a meeting of our size. There were two options available in Las Vega that could potentially host the 2011 meetings; Caesar's Palace offered the best option for meeting space and guestrooms. Other (non-Hilton) properties in Las Vegas were also explored, but there were significant challenges with meeting space,

dates and available/committable guestrooms. For a Las Vegas site, the meeting dates will need to be one-week later (August 19-23, 2011).

Caesar's Palace is able to accommodate the entire ASA housing block within its property and all of our meeting space needs. The property is willing to offer ASA an excellent convention rate and a typical 80% attrition based on the hotel guestroom pickup. Over the last several years ASA's hotel room block pickup has been outstanding so we do not anticipate an attrition problem

The property also requires a minimum food & beverage revenue. Even under extreme belt-tightening measures and our negotiated package of food & beverage concessions during the Atlanta meetings, ASA generated hotel revenue significantly over this minimum. We anticipate no problem.

As with many properties in Las Vegas, Caesar's charges a daily resort fee (which bundles varying amenities for one fee). Caesar's is offering ASA attendees a low one-time resort fee including internet and fitness facilities. Combined with the hotel rate, this will still be considerably less expensive than our negotiated hotel rates at our most recent locations (including Chicago and Atlanta) at which internet and fitness facilities were built into the room rate.

Caesar's Palace has also offered a series of concessions to help offset Annual Meeting operating costs including support of ASA-sponsored receptions, electrical and audio-visual support for ASA service areas and breakout sessions.

Caesar's Palace is a unionized facility with contracts expiring in 2012.

Conclusion

The short-term book situation yields very few options for sites that can support the size and scope of our 2011 Annual Meeting. The Las Vegas destination offers the best availability and rate options (contingent on contract signing by year-end). Caesar's Palace is the facility which best accommodates ASA's needs.

Recommended action: To relocate the 2011 Annual Meeting to Las Vegas and direct the Executive Office to conclude contractual arrangements with Caesar's Palace.

Procedures

Send your vote by noon on Tuesday, December 28, 2010. VOTE "YES" TO SELECT LAS VEGAS; VOTE "NO" TO DEFER A SITE DECISION.

<p>MOTION: To relocate the 2011 Annual Meeting to Las Vegas and direct the Executive Office to conclude contractual arrangements with Caesar's Palace. Approved unanimously.</p>
