

ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS & FACILITIES

THE SOURCE FOR ASSOCIATION MEETING PLANNING MANAGEMENT

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Breaking News

KEEP AMERICA MEETING

'Keep America Meeting' Online Petition A Success

The Keep America Meeting Campaign, created by TBA Global in partnership with the U.S. Travel Association, with support from the Event Marketing Institute, has set up an online petition for individuals and organizations to sign in support of continuing the discussion on corporate responsibility and the effects of impending TARP (Troubled Assets Relief Program) legislation on the meetings and incentive industry. Signatures from the online petition will be delivered to the U.S. Travel Association and industry leaders to fuel lobbying efforts with the White House and Congress. The campaign has collected 10,000 signatures, and the Web site now includes links to social networking sites on Facebook and LinkedIn, promotional downloads, letters from industry leaders and industry articles on the effects of the current economic climate on the meetings industry. Visit the campaign's Web site at www.keepamericameeting.org to sign the petition and for more information.

The Broadmoor Meeting Guarantee

"We Perform. Or it's Free," said Steve Bartolin, president and CEO of The Broadmoor, in a recent YouTube video announcement. Bartolin's bold, innovative offer states that The Broadmoor will stand behind their service, staff and facilities by providing a guarantee for new group business held in 2009 and 2010. Bartolin's simple message promises that "if your Broadmoor meeting doesn't deliver superior value in service, facilities and quality, the master account will be waived." Bartolin continued, "We feel that in difficult times it is more important than ever to bring people together. At the same time, organizations want to be certain they are making a responsible decision in doing so. I can't think of a better way to assure that decision than by guaranteeing the outcome, or the entire meeting is free. To my knowledge, this has never been done before and it demonstrates the confidence we have in our staff." John Washko, vice president of sales and marketing of The Broadmoor and HSMIA Americas board member, added that client satisfaction will be determined by results of a independent, third-party survey of attendees in areas such as service, staff and facilities. The offer is valid for groups of 50 or more who stay for a minimum of two nights. For more information, call 800-633-7711 or visit www.broadmoor.com.

Doug Neilson To Resign Post With Visit Milwaukee

Doug Neilson, president and CEO of Visit Milwaukee has announced to the board of directors his plans to resign his post when his contract ends on December 31, 2009. Neilson was with the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau prior to his tenure with Visit Milwaukee and plans to return to the San Francisco area to pursue new opportunities. A search committee to find Neilson's replacement will be formed from members of the board of directors' executive committee and the process will begin soon. For more information, visit www.visitmilwaukee.org.

15 CIC Members Endorse Meeting And Travel Guidelines

and build a 6,745-room hotel, casino and retail complex along Harmon Avenue in downtown Las Vegas, west of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Once constructed, the property would have the greatest number of guest rooms, beating First World Hotel in Malaysia by 627 rooms. The permits would grant the group two years to begin construction on the project or seek an extension. AFI's Web site lists the project as "Edge (Las Vegas)" and describes a three-phase construction model. Observers say the project probably won't break ground until the economy improves.

Palm Beach County Convention Hotel Delay Continues

Tourism officials estimate that it will take another four or five years to open a hotel at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, located in downtown West Palm Beach, FL. County commissioners voted last October to cancel the development deal they struck in 2004 with Delray Beach, FL-based Ocean Properties. At the present time, there is no adjacent hotel for the convention center, which offers 350,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space. The \$83 million facility opened in November 2003.

Anaheim/Orange County Meeting Numbers Stay Solid

Meetings and convention business in Anaheim and Orange County, CA, brought more than one million attendees to the area in 2008. Data released by the Anaheim/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau noted that 764 meetings, trade shows and conventions were conducted in 2008 at the Anaheim Convention Center and meeting attendees spent a total of \$975 million throughout the region during their stay. For more information, visit www.anaheimoc.org.

Philadelphia To Have Busy Year For Meetings

The Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau (PCVB) has 183 meetings and conventions, including 447,062 total room nights, booked for 2009, which is expected to generate more than \$681 million in revenue for the city. Short-term meetings business yet to be booked for the year is predicted to include an additional 100,000 room nights. The PCVB initiated a new marketing campaign: "Bring It Home" was designed for city leaders, meeting planners and show organizers to spread the word to colleagues and friends about the benefits of keeping meetings in the Philadelphia area. For more information, go to www.pcvb.org.

Kansas City Is Destination To Watch In 2009

Kansas City, MO, was named by USA Today as a Top 5 Destination to Watch in 2009. Kansas City features a diverse mix of new development venues such as the Power & Light District, a new eight-block neighborhood in downtown Kansas City featuring a mix of entertainment, shopping, nightlife and residential options. For more information, go to www.powerandlightdistrict.com.

Green Meetings On The Rise Despite Sluggish Economy

According to a recent survey released by the Association Management Company (AMC) Institute, four out of five meetings held in 2008 were "greener" than in 2007. In addition, one-third of organizations planning meetings are willing to increase their budgets to ensure greener meetings. The survey represented data collected from 400 associations and nonprofit organizations, including 30 AMC members. For more information, visit www.amcinstitute.org.

Three Rosen Hotels Receive Two Palm Green Designation

Rosen Hotels & Resorts is proud to announce that its three Orlando convention properties, Rosen Plaza, Rosen Centre and Rosen Shingle Creek, are the first hotels in Central Florida to achieve Two Palm status in the Florida Department of Environmental