

## **Report of the 2008 Local Arrangements Committee, Boston, MA**

Chair: Gordana Rabrenovic

Committee Members: Cheryl G. Najarian, Timothy Patrick Stablein, Will Holton, Silvia Dominguez, Sarah Bakanosky, Lorna Rivera, Amy Finnegan

**Annual Meeting Site:** This year's site is the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers, 50 Park Plaza at Arlington Street, Boston, MA.

**January 17-19 Site Visit:** Michele, Nancy, and LAC Chair Gordana Rabrenovic met with the Convention Services managers to tour the hotel and the room sites that will be utilized for the conference. Gordana and fellow committee member Sarah Bakanosky identified several restaurants for the Board dinner and made reservations at three restaurants to visit while Nancy and Michele were in Boston. The restaurants, due to pricing, size, or location were decided against. A different restaurant, Maggiano's Little Italy, was suggested and was decided on as the site of the Board dinner after the site visit had taken place. The family-style dinner at Maggiano's will take place on Wednesday, July 30 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. and the cost per person will be \$49.14 (inclusive). Sarah and Michele walked from the Park Plaza to the Boston Marriot Copley Place, Sheraton Boston, Hilton Boston Back Bay, and Hynes Convention Center to estimate the walking times from the SSSP hotel to the ASA hotels and the Convention Center. Michele also took a cab from the Convention Center to the Park Plaza to estimate cab fare. Entertainment for the silent auction was also discussed, specifically if karaoke should be used again or if something different, such as a comedian, should be brought in.

**Program:** Will Holton and Tim Stablein agreed to write separate "Welcome to Boston" messages for the SSSP website and both the preliminary and final programs. Will will also be doing a tour of Boston during the conference.

**Meeting Promotion:** In January, Sarah compiled a list of the sociology departments of Boston colleges. The list included the contact addresses and phone numbers of each of the departments. Gordana then sent this list to Michele.

**Directions to and from the Park Plaza and ASA hotels and Hynes Convention Center:** Sarah Bakanosky provided Michele with walking directions and an estimate of cab fare from the Park Plaza to the Hynes Convention Center.

**Graduate Student Reception and AIDS Fundraiser and Auction:** In late January and February, AIDS organizations located in or near Boston were suggested as possible recipients of the Silent Auction proceeds. The websites of the organizations were reviewed in order to identify the organization that could most benefit from the fundraiser. Nancy decided on Cambridge Cares about Aids (CCA). Cambridge Cares about Aids, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a non-profit organization that provides service to over 3,000 people in Eastern Massachusetts. Their mission is to prevent HIV infection through outreach and education, to provide quality care and services to people living with HIV/AIDS, and to combat societal stigmas imposed on their client populations.

During the January site visit, the possibility to use another form of entertainment other than karaoke for the AIDS Auction was discussed and it was decided that a comedian will provide entertainment instead.

Items that have been donated by both SSSP members and non-members include: pottery, jewelry, clothing, University of Tennessee serving trays, and books. A list is being made as items are donated and a bidding sheet for each item donated was prepared. A flyer is also being prepared that lists all of the

donations, a description for each, and who donated each item. Flyers will be distributed on each table at the fundraiser.

Submitted by:  
Gordana Rabrenovic  
2008 LAC Chair