

MEMORANDUM

To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: Deborah L. Little, Chair
SSSP Accessibility Committee, 2010-11
Re: Committee's Annual Report

The Accessibility Committee accomplished several tasks this year. We reviewed the section on accessibility of the 2010 "Annual Survey," revised the question regarding conference access on the survey, revised the access memo provided to all meeting participants, handled access requests for the 2011 meetings together with Michele Koontz, and made suggestions about access issues. 227 participants completed the survey for a return rate of 39%. 22 participants (10%) completed the question on access. The majority reported no problems or addressed issues that were not about access. However, some access issues were referred to in other places in the survey and they are discussed below.

ACCESS ISSUES RAISED IN THE 2010 SURVEY

1. Several people commented about signage in different parts of the survey. Two individuals said that it was difficult to locate the onsite registration table and another noted the need for a large "arrow" on the lobby sign pointing to the location of the meetings.
2. Two individuals commented on the readability of the program. One noted that the online program had too much text and was, therefore, difficult to understand. Another asked for a better internal graphic design and a larger font in the printed program.
3. Two participants noted that the meeting rooms were too cold and others complained about noise from adjoining rooms and/or hallways during the sessions.
4. Two individuals commented on responses to allergies. One was pleased with the accommodations during a banquet and the other was concerned about the length of time it took the housekeeping staff to remove feather pillows from the room.
5. One person reported a respectful and professional response from Michele and the committee when requesting an ASL interpreter. The individual thanked SSSP for providing equal access.
6. One person reported significant trouble accessing disability parking and a need to move the hotel room because it was not accessible from any elevators.
7. There were several comments about signage and availability of gender neutral bathrooms. While participants were pleased with the signage in the lobby, and the way that the sign educated the gender normal participants, two reported difficulty actually locating the gender neutral bathroom on the upper floor.

ACCESS MEMO REVISIONS

In light of the responses to the 2010 survey question regarding access, and the range of issues beyond those of physical disability, the committee recommended a rewording of the question to include disability, health issues, and other differences requiring accommodation.

ACCESS MEMO REVISIONS

The committee made several revisions to the Access Memo that is distributed to all attendees. In general, the comments clarified the text, made the document more user friendly, and refined it so that there were “bullet” guidelines on the front page and more detailed guidelines on the back.

OTHER ACCESS ISSUES

Michele and I communicated about fragrance sensitivity and she has asked the hotel to provide fragrance free supplies in the bathrooms adjoining meeting rooms.

ACCESS ISSUES AT THE 2011 MEETINGS

This year one member requested ASL interpreting at a session and 2 meetings during the conference. Michele contacted me about ASL interpreting services in Las Vegas and I researched services recommended by the Las Vegas Center for Independent Living. I gave Michele this information and she arranged the services. Interpreting services are being provided for the conference at a cost within the SSSP accommodation budget limits.