

Report of the 2010-11 Local Arrangements Committee, Las Vegas, NV

Chair: Shannon Monnat, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Committee Member: Allyson Hallam, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Annual Meeting Site: Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel, 3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV

Site Visit: I met with Michele Smith Koontz and Hector Delgado at Harrah's Hotel on Friday, Jan 21 during their visit to Las Vegas to determine a site for the meeting. Upon touring several facilities and meeting with representatives at prospective hotels, they had narrowed down the list of hotels to two choices prior to our meeting: Flamingo and Harrah's. Based on the ambiance, space and facilities, I recommended Harrah's. Because the Board of Director's meeting, Reception honoring past Presidents, and Awards Banquet were to be held at Harrah's, I was not required to locate a restaurant for those events.

Program: In March, I wrote the "Welcome to Las Vegas" piece, and Allyson Hallam wrote the "Welcome" for graduate students for the website and meeting program. Through her assistance with local arrangements, Allyson was able to fulfill the requirements of an internship course that is required for all graduate students in our sociology department.

Walking Directions: I visited Harrah's in February and provided walking directions from Harrah's to Caesar's Palace (the ASA meeting location) for the meeting program. The directions were a bit complicated because wheelchair accessible entrances at Caesar's are a somewhat difficult to locate and are not always available at the main entrances.

Tour: I contacted Allen Lichtenstein from the ACLU of Nevada in January to inquire about the possibility of providing a social justice tour. Through several exchanges with Javier, Hector, and Michele, we agreed on a tour to the Fremont Street Experience where a representative from the ACLU would discuss workers' rights to protest and the battles to keep public sidewalks open for such protests. As there is no fee for such a service, Michele and I agreed that SSSP should provide a donation to the ACLU with the money left over from the tour ticket purchases, after paying for transportation services from Harrah's to the Fremont Street Experience. I emailed Allen Lichtenstein at the beginning of July to confirm the tour. He emailed me back on July 19 to confirm that he would be representing ACLU for the tour and to provide the mailing address for the donation check.

Tour Transportation: Allyson contacted several transportation service companies in Las Vegas to locate a wheelchair accessible shuttle provider. Bell Trans (Limo Las Vegas) was the most cost efficient (at \$59 per hour) and had the greatest capacity (29 people). I spoke over the phone with Michele on Tuesday, July 12 as she booked the shuttle via Bell Trans online system.

Registration Desk: I provide Michele with the names and email addresses for four sociology graduate students who were willing to work at the registration desk. Allyson Hallam, Anna

Smedley, Lori Fazzino, and Edward Needham will be covering the desk during the event. SSSP has graciously paid for their shared hotel rooms (2) at Harrah's.

Restaurant Guides: SSSP elected to order Restaurant Guides from ASA this year, so I was not required to compile a separate Restaurant Guide.

AIDS Fundraiser: In February, Allyson compiled a list of five local HIV/AIDS organizations with brief descriptions culled from their websites. Based on their descriptions, Javier selected Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN).

Local Promotion: I provided contact information for the Department Chairs at the three other colleges/universities in Nevada with Sociology departments to Michele in February. I disseminated the approved press releases to the department chairs at the end of July.

Media: I wrote two press releases (one extended and one condensed) that was edited and approved by Michele, Javier and Hector in July. Allyson and I contacted local television and radio stations and newspapers in the Las Vegas area and emailed them both version of the press release. I also provided the press releases to UNLV's media relations specialist, Afsha Bawany, who suggested that some of the media reps may want press badges to attend the event. Allyson and I informed each contact person that they could request a media badge by providing some information requested from Michele by Aug 1. The list of media contacts is as follows:

- Las Vegas Review Journal (newspaper)
 - Feature writer
 - Educational writer
 - Award submissions
- My News 3
- Fox 5 Vegas
- 8 News Now
- KTNV
- Entravision
- View News
- Las Vegas Sun (newspaper)
- KXNT News Radio
- KDWN News Radio
- KNPR (national public radio)
 - Radio and event calendar
- Vegas Seven (weekly news)
- Las Vegas CityLife
- The Rebel Yell (UNLV student/faculty newspaper)

Submitted by:

Shannon M. Monnat
2010-2011 LAC Chair