

Report of the Local Arrangements Committee, Denver, CO

July 26, 2012

Chair: Lisa M. Martinez, University of Denver

Committee Member: Melody Maitland, University of Denver

Annual Meeting Site: The Grand Hyatt Denver Hotel, 1750 Welton Street, Denver, CO

Site Visit: I met with Michele Koontz, SSSP Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager, and Wendy Simonds, SSSP President, at the Grand Hyatt Denver Hotel on Thursday, November 10, 2011. The meeting site had already been selected. At our meeting, we discussed meeting details as well as possible options for tours of sociological interest. I discussed the options with Wendy and agreed to follow up with them by providing a list of possible options that might be of interest to SSSP participants. I also accompanied Michele and Wendy for a tour of the venue and facilities, including the registration, banquet, and meeting rooms. Following the tour, I sat in on a meeting with Michele, Wendy, and a hotel representative to discuss meeting details such as the location for the banquet and Welcoming Reception.

Program: I wrote the “Welcome to Denver” piece and submitted it on March 1st. Melody Maitland wrote the “Welcome” for graduate students for the web site and meeting program. She was recruited because of her research interests. It was her idea to not only highlight area attractions but, also, write about some of the social problems in Denver. I compensated her by offering her a portion of my stipend for the time she spent writing and researching her piece.

Walking Directions: When I met with Michele and Wendy in November, I walked from the Hyatt Regency and Colorado Convention Center, the ASA venues, to the Grand Hyatt Denver Hotel in order to provide walking directions to and from both sites. I also consulted Google Earth maps to ensure the directions were easy to follow and that there was no construction or other obstructions that would make walking to/from the Grand Hyatt Denver difficult, especially for people requiring wheelchair accessibility.

Tour: I contacted a colleague from the History Department at the University of Denver as I was told that she has guided tour groups in the past. I explained that we were interested in a tour of sociological interest, and she referred me to a friend from the Colorado Historical Society, Shawn Snow. I contacted Shawn in November 2011 to inquire about possible options, costs, and wheelchair accessibility. I submitted a list of possible options to Wendy and Michele in November and Wendy then narrowed down the choices. She requested that I look into a tour of medical marijuana dispensaries in Denver, which I was told was still in the development stages and would not be available in August 2012. After communicating with Wendy, Hector, and Michele, we opted for a tour of historical sites and points of interest downtown as well as the Five Points neighborhood. These stops were chosen because of their close proximity to the conference hotel as well as their proximity to the Light Rail, which is wheelchair accessible. This proved to be a better option than a tour bus through Colorado Gray Line, which would have required a minimum 5 hour tour for 20 people for \$425, not including the walk-on guide for \$265 and driver gratuity. The Downtown Denver and Five Points tour will last 2.5 hours at a cost of \$50 per tour guide for ~15 people. At the time of this writing, we have one tour guide and another has been asked to keep the date open should there be enough interest.

Restaurant Guide: I was not asked to provide suggestions for the Restaurant Guide, though Melody and I provided a few suggestions in the “Welcome to Denver” pieces.

AIDS Fundraiser: I was informed that there will be no AIDS fundraiser this year.

Local Promotion: I provided the names of Sociology faculty at 4 area colleges and universities (CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, Colorado College, and Metropolitan State University) to Michele in February. I disseminated the extended and abbreviated press releases to these contacts in late July.

Media: I solicited the help of Jordan Ames from the University of Denver (DU) Division of Marketing and Communications. She provided me with the names and contact information of local media who might be interested in covering the SSSP meetings. She also offered to promote a possible story for the DU web site and student newspaper. I contacted the individuals on the contact list Jordan provided and offered to send the press releases. I also contacted the communications coordinator at Colorado Progressive Coalition asking him to disseminate the press releases given that CPC is going to receive the Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award. The list of media I contacted is as follows:

Joe Boven
Colorado Progressive Coalition
Communications Coordinator
Phone: 303-332-8614
joe@progressivecoalition.org

Elisa Cohen
North Denver Tribune
Phone: 303-273-0488 (x2)
Elisac@northdenvertribune.com

Maeve Conran
Outsources/KGNU-FM (Independent radio)
Boulder, CO
Phone: 303-455-9095
news@kgnu.org

Tony Flores
El Reportero Nacional (Spanish language newspaper)
Phone: (303) 432-3650
elreportero@qwestoffice.net

Toni Fresquez
El Seminario (Latino, bilingual newspaper)
newsdesk@elsemanario.net

Holly Hatch
Out Front Colorado (GLBT newspaper)
Phone: 303-778-7900
Holly@outfrontcolorado.com

Joe Nguyen
Asian Avenue Magazine
Phone: 303-937-6888
editor@asianavenuemagazine.com

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newsroom@850koa.com

Denver Post
newsroom@denverpost.com

KWGN/KDVR
news@denvernewshd.com

KCNC
kcncnews@cbs.com

KMGH
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Submitted by:
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2011-12 Local Arrangements Committee Chair