

Symposium Status.

2004 in Saratoga

Dan Wilt is progressing very well with the 2004 symposium plans. Dan is working with the schedule to keep more people at the hotel for the Banquet and business meeting. He has run into a few hiccups in regards to the fire marshal, at this time all with the fire marshal is looking good. The turnout is positive and we will be meeting our room block without a problem. The exhibitor chairs this year did a great job and we have a vendor sellout.

2005 at Indian Lakes - Chicago

Joe Gregar as expected is right on track and will have the Vendor Packets and other information ready for Saratoga. Joe is working on the schedule and some of the activities for the symposium. Indian Lakes is a central location for travel and the facilities are unique. There is numerous shopping and eating facilities in the area. I will be keeping a close watch on Saratoga's room block and working with Joe to update the hotel as needed.

2006 in Manhattan - California

Jim Merrit and I are working on the 2006 symposium to be held at the Manhattan Marriott Hotel in So. Cal. We are finishing up the contract that is set for Jun 2006. The site is excellent and within a few miles of the Airport and Beach. They have a small 9-hole course on site and the conference facilities should work out very well for our group. Jim is doing a great job and his experience hosting previous symposiums has been a plus for me.

We need a host section for the 2007 symposium!

Symposium Coordinators Report –Continued

Work in process.

Working with connection in regards to the contract negotiations and site selection has been a real treat. Connections found and corrected several areas of the contract to benefit the society and keep the cost a bit lower, it's nice to have them in our corner during negotiation. I believe connections is an asset to the society, they work with all the major hotel chains and setup many functions like our Symposium that they are in a better position to negotiate with the hotels. All indications working connections this year is the society will save money in S. Cal and the members will have lower room rates. The rates and benefits now are lower than when Jim approached the hotel in the past before working with connections. Currently I have setup connections to handle the room block, the members will contact connections for the reservations and connections will update the hotel. After that each member will handle the bill and other needs directly with the hotel, by doing this we will have access to canceled rooms and be able to better take advantage of our room block. We will still have full control of the block, but using them as a tool to assist us.

Another project I will take on is to create a standard packet for the Fire Marshall to assist future symposiums. I plan to gather all the MSDS's and standard floor plans/setups, in addition I will be working with my local hasmat inspector who I have a working relationship to check my information and make suggestions.

Due to other Society commitments, I will be working with Dan Wilt over the next year to take over my position as symposium coordinator.

Ron Bihler
Symposium Coordinator