

## ArkACRAO 2011 Site Selection Committee Report

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Tammy Young represented the 2011 Site Selection Committee for ArkACRAO and researched the following possible sites to consider for the 2013 ArkACRAO Fall Conference, October 2 – 4, 2013:

- 1) Lake Point Conference Center – Russellville, AR – for conference and hotel accommodations
- 2) Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center – Conway, AR - for conference location and Hilton Garden Inn – Conway, AR – for hotel accommodations
- 3) Wyndham – North Little Rock, AR – for conference and hotel accommodations
- 4) Winthrop Rockefeller Institute – Morrilton, AR – for conference and hotel accommodations

### **Lake Point Conference Center**

#### Pro's:

- Facility able to accommodate our group
- Retreat/rustic setting– hiking trails, outdoor pavilion for meeting space and meals
- Wireless internet open-access, T-1 speed (ATU)
- Room rate \$65 plus tax/per night – single or double occupancy
- Hospitality and Talent Show in Atrium
- Rooms of Oak and Hickory Lodges at no charge – piano & pool table
- Fireside Chats – indoor or outdoor options – no charge for use of Atriums or patio areas
- Dining Hall/General Session Room included w/catering per person rates. No extra charge
- Comparable meeting space rates
- Continental breakfast for overnight lodge guests in Atriums

#### Con's:

- 49 rooms for lodging up to 80 persons
- 1 ADA accessible room (double beds)
- Only catering services – no restaurant open for meals on your own
- Dining Hall/General Session round tables can seat 135 – 150 max
- Somewhat isolated – limited lodging occupancy space. Non-occupants commute to and from conference center
- Additional hotels (state rate avail.) & restaurants available in Russellville app. 10 minutes from Lake Point Conference Center
- Only plated meals available in dining room (lg groups) for catered meal service due to limited space

### **Wyndham – North Little Rock**

#### Pro's:

- Facility able to accommodate our group
- Centrally located
- Wireless internet included
- Guest rooms have been revamped/renovated within the last few years

- Complimentary guest room for every 50 guest room nights paid , Two rooms for every 100 rooms paid
- Negotiated rate of state rate \$86 single or double occupancy and \$10??? each additional person
- Near capital attractions & dining
- Large hotel rooms (king bed or 2 dbl beds )
- Large hospitality room
- Free wireless and dorm refrigerators in all rooms

Con's:

- Breakfast not included
- Cost: food and beverage minimum of \$9000 before meeting spaces will be waved. Otherwise, we must agree to pay the remaining rental balance. 19% F/B tax
- F/B min not met –cost per day: Ballroom - \$595/day , Breakout - \$195/day
- Hospitality room in center section of king room and dbl room. Must rent king and dbl rooms connected to HR and meet \$9000 food & beverage min for Hospitality Room to be at no charge. Otherwise, \$395 charge.

**Hilton Garden Inn – Conway, AR**

Pro's:

- Hotel occupancy for our group
- Partner w/Brewer-Hegeman – will work with UCA Conference Center for best conference deal based on our budget.
- Wireless internet included
- Hospitality – Pres. Suite – suite is free for 20 rooms purchased
- Talent Show room comp w/\$200 min purchase from hotel lounge
- Comp 1 room for every 20 purchased
- Comp 1 room for every 20 purchased \$89 negotiated State rate (will reflect government rate) – breakfast included IF higher room rate paid for blocked rooms.
- Comparable meeting space rates
- Indoor pool, whirlpool & fitness room

Con's:

- Can only block 30 rooms a year in advance. Can adjust to 50-60 after one year
- Breakfast not included unless room rate charge can be higher
- 100% non-smoking rooms in 2013

**Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center – Conway, AR**

Pro's:

- Facility able to accommodate our group for General & Concurrent Sessions
- Shuttle service from Hilton Garden Inn - \$1 per mile or ample parking at UCA lots
- ArkACRAO may apply for fee reduction/waiver to UCA Provost
- If fee waiver is applied, minimal costs will apply - \$10/hr plus \$25/hr after 4:30 pm.

Con's:

- Separate room and fee per day for vendors' area \*
- \$25 /hr charge for use of facility after 4:30 pm
- Commute from Hilton Garden Inn to BHCC
- Buffet meals are charged per person/time frame – ex. 1 1/2 persons – may want to opt for plated meals \$.

### **Winthrop Rockefeller Institute**

The WRI was not available for the ArkACRAO 2013 Fall Conference dates. This site is a suggested site to be researched for the ArkACRAO 2014 Fall Conference.

The recommendation of the committee was ranked in following order:

- 1) ***Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center & Hilton Garden Inn*** - fee discount/waiver, ArkACRAO 1<sup>st</sup> in Conway, north/central location of state, on-your-own dining options – shopping, entertainment, hotel amenities
- 2) ***Lake Point Conference Center*** - rustic/retreat setting, ArkACRAO 1<sup>st</sup> in Russellville, northwest/central location of state, continental breakfast for lodging guests
- 3) ***Wyndham NLR*** - nearby attractions & dining, shopping, entertainment

The ArkACRAO membership chose the Wyndham-NLR because of the conference and hotel accommodations in the same location.

Report submitted on 10/13/2011

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