

NASIG Newsletter

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President's Corner

Steve Shadle, NASIG President

Well, how quickly time flies (and how quickly these columns keep coming up)! Last month, the Executive Board held their fall meeting at the Sheraton Music City in Nashville (the site of our upcoming annual conference). I must say I am very pleased with the facility. Just the right size so we will essentially own the hotel. Open space with bar, restaurant and patio/pool all off the lobby so easy for networking and a very convenient meeting space with a separate lobby that will work well for vendor expo and opening reception. Program Planning is putting together a great slate of speakers and Conference Planning is organizing a night out at the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum. I have not yet been there but TripAdvisor (among other sites) rates it very highly: *"Interesting for non-country western fans, but amazing for those who love it!...Country Music Hall of Fame is definitely one of the top 5 places to see in Nashville."*

...and for those of you who have been attending NASIG for a while, remember those days when a NASIG conference registration got you lunch on Friday and Saturday? Because we are not in a downtown location, the Board has agreed to include lunch on both Friday and Saturday as part of your basic registration...so no stress of running out of the hotel at lunchtime to grab a sandwich to bring back for a discussion group and no extra money out of pocket. The Board has also agreed to extend the vendor expo two hours (1-7 PM) so Thursday will offer additional networking time and some good food. This is a great opportunity to catch up on the latest developments and ask those burning

questions you have for your vendors and service providers.

One final note on the conference. As many of you have heard, the conference is scheduled on the same weekend as both the CMA Music Festival ("Fan Fair") and the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival. We signed contracts with the hotel long before these events were scheduled. For those of you interested in country music, this is the icing on the cake, but there will be an additional 100,000 people in the area over the weekend. I've heard that some of you are considering not attending this year because of the crowds. As with anything else involving crowds, a little advance planning will go a long way towards making your conference experience the best it can be.

The conference dates are June 7-10 with preconferences tentatively scheduled for June 6th and 7th. Conference Planning is recommending people make their travel arrangements as soon as possible. Program Planning is working hard to get the conference schedule up early this year and we will send out announcements as soon as we have final confirmation from speakers. Because of the festivals and the fact that the hotel offers free parking, Conference Planning is asking people to consider driving (if possible). I've recently run across a nifty web application called the *Fly or Drive Calculator* <<http://www.befrugal.com/tools/fly-or-drive-calculator/>> that calculates time, cost and CO₂ comparisons for the two different modes of travel. An

eye-opener for me...keep it in mind when making your travel plans.

And don't forget all of the other great activities in Nashville during our conference time. Check out what's happening at Fan Fair <<http://source.cmaworld.com/>> and take a look at all of the activities posted by

Conference Planning

<http://www.nasig.org/conference_city_info.cfm>.

Nashville is a fun and vibrant city and the festivals provide an opportunity to see something really unique. I look forward to welcoming you all to Nashville.