

NCURA Region IV

MID-AMERICA REGION NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 2

Fall 2004

Sneak Preview

NCURA's 46th Annual Meeting: October 31 - November 3, 2004

Visionary, Visible, Vital: Research Administration in Changing Times

Halloween and the presidential election, both pretty scary events, are very close on the calendar this year and both coincide with this year's Annual Meeting. Remember the 2000 Annual Meeting when we went to bed (late) believing we had elected somebody President and got up the next day to find that we hadn't? Now that's different!

That election seemed to trigger a roller coaster of events and changes that continues today. The changes—new rules, new restrictions, new funding opportunities, new technologies—affect just about every facet of our lives and none more so than our jobs as research administrators. Since we are the ones responsible for interpreting these changes for our institutions and assuring compliance, we need to be the first to know and to understand them. That knowledge makes us increasingly visible and vital to our institutions and allows us to lead our constituencies in taking visionary steps in our research missions.

The best (and least painful) way I know of taking in this new knowledge quickly and intelligibly is to attend NCURA's Annual Meeting. This four-day event is packed with sessions, discussion groups, primers, and forums organized into seven tracks and six experience levels. The program is well balanced to include

something for everyone, with sessions on departmental administration, predominantly undergraduate institutions, pre-award, post-award, compliance, federal and Washington updates, contracts, and intellectual property.



The Washington Hilton and Towers

These sessions are led by experts among our peers, and I'm proud to say that 21 of them are from Region IV. Some of these folks—Tim Reuter from the University of Cincinnati; Cindy O'Conner and Jennifer Hubert from Northwestern; Dorothy Spurlock from the University of Toledo; and Jamie Caldwell from Loyola—are conducting a number of presentations. There are many, many other Region IV members doing single presentations as well. Don't miss them. Their expertise and willingness to share their knowledge is legendary.

Don't forget the many opportunities to get to know your colleagues from across the country. The tidbits of information that emerge from the recounting of "war stories" during meals and break times can prove invaluable when you return to your office. Relaxing after hours in the hospitality suites—Region IV's or any other region's—and dining with colleagues from other regions are great ways to make new friends and trade experiences.

As always, NCURA's special events are great fun and that's especially true in a presidential election year. The Capitol Steps will entertain at the opening banquet on Sunday night; political operatives James Carville and Mary Matalin will give the keynote address on Monday; NCURA's official rock band, Soul Source and the No-Cost Extensions, will provide the music for the Main Street USA party in the ballroom on Tuesday, and the Exhibit Hall will turn into a carnival that night; finally, there will be space set aside for "Election Central," where we can watch the election returns and either celebrate or cry into our cold beverages.

If you are a newcomer to research administration, don't let the big, fat agenda of the 46th Annual Meeting intimidate you. NCURA makes a

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While You're In DC... Some Fun Things to Do and See

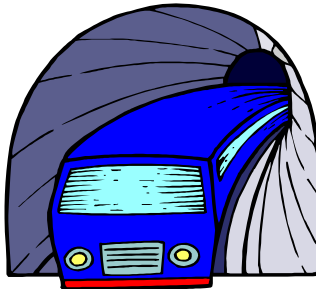


With the National Meeting in Washington, DC rapidly approaching, it is important to make the most of your trip to DC by experiencing some of the cultural opportunities the city has to offer.

Those of you who arrive early can take a stroll through the cultural history of DC with the "Before Harlem There Was U Street" walking tour. U Street was Washington's "Black Broadway," where Duke Ellington grew up and was inspired—where musical greats such as Cab Calloway and Dizzy Gillespie played local clubs into the wee hours of the morning—where movie palaces mingled with pool halls, restaurants, and barber shops. Here also, in the shadow of Howard University, African Americans created a strong community that produced leaders for the city and the nation. A tour starts at the Thurgood Marshall Center at 1816 12th Street, NW, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 30, and the cost is \$12. Take the Green Line Metro to the U Street/Cardozo station. For more information, call (202) 232-2915.

The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is now open on the National Mall between the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum and the US Capitol Building. The NMAI is the only national museum dedicated to the native peoples of North, Central, and South America and features one of the largest and most extensive collections of Native American artifacts in the world. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; admission is free. Take the Metro to L'Enfant Plaza Station and exit at Maryland Avenue/Smithsonian Museums. For more information, visit <http://www.nmai.si.edu>.

In Washington's historic Kalorama neighborhood, just off Embassy Row, is Woodrow Wilson House, located at 2340 S Street, NW. Washington's only Presidential Museum is a National Trust Historic site and was the home of Woodrow Wilson after his presidency. The house currently features Woodrow Wilson Presidential Memorabilia from the Anthony Atkiss Collection, as well as special interest tours on the architecture, preservation, and decorative arts of this historic home. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; admission is \$5 or free for National Trust Members. Take the Metro to Dupont Circle, travel north on Massachusetts Avenue for five blocks, turn right onto 24th Street, and then right onto S Street. For more information, visit <http://www.woodrowwilsonhouse.org>.



Next door to the Woodrow Wilson House, you'll find the Textile Museum at 2320 S Street, NW. The museum features more than 17,000 objects spanning 5,000 years and provides educational opportunities about how textiles are made and the ways in which cultural traditions, the environment, and even the economy influence the character of handmade textiles. Large gardens behind the building are open to the public during museum hours. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m., with a special highlights tour on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free, with a

suggested donation of \$5. For more information, visit <http://www.textilemuseum.org/about/visitor.htm>.

America's most revered burial ground, Arlington Cemetery, is also one of the capital's most poignant sights. Take a walking tour through this historic place on Sunday at 10 a.m. Highlights include the gravesites of President John F. Kennedy, his wife Jacqueline, and his brother Robert Kennedy, as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where visitors will witness the Changing of the Guard. Cost is \$10 per person, cash only. Take the Blue Line to the Arlington National Cemetery. For more information, visit washingtonwalks.com or call (202) 484-1565.

The Washington National Cathedral, located at Massachusetts & Wisconsin Avenues, NW, is the second largest church in the country and the sixth largest in the world. This imposing structure extends almost the length of two football fields and reaches 514 feet, and every president of the United States since 1907 has attended services or visited the cathedral. A guided highlights tour is offered on Sunday from 12:45-2:30 p.m.; cost is \$3. A special "Tour & Tea" is offered each Tuesday or Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., with a specialty tour followed by afternoon tea in the Pilgrim Observation Gallery. Cost is \$20, and reservations are required. Call (202) 537-8993.



In short, the cultural opportunities in Washington are too numerous to mention! For more information on other interesting options, visit <http://www.culturaltourismdc.org>.

*Erin Nash
Ohio University*

Thinking about Running for Office? If I can do it, so can you!



Susan Toler

As a mother, it seems I judge time by my children. I came to my first NCURA meeting when Jennifer, my oldest, was three. She'll be thirteen in a few days, so that means my first meeting was in

November of 1994. My youngest daughter was born seven and a half years ago, right before the spring meeting of 1997 in Kansas City.

I want to tell you about the "Member at Large" position on the NCURA Board of Directors. The Member at Large position is a voting board position that lasts for two years. The Member at Large serves as a member of the Board of Directors as well as the chair of a standing committee. When I held a Member at Large position, I served as the Membership Committee Chair the first year and the Site Selection Committee Chair the second.

As the Membership Chair, I had a committee of eager volunteers that helped along the way. We worked to increase membership by developing new ideas for promoting the organization. We spoke at meetings at our own institutions to update those unfamiliar with NCURA. Prior to the National Meeting, I sent out letters to each new member registered for the meeting. The letters welcomed them to the region and invited them to join us for the New Member Reception. Approximately two weeks before the meeting, a committee member contacted each new member by phone and again welcomed him or her to the region. We felt that this personal touch made new members feel welcome and gave them an opportunity to ask any questions that they might have prior to arriving at the meeting. In addition to contacting new members, the Membership Chair works with the current Region IV Chair to make arrangements for the hospitality suite. These arrangements are probably the

most important of the entire meeting. Decisions included what food and beverages to serve and what the suite hours would be. Although on a smaller scale, the same basic exercises take place before and during the regional meeting.

The second year of my term, I served as the Site Selection Committee Chair. It sounds glamorous, but I must admit it was a fair bit of work. At the region's business meeting, I collected suggestions for where the future regional meeting should be held. Typically, the committee starts looking for a site three years in advance. Once the suggestions were received, I began looking at logistics. How much is the flight? Can the hotels accom-

If you're afraid to jump in with both feet, start small; a Member at Large position is perfect!

modate our group? What can we do there? Have we been there before? Once the committee narrows down the best city, it is time to make a visit. To begin, we contacted the city's tourism bureau and worked with them to plan the visit. The Chair, the treasurer, and one other member spend two days in the city visiting hotels, checking out the meeting rooms, and scouting ideas for social events. Once back at home, we pool our knowledge and decide which hotel best serves the needs of the region. Next, the Chair starts negotiating a contract with the hotel. Although I was unfamiliar with this process, there were always seasoned members willing to lend a hand.

Financial commitments for this position are hardly different from

that of any other member. I was expected to attend a board meeting at the annual meeting, at the spring meeting, and in June at a location determined by the board.

At the time I was on board, I was in a very small office, had no staff to help me, and had a busy personal life. But I found that the Member at Large position is one that does not require anything but a supportive boss, a small committee, and NCURA resources on which to draw.

If you're afraid to jump in with both feet, start small: a Member at Large position is perfect!

Susan Toler
Advocate Health Care

Annual Meeting (cont'd from p. 1)

special effort to welcome and include you, beginning with the orientations offered on the Saturday and Sunday before the actual meeting sessions begin. I think you'll find that NCURA—and Region IV—is a professional organization that works hard to see that new members have opportunities to learn, network, and have a great time.

I'll see you there!

Alice Breemer
Des Moines University

The National Meeting straddles Election Day, so don't forget to apply for an absentee ballot!



Odds & Ends

Volunteers Needed for the 46th Annual Meeting Tech Team

Responsibilities:

1. Setting up projectors and laptops at the start of the sessions and workshops.
2. Dismantling projectors and laptops at the end of the sessions and workshops.

Why Join?

1. Be part of a ten-person team that runs the meeting technology.
2. Network with members who run their tech departments.
3. Get a 50% discount on your 46th



Annual Meeting registration fee. (Get another 50% discount if you bring a projector to the meeting from Saturday evening, October 30 through Wednesday, November 3 at noon.)

4. Since tech team members only work at the beginning and at the end of the sessions, they often attend the sessions in progress or network with fellow members.

For further information, contact Aamir Hanif at (202) 466-3894 or hanif@ncura.edu.



Plan Ahead for the Region IV 2005 Spring Meeting

Dates: May 1-4, 2005

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Hotel: Chicago City Centre Holiday Inn This newly renovated hotel is located in downtown Chicago, two blocks from Michigan Avenue ("the Gold Coast") and three blocks from Navy Pier.

This will be a joint meeting with the Midwest Region of the SRA.



We Need Writers!

If you have an idea for an article for the Region IV newsletter, please feel free to share it with Communications Chair Bill Sharp (bsharp@ku.edu) or Co-Chair Erin Nash (nashe@ohio.edu).

NCURA Region IV Committee Chairs

Awards Committee: Beth Seaton
 Membership Committee: Jackie Hinton
 Nominations Committee: Joanne Altieri
 Communications Committee: Bill Sharp
 Program Committee: Heather Offhaus
 Site Selection Committee: Crystal Taylor-Nevis

Communications Committee

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