

Dear ASIH Members,

I just returned from the Meetings Planning for the 2004 Oklahoma Meeting. On behalf of the members of the Local Committee, Meetings Planning Committee, Meetings Management Committee, and Kansas State Conference Services, I invite all of you to register for the 2004 meeting. The NCED facility is state of the art. The meeting rooms are large (from 70 to 270 seats in theater style) and many rooms have two screens (one for the audience and one for the presenter)! The five rooms are housed in two buildings that are less than 5 minutes from each other. There are two restaurant facilities (one in the hotel and one in the training center). Aside from a few teachers and students, we will be the only group using the facility.

The hotel rooms in the NCED have one queen sized bed and will hold two people. The price (\$89/night + tax) includes the room for two and breakfast for two. The price of lunch is included in the registration fee. The chairs of the local committee repeatedly raved about the food when they reported on the meeting site and we agree with their assessments. The breakfast, lunch, and dinner offerings are extensive and appeal to all tastes. Additionally, there are snacks (popcorn) available for free in the dining room and in the lounge.

The staff at the hotel is going to open satellite bars in addition to the lounge to ensure the lines are never very long and they have also agreed to extend their hours during our stay. Participants will have to wear badges while in the facility to move about freely. The hotel is security conscious. Security cameras are strategically and subtly mounted inside the facilities and outside as well (hidden in the owls)! This means that the state-of-the-art audiovisual and training equipment as well as the auction items and exhibitor materials are secure.

The hotel shuttle runs to local stores. The NCED facility is about 4 miles from Norman and if you are flying to Oklahoma City, you might want to consider renting a car (if you like to explore surrounding areas). There will be a trip to Bricktown in Oklahoma City on Friday night so sign up if you are interested once you arrive to the NCED. Bricktown is a renovated area that includes a canal (which is dyed different colors for different holidays), several restaurants and clubs.

The NCED facility has a full exercise room with weights and equipment (rowing machines, treadmills, bikes) and an "almost regulation" swimming pool (it is 5 feet short so it cannot be used for competition). The locker rooms have saunas and whirlpools. There are computer terminals (linked to the internet) clustered around the meeting rooms that are free to use. In addition to the workout equipment, there are pool tables, TV lounges, and game rooms. In addition to the inside facilities, there are a variety of outdoor sport fields.

The opening reception and the banquet will be held in the spectacular Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. In addition to having our social events there, participants will be able to walk through the exhibits. The museum hosts 170,000 visitors annually and we are lucky to have the opportunity to spend time at this venue.

The deadlines are early this year (for everything) to accommodate the May meeting time slot. We realize that the early deadline for submission may have caught some of you by surprise but we tried to get the word out via email and in mailings we sent with issues of *Copeia*. We had to close pre-registration early because we needed to lock abstract submission with pre-registration. We have a full schedule. The first draft of the schedule has been completed and is currently being "fine-tuned" (before we post it to the web). We will try to post the schedule before 15 March 2004. We will post a copy of the 2004 abstracts on the web by 15 March 2004.

If you have questions concerning the meeting, please direct them to Janalee Caldwell (Chair of the local committee - [caldwell@ou.edu](mailto:caldwell@ou.edu)), Sharon Brookshire (Kansas State Conference Services - [sharonb@dce.ksu.edu](mailto:sharonb@dce.ksu.edu)), or to me ([asih@fiu.edu](mailto:asih@fiu.edu)).

We look forward to seeing you in Norman. Constitutional changes will be brought before the membership and we urge all members to attend the Annual Business Meeting to cast their votes on these important issues. The ASIH last met in Norman in 1984, and this year your participation will ensure another great meeting in Oklahoma.

Saludos,

Mo Donnelly  
ASIH Secretary