

## SAA AMTF - Social Responsibility Conference Call

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Present: Rachel Vagts, Hillel Arnold, Lynda DeLoach, Jodi Koste and Alan Lefevre

### **What questions do we need to ask to make our recommendations?**

Our discussion included thoughts about hotel negotiations and how we can work to anticipate or mitigate labor issues.

Suggestions included:

- Consulting the Unite Here list of hotels that should be patronized and those that are on their watch list.
- Think outside the box and consider a convention center option that would create more hotel choice (would still have to consider labor issues with convention center workforce)
- If there is a labor situation, hold a session to discuss the issue
- Find out what SAA's process is for due diligence
- Be transparent about the hotel and site selection process
- Provide more on-going information about how conference costs are determined so that participants understand what they get for their money
  - may want to do a newsletter article on a regular basis, etc.
- Make sure that we don't make policies that tie SAA's hands and make it hard for them to select sites
- Include more information on the SAA website about how sites are selected
- Need more details about the conference planner
  - What do they do for SAA?
  - How far out are contracts negotiated?
  - How do they consider labor issues?

We also discussed other social responsibility issues:

- Outreach to local archivists and smaller institutions
  - Creation of activities with smaller repositories
  - Make meeting accessible to local archivists (cost of registration, etc)
  - Cast a broader net to include more
  - Perhaps consider a plenary session that would bring in a local angle and look at a more grassroots side of archives
- Other activities while visiting a site
  - Create socially responsible activities like a Habitat for Humanity build
- Have an element on the program committee that looks at social responsibility in the profession
- Have more focus on green initiatives at the meeting (affirm decision to not give bags away any longer)
  - create more ways to have less paper