• Volume 36, Number 2 • • Winter 2003 •

Bargain Hotel Rooms Hurt the WSSA

By Larry Gould

Northern Arizona University
Executive Director

s you begin to make your plans to attend the annual meeting of the WSSA, we ask that you consider the following. As you make your hotel reservations, it is no doubt tempting to use online travel websites and discount travel companies that promise big savings in room rates. The possibility of securing lower room rates appears to be fiscally responsible; however, booking discounted rooms can actually hurt the WSSA and could eventually lead to much higher conference costs.

This is an important issue for any organization that holds a conference. I have read similar articles in other places such as the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Newsletter and in a recent Wall Street Journal (www.wsj.com) article by Ron Lieber, "Hotel Discounts That Are No Bargain" (August 6, 2003).

What most attendees don't realize is that the room block reserved for their



Booking hotel rooms at discounted rates now will cost the WSSA in the long run.

event is a trade-off for renting the event space for breakout meetings. We use twenty-five such rooms at each of our annual meetings. In other words, we get the breakout space at no charge to the Association, *if* we fill the number of guest rooms described in the contract with the hotel. If we do not fill the guestrooms we pay a penalty. This is standard practice in

the hotel industry.

When attendees stay at other hotels both the Association and the hotel suffer; when the attendees book rooms at the conference hotel through a discount service the Association also suffers. Not only does this make it difficult for us to book hotels for future years, it can cost us in terms of huge penalties for not meeting our room quota. When an attendee books a room through a discount service at the conference hotel and the discounted price is lower than the conference rate, the WSSA does not get the much-needed credit for that room.

Conference site hotels and some conference organizations are already beginning to charge attendees a higher registration if they don't stay at the conference hotel. Also, many hotels have barred nonguests from using the shuttles and other hotel services provided for their registered guests. It is important that the majority of attendees register as guests at the conference hotel, otherwise WSSA meetings can be seriously impacted by the increased financial burden.

Nomination Committee Selects Officer Candidates

The ballot that WSSA members will soon receive in the mail features a strong slate of candidates selected by the Nomination Committee for the 2004-2005 WSSA Executive Council (please see pages 4-5 for more information about the candidates). The nominees were announced at a recent meeting of the current Executive Council in Salt Lake City.

Jim Peach of New Mexico State University was nominated to succeed Lisa Nelson of Cal. State Polytechnic at Pomona as President-Elect. Two candidates were nominated for Vice President: **Doreen Barrie**, University of Calgary; and **Phadrea Ponds**, U.S. Geological Survey.

The six Executive Council nominees are: **Dennis Catlin**, Northern Arizona University; **Jack W. Hou**, Cal. State University at Long Beach; **Cynthia Klima**, SUNY at Geneseo; **Steve Pavlik**, Vision Charter High School for Native American students; **Gene Starbuck**, Mesa State College; **Richard Voeltz**, Cameron University.



WSSA Encourages Student Mentoring

By Diane Calloway-Graham

Utah State University President

The closer we get to April, the more excited I become about our conference in Salt Lake City. I love being a member of the WSSA and working with so many wonderful people across the disciplines. I have been an active member since 1990. It has been a valuable experience to serve as an Executive Council member, President-Elect, and now as President. I have been very active in the Women's Studies section and have also served as a Section Coordinator twice.

One aspect of the Women's Studies section that I have enjoyed most is having the opportunity to associate with graduate and undergraduate students and hear their professional presentations. As I mentioned in my last Soapbox, our association has always taken a great interest in developing the professional lives and careers of our students. The WSSA provides a forum for all of us to be influential mentors and to help shape the knowledge and attitudes of our students.

PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



The mentoring relationship is often considered the most important aspect of graduate education and can also be an instructive and influential factor for undergraduate student development. By involving our students in the conference, they have an opportunity to present their own research, hear the research of others, and build their self-confidence.

To me a "Master Teacher" is one who takes seriously the mentor role and affords students the chance to become involved. When students are involved in a professional organization they

have an opportunity to transition from learning to understanding. Understanding takes place when one participates. It is a way to really earn an appreciation of a discipline and develop an enhanced sense of responsibility to the academy. The WSSA conference provides a friendly atmosphere for transition of understanding to take place. Through its interdisciplinary commitment, it provides a means for students and social scientists to communicate through panel sessions, The Social Science Journal, the Student Paper Competition, conference social events, and leadership opportunities. The effective mentor makes sure that their graduate and undergraduate students become a part of the organization and introduce them to all the resources for networking. When connected to the resources offered by the WSSA professional development and career advancement are promoted.

I believe strongly in our efforts to mentor. Our Student Involvement Committee is heavily engaged in providing a setting at our conferences where graduate students can connect and network, engage in professional development, and participate in panels. I encourage you as a member of the association to involve your students. You will find it very rewarding as you guide students both professionally and socially.

WSSA NEWS

2003-2004 WSSA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

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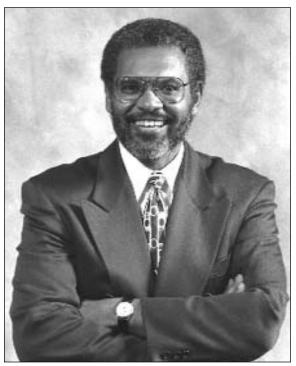
THE WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is a professional educational organization committed to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The Association's mission is to foster professional study, to advance research, and to promote the teaching of social science. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA draws on scholars and others in some 30 disciplines, or "sections," from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico; convenes an annual conference; conducts research competitions for faculty and students; and publishes the Social Science Journal, a juried, quarterly research journal, and WSSA News, the Association's newsletter, three times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are \$40 (individual); \$50 (includes spouse); \$25 (student); \$25 (retired). For information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, NAU Box 15302, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011 (Phone: 928-523-9520; Fax: 928-523-6777; E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu).



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WSSA News **WINTER 2003**

Expert on Race to Deliver Plenary Address



Dr. Melvin Oliver (Photo courtesy of www.nhi.org)

ver the past two or three years, the WSSA has been able to attract plenary speakers of nation note. The WSSA is very pleased that Lisa Nelson has been able to line up a very dynamic and timely plenary speaker for next spring's conference in Salt Lake City.

Dr. Melvin Oliver, a foremost expert on race relations in the United States, will address WSSA attendees at the Plenary Luncheon, slated for April 22nd. The sociologist, recent Vice-President of the Ford Foundation, and incoming Dean of Social Sciences at the University of California at Santa Barbara, is coauthor, with Thomas Shapiro, of the highly influential book *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality.* In 1996, the book won the C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the Outstanding Book Award on the subject of human rights from the Gustavus Myers Center. In 1997, it received the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Scholarly Publications Award.

Most recently, Dr. Oliver contributed to the production of "Race, the Power of an Illusion", a three-part series that aired on PBS that challenges many beliefs and understandings about race. He will be showing excerpts from "Race" during his talk at the Salt Lake City Conference. "Race" series producer Larry Adelman of California Newsreel may join the presentation if his schedule permits. For more information about the PBS series, please see www.pbs.org/Race. For more information on Dr. Oliver, please see www.instadv.ucsb.edu/release/Display.aspx?PKey=1019.

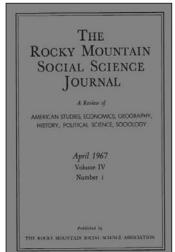
-- Lisa Nelson

Planning Underway for WSSA's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Denver

Proceedings of the seems like 2008 is yet a long ways off it is not too soon to start planning. Recently, Nina Burkardt and I spent about 5 hours or so at the Denver Library going through the WSSA archives. Talk about interesting. WOW! We only got through one of fourteen boxes but it was great. We scanned a lot of material (some of which has been placed in this newsletter) and have pretty good idea of what our next steps will be in terms of preparing materials for the 50th anniversary. We found the very first newsletter, the very first reference of any kind to WSSA as opposed to RMSSA. It was interesting to see which institutions were represented (Air Force Academy for example played a huge role in the organization back in the 60s). We found old logos and correspondence that suggests those back then were dealing with the same problems that we are dealing with today.

If you have old memorabilia, copies of old programs, old newsletters or simply something that you think might be of importance to WSSA for the 50th Anniversary please let us know. We will also be posting pictures and old documents on the WSSA website over the intervening time between now and April 2008.

-- Larry Gould





The April 1967 issue of <u>The Rocky Mountain Social Science Journal</u> (left) and the October 1967 issue of <u>The Rocky Mountain Social Science Association Newsletter</u> (right) were just two of the pieces of old WSSA memorabilia recently discovered at the Denver Library by Larry Gould and Nina Burkardt.

WINTER 2003 WSSA News 3

WSSA 2004-2005 OFFICER ELECTIONS

Meet the Candidates!

he 2003 Nomination Committee--chaired by Immediate Past President Nick Peroff and which also includes Past President Orn B. Bodvarsson, Past Vice-President Patricia Dorman, and former Council Members Mary Conroy and Rick Wheelock--is pleased to announce an impressive slate of candidates for President-Elect, Vice-President, and the Executive Council. Under the consitution, the current President-Elect, Lisa Nelson of California State Polytechnic University-Pomona moves up to President. The Nomination Committee, according to precedent and constitutional provisions, determined to offer one nomination for President-Elect. The Committee also offers two nominations for Vice-President and six nominees for the Executive Council.

The ballot, which WSSA members will ow receive in the mail, must be returned to WSSA Executive Director Larry Gould no later than February 28, 2004.

* Nominee for WSSA President-Elect

Jim Peach

New Mexico State University

Jim Peach is Regents Professor of Economics and International Business at New Mexico State University, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1980. Peach currently serves on the WSSA Executive Council. He

has been a member of WSSA since the early 1980s. Peach has been affiliated with both the Association for Institutional Thought (AFIT) and the Association of Borderlands Studies (ABS), and was program chair for the ABS in 2000. He stated, "I have always enjoyed the WSSA for its friendly, multi-disciplinary atmosphere. I would be honored to serve as president-elect and to do my best to maintain the wonderful traditions of the WSSA."

* Nominees for WSSA Vice-President

Doreen Barrie

University of Calgary

oreen Barrie is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Political Science at the University of Calgary. She has been attending WSSA meetings for over a decade and has been involved with the Canadian Studies Section. She is in the last year of her term on the Executive Council. As the only Canadian on Council, she has been attempting to generate more interest in the WSSA among her compatriots. Doreen's research interests at the moment revolve around water, an extension of previous work on environmental protection in Canada and Australia. She teaches Alberta Politics, Canadian Politics and Public Policy. She has served on the Board of Advisory Editors of Great Plains Quarterly. She is actively involved in her community, taking pride in a modest little institute she co-founded a decade ago. It holds an annual community conference to help the general public get a handle on complex issues like globalization, biotechnology and water.

Phadrea PondsU.S. Geological Survey

Policy Analysis and Science Assistance Program (PASA) at the U.S. Geological Survey in Fort Collins, Colorado. She has been an active member since 1996, having served as a member of the WSSA Executive Council from 1998-2002. In 2001-2002 she served as co-coordinator of the Student Involvement Committee (a sub-committee of the Executive Council). Phadrea's current research efforts focus on the relationship between humans and the environment; understanding how humans are affected by environmental management decisions and how human activities interact with natural resource management. Phadrea received her B.S. from Grambling State University and her M.S. from Oregon State University. Ms. Ponds is active in many interagency committees and advisory boards and in several professional societies.

WSSA WANTS YOUR VOTE!

4 WSSA News Winter 2003

WSSA 2004-2005 OFFICER ELECTIONS

* Nominees for WSSA Executive Council

Dennis Catlin

Northern Arizona University

ince coming to Northern Arizona's University's (NAU) criminal justice faculty, WSSA has been the professional and academic association Dennis Catlin has selected as the primary source of his professional development. Catlin has attended every conference since his appointment to NAU in 1999. For the last three years, he has been the Section Coordinator for the Criminal Justice and Criminology Section. In addition, he has regularly presented papers at the conferences. Catlin has had significant experience in serving on executive committees for other professional associations. For example, he served as Regional Director, Secretary, Vice President and President of the National Association of State Judicial Educators. WSSA has served Catlin's professional development needs and he would be privileged to further contribute to the work of WSSA as an Executive Committee Member.

Jack W. Hou

Cal. State Univ.-Long Beach

Tack W. Hou is Professor of Economics at California State University at Long Beach. He has presented papers at the WSSA conference 12 out of the past 13 years. He has been the Section Coordinator for General Economics since 2001, and was selected as the Distinguished Section Coordinator at the Las Vegas Conference this year. He received his PhD from Yale University (Economics) in 1989. He is senior co-editor of the Contemporary Economic Policy journal. He is also the senior cluster leader of the Partners for Success Program (a mentoring program for first-generation college students) at California State University.

Cynthia A. Klima SUNY-Geneseo

ynthia Klima is a German and Slavic Languages specialist who has been active for many years in the Rocky Mountain Western Slavic Association (RMWSA) as well as WSSA. She is currently President of RMWSA and is on the Executive Board of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), representing RMWSA. Her specialties are Prague German literature and Czech literature and culture. She has presented numerous papers in her fields of study and is currently translating a Prague German novel into English. She earned her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Oklahoma and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Steve Pavlik

Vision Charter High School

teve Pavlik teaches social studies and science at Vision Charter High School for Native American students in Tucson, Arizona. He has been an active member of the Western Social Science Association since 1984 and has three times served as co-chair for the American Indian Studies sections at WSSA conferences. He holds a M.Ed. in History and a M.A. in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona. He has edited a collection of papers and has published over forty articles on American Indian education, religion, and ethnozoology. He is also active with the Centre for Indian Scholars in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and has most recently served as the coordinator for the Second Robert K. Thomas Symposium sponsored by that organization.

Gene H. Starbuck Mesa State College

ene H. Starbuck is Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department at Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado. He has been a member of WSSA since the late 1970s, and has presented papers the last several years. He was honored with the Outstanding Section Coordinator award for the past two years that he has been the Sociology Section Coordinator, and he continues in that capacity. Recent publications include the textbook *Families in Context*. The past two years has found him serving as the Self-Study Coordinator for Mesa State's continued accreditation from The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. His B.A. in Psychology and M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology are all from the University of Colorado.

Richard A. Voeltz Cameron University

Richard A. Voeltz is Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History and Government at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma where he teaches courses in the Humanities, British History, and Modern European History. He has been an active member of the WSSA since 1989 and has participated in the History, American Studies, and New Zealand and Australia Studies Sections of the organization. Since 1999 he has served as the Coordinator of the History Section and from 2000-2003 he held the position of Associate Editor with *The Social Science Journal*. He received his B.A. in History from the University of California, Santa Cruz, his M.A. from the University of Oregon, and his Ph.D from UCLA. He has published a book, sections in books, and many articles and reviews in a variety of journals and has given many presentations.

Attention Members: New This Year! Vote by Mail!

WINTER 2003 WSSA News 5

Welcome to Salt Lake City, Utah!

By Diane Calloway-Graham

Utah State University WSSA President

relcome to Salt Lake, the greatest metropolitan outdoor destination in the West. Salt Lake combines the accessibility and sophistication of a major metropolitan area with the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities of a mountain resort.

There are many opportunities for sightseeing right in the metropolitan area. Downtown walking tours are numerous. There are several major Mormon historical sites including the family history library, the museum of church history and art, historic temple square, the conference center, the LDS church office building, the Beehive House, the Joseph Smith Memorial building, and the Lion House. The following are

some of the highlights of these historical sites:

Family History Center: This library is the largest repository of genealogical records in the world. It is open to the public. Visit the Center's website at www.familysearch.org.

Museum of Church History and Art: Art and history exhibits about the Latter-Day Saint experience in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Historic Temple Square: The

centerpiece of this beautifully landscaped 10-arce plot of ground in the heart of downtown is the six-spired Salt Lake Temple. Free tours are given daily in 30 languages, and start every few minutes at the flagpole. The public is invited to the Tabernacle Choir rehearsals on Thursday from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (come and go as you like), and to the Sunday morning network broadcast at 9:30 a.m. (you must be seated by 9:15 a.m.). There are also daily organ recitals given Monday through Saturday at noon and 2 p.m. All concerts and recitals are free. For a Temple Square Concert Series schedule and other information, call 1-800-537-9703.

The Conference Center: The new home for the semiannual general conferences of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It has an expansive terraced roof complex which is comprised of landscaped trees, shrubs, flowers, waterfalls, and fountains. Free tours daily.

The LDS Church Office Building: Worldwide headquarter of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The 26th floor is an observation deck with views of the mountains and valley. The building plaza has beautiful gardens. There are escorted tours available of the gardens and the building. For more info, call 240-2190.

The Beehive House: A National Historic Landmark. Served as the official residence of Brigham Young. Free tours daily.

The Joseph Smith Memorial Building: Formerly the Hotel Utah, the building is listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings. Free tours are available Monday through Saturday. The Garden and The Roof restaurants are located on the tenth floor with lovely views overlooking Temple Square. Call 539-1911. There is also a large-screen theater showing an hour-

long film about the life of Jesus Christ. Admittance is free, but tickets are required. Call 240-4383 for show times and ticket information. There is also a Family Search Center with a trained staff and 200 computers to introduce visitors to the excitement of discovering their ancestors. Free and open Monday through Saturday. For

more info, call 240-4085.

The Loin House: Constructed in 1855 as a residence for Brigham Young and his family.

There are no tours, but The Pantry Restaurant on the lower level is open to the public.

There are also many opportunities to see the scenic beauty of Salt Lake. There scenic drives including Big Cottonwood Canyon and Park City Mountain Resort:

Big Cottonwood Canyon: It provides 15 miles of excellent hiking, fishing, picnicking, rock climbing, skiing, and camping. It is a beautiful drive without even leaving your car.

Park City Mountain Resort: This is a known destination for fine art, music, and film. Park City offers art galleries, live music at local pubs, shopping, and outdoor festivals. It is nestled in the Wasatch mountains approximately 30 miles from Salt Lake. For more info, visit the website at www.parkcitymountain.com.

I hope this information is helpful as you plan your WSSA conference trip to Salt Lake City. In the next newsletter, I will be highlighting dining and nightlife, shopping, and transportation. See you in Salt Lake in April!

WSSA News WINTER 2003

Downtown Salt Lake City offers majestic views of the

surrounding mountain ranges, especially in winter.

WSSA News and Notes

Recommending Selections for the WSSA Book Exhibit

This year's annual WSSA Conference in Salt Lake City will again include a book exhibit specially organized by the Library of Social Science (LSS). The LSS seeks your input to assist in developing a comprehensive collection of titles encompassing the full range of topics in the social sciences and related disciplines. The book exhibit will bring together recent and significant titles, and contribute substantially to the excitement and intellectual value of our conference. If you are an AUTHOR and wish to have your book included in the display, or if you wish to recommend titles for inclusion in the exhibit, please respond by e-mail to <code>MeiHaChan@cs.com</code> or fax to 413-832-8145 and provide the following information:

- (1) The title(s) of the book(s) and date(s) of publication.
- (2) The name(s) of the publisher(s).
- (3) (If you are an author): The name, telephone number and email address of your contact at each publishing company.

Please be sure to include your own name, telephone number and email address with the information that you send to us. Also please respond as soon as possible so that we can begin work to assure that the book(s) you

have authored or suggested are included in the display.

To obtain additional information on the book exhibit, authors or publishers may call me at 718-393-1075.

-- Mei Ha Chan

WSSA Invites Graduate Students to Participate

The WSSA is committed to fostering graduate student participation in many areas of the association. First, we invite graduate students to submit a proposal to present a paper at our annual conference in Salt Lake City. Students may submit proposals directly to the appropriate section coordinator. Second, our student competition provides a \$500 honorarium, a year of WSSA membership and free conference registration to the winners of the undergraduate and graduate paper competition. To find details about submitting a proposal or entering a paper in the competition, see the section coordinator list, application form and paper competition flyer at http://wssa.asu.edu. Third, the annual conference provides professional development opportunities such as mentoring and panels that focus on publishing and vita development. Finally, we are very exited to announce this year for the first time the graduate and undergraduate students will have a social gathering of their own. The

students can meet, relax, share information and make friends at the student reception. The WSSA provides a congenial professional venue and learning opportunities for graduate students. We warmly invite graduate students to attend and ask faculty to encourage their students to participate in the association.

Highlighting Former WSSA Presidents

The WSSA Executive Council will be hosting a short reception at the Salt Lake City Conference for former presidents of the Western Social Science Association. The reception will be held on Friday evening of the conference from 5 to 6 p.m. All former presidents are invited.



Student presenters and attendees have always been an integral part of WSSA conferences.

The Scoop on the WSSA's 2004 Student Paper Competition

Plan now to encourage your students to submit their original research papers for the WSSA's 2004 Student Paper Competition. Winners in the undergraduate and graduate categories will receive cash awards (\$500), free conference registration at the 2004 conference at Salt Lake City, a one-year free WSSA membership (including *The Social Science Journal*) and the opportunity to present their papers at the Salt Lake City

Conference. The paper must be received on or before February 1, 2004. Papers are judged based on advancement of knowledge, appropriateness for a broad social science audience, quality and implementation of research design, definition and significance of topic, analysis of findings and discussion of their implications, and clarity of writing. Papers cannot exceed 25 pages (which includes bibliography, tables, figures, appendices and other supporting materials). The cover page and abstract do not count as part of the 25-page limit. Papers longer than 25 pages will not be read. All pages must be double-spaced and in 12 cpi font. Papers may not be theses or dissertations previously presented or published. Authors may wish to consult *The SSJ's* style guide for formatting info.

The WSSA covers a wide range of social science disciplines. For 2004 listings, refer to the Call for Papers on the WSSA website at *wssa.asu.edu/*. Indicate undergraduate or graduate status, institutional affiliation, address, phone number and e-mail address. Papers must be received by Feb. 1, 2004. To participate, e-mail the paper (in Word or rich text format) to *Sandra.Davis@Colostate.edu* or send three paper copies to Professor Sandra Davis, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado, 80523.

-- Sandra Davis

WINTER 2003 WSSA News 7



www.redinkmagazine.com

The Verdict: Calgary in '07, Denver in '08

t last April's conference, a survey was circulated asking attendees to pick from a list of potential sites which ones they favored for 2007 and 2008. The clear choices were Denver (Downtown) and Calgary. Since the April meeting we have secured a contract with the Hyatt Regency in Calgary for the April 2007 meeting. This will be the first time that we will be crossing an international boundary for the conference. While this might be a bit risky, it was felt that with the very large representation in Canadian Studies and other affiliates that the risk was worth taking. We also have a great deal of support from the Canadian Government. I have visited the hotel and the surrounding area. To say the least, it is a great hotel and downtown Calgary is a great location for attendees to spend some of their down time while at the conference.

We decided to hold the 2008 conference in Denver. This will be the 50th anniversary of the Association; thus, it seemed appropriate to have the conference located geographically close to its roots. We are currently working with three hotels in the downtown area to determine which will best suit our needs. The three are the Adams Mark, the Hyatt and the Marriott. All of them are great facilities with many positive attributes. I expect that the final decision will be a difficult one.

-- Larry A. Gould

GET WITH IT! The WSSA on-line ... http://wssa.asu.edu/

WSSA News The Western Social Science Association c/o Northern Arizona University NAU Box 15302 Flagstaff, AZ 86011

Future WSSA Conference Sites

2004 Sheraton City Center Salt Lake City, Utah April 21-24

2005 Hyatt Regency Albuquerque Albuquerque, New Mexico April 13-16

8 WSSA News Winter 2003