

AR Chapter AFS Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2009
11 – 11:30am
Meeting #1 AFS Members Only
Re: Bid to host the 2013 Annual Meeting in Little Rock

Attendees

Brian Wagner
Darrell Bowman (President)
Steve Filipek
Mark Oliver
Chris Racey (Secretary; recorded minutes)

Two members of the AR Chapter AFS EXCOM (President Darrell Bowman and Secretary Chris Racey) along with three Chapter members/AGFC representatives (Brian Wagner, Steve Filipek, and Mark Oliver) attended a meeting on August 11, 2009 at the AGFC Headquarters in Little Rock to discuss the possibility of the AR Chapter hosting the 2013 Annual AFS meeting. Don Jackson, president-elect of the AFS parent society, has asked the AR Chapter to provide a basic proposal and presentation at the Governing Board Meeting held during the 2009 Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN. Steve Filipek indicated there is less competition to host this meeting than usual due to smaller state budgets around the country. He indicated that we have a very good chance of successfully winning the bid. The group also met to discuss the next steps in the process and the questions that they needed to address during their afternoon meeting with David Russell of the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau (LRCVB).

Steve and Brian indicated that possible dates to host the meeting would be either September 6-12 or September 19-26, 2013 according to the availability of the Little Rock Convention Center.

Early in the discussion, it was decided that a General Meeting Chair and Steering Committee will need to be selected quickly by the EXCOM if the Chapter wins the bid to host the meeting. There will need to be broad support by AGFC, since they will need to be fully invested in the meeting to ensure success. The group also reviewed the committees for the Nashville meeting as a reference tool. It was brought up that AFS can provide monetary support up front for states looking to host a meeting. Steve mentioned that a guidebook for meetings is available on the AFS website. It was decided that the key members of Steering Committee would need to attend the next three annual AFS meetings (2010 Pittsburgh; 2011 Seattle; 2012 unknown) to get a better idea of the needs for a meeting of this size. Additionally, the group noted that they would need to find out who helps coordinate the meetings from the parent society.

Brian Wagner indicated that he had a folder of information dating back to 1999 from our failed bid to host the 2003 Annual AFS meeting. The discussion of the group turned toward the information in the folder and the questions that we needed to pose to the LRCVB. The group agreed that we might anticipate attendance at this meeting to be between 1000 and 1400 people, but we would need to get the figures from the Nashville meeting to get a better idea. In the past, the LRCVB has made the bid presentation to AFS using a combination of an informational packet and PowerPoint, but Steve indicated that one of us could make the Nashville presentation

in lieu of LRCVB. Some of the general questions that the group agreed they needed answered by LRCVB were:

Can the Convention Center plus the Peabody Hotel handle a meeting the size of the AFS meeting?

Can LRCVB coordinate efforts for socials and events across town (Ex. Clinton Library, AGFC Nature Center, Museum of Discovery, etc.)?

Is LRCVB willing to work directly with the city of North Little Rock in the event we want to utilize attractions from that side of the river (Ex. submarine, Dickey-Stephens baseball park, Arkansas Queen, etc.)?

Can we get a large enough block of rooms at a federal per diem rate to accommodate the meeting participants?

Can LRCVB handle online and on-site registration at a small fee per attendee?

It was decided that Darrell would be the person to give the presentation to the Governing Board and/or Time and Place Committee at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Nashville. Steve will look into which group Darrell will need to present to.

Meeting adjourned.