

NCURA Region IV

Mid-America Region Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 1

Fall 2001

National Meeting will go forward as planned

One Step Ahead: NCURA Stays the Course

NCURA's 43rd Annual Meeting
November 11-14, 2001, Washington D.C.

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One Step Ahead. NCURA's 43rd Annual Meeting, will kick off Sunday evening, November 11, 2001, but new members and those wanting to take advantage of the Sunday workshops will want to arrive early. On Saturday, November 10, evening events include the Night of Networking Reception and the Orientation for the Newer Member. New members can also participate in an encore presentation of the orientation on Sunday afternoon.

An old-fashioned ice cream social will serve as the context for Tuesday afternoon's regional business meetings. Members will receive regional updates and the latest details of the upcoming regional meeting, which will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, April 27-30th. Tuesday evening's gathering will feature a red, white, and blue theme, and members will be entertained by NCURA's own Soul Source and the No-Cost Extensions.

Sunday evening, the Annual Meeting Banquet will feature Dave Barry, *Miami Herald* columnist. Barry, famous for his syndicated column and books such as *Dave Barry's Only Travel Guide You'll Ever Need*, *Dave Barry Slept Here*, and *Dave Barry Is Not Making This Up*, has been deemed "the funniest man in America" by the *New York Times Book Review*. NCURA members are fortunate to share an evening with a man who, according to Stephen King, caused King to laugh "so hard [he] fell out of a chair."

George Stephanopoulos will share his political insights as this year's keynote speaker. Stephanopoulos, a key senior advisor to the Clinton administration and a Rhodes Scholar, currently serves as an ABC news analyst and a visiting professor at Columbia University.

Following Monday's keynote address, the NCURA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research Administration will be presented to Region IV's Mareda R. Weiss, Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, for her significant contributions to NCURA and the research community. During the luncheon and presentation, NCURA will recognize members receiving 2001 regional awards and honors. After a full day of activities, members can participate in the Monday evening dinner groups, and subsequently, first time NCURA attendees are invited to a dessert reception.



Washington Hilton and Towers

This year, NCURA is recommending conference attendees dress in business casual attire. Sunday night's banquet will continue to be a dress affair, but enjoy a few days away from formal business clothes and relax while benefiting from the stellar concurrent sessions, discussion groups, real life experiences sessions, and primers. This year's program includes formally identified tracks that attendees can follow throughout the meeting: Compliance, Costing, Forums, National Policy, Personal Growth, Post-Award, Pre-Award, Sponsor News, and Tech Transfer. In addition, two new features will help newcomers and old-timers: the Primer series are mini-workshops on a specific topic and the Real Life Experiences series will describe handling current and sometimes contentious issues.

The conference program and scheduling details are available at <http://www.ncura.edu/meetings/43/>, a valuable source of planning information. As you'll see, Region IV members are well represented among the annual meetings presenters, organizers, and behind-the-scenes volunteers.

Your Region IV and nation-wide NCURA colleagues look forward to seeing you in Washington D.C. as we collaborate to stay **One Step Ahead** in research administration.



Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

When preparing to write the customary "Letter from the Chair," I thought, "What in the world am I going to write? It's been months since our Spring Meeting in Minneapolis, and we've yet to make it back to Washington, so what's there really to report?" Looking back at past editions, I discovered that the last newsletter actually came out before our Spring Meeting. So, rather than having nothing to report, it turns out I have *lots* of news.

Although I may not be totally objective, after reviewing evaluations from the Spring Meeting, I realize that I am not alone in thinking it, so I'll just go ahead and say it: What a great meeting! Why was it such a great meeting? It's the willingness of Region IV members to step forward and volunteer. I've always known that lots of people are involved in putting together a successful meeting, but until I actually witnessed the process from beginning to end, I wasn't fully aware of how many people it really takes to bring it all together. At the opening luncheon you might recall that, category by category, I asked people involved in the meeting to stand and remain standing until all were recognized. Amazingly, by the time we were finished more people were standing than seated.

Those experts leading presentations were our colleagues, not professionals hired to speak to us. The behind-the-scenes arrangements were coordinated by our colleagues, not professional meeting planners. Our colleagues, not professional event coordinators, planned the social events. Our colleagues volunteered their time and effort to provide the best professional development opportunity available to research administrators. And finally, we could not have a successful meeting unless people attended. Thanks to all of you for your part in making the Spring 2001 meeting a success!

Even the newcomers were intrigued by the Region IV's stimulating business meeting. At the business meeting, Region IV members learned that some of our members' votes were not counted due to a glitch in national's electronic ballot counting. A spirited debate surrounded the motion to hold a new election, which passed with a vote of 39 to 38. In spite of divergent views, Region IV members accepted the vote of the majority and united as one. I was not surprised as I've grown to expect professionalism, respect, and support of my Region IV friends and colleagues. I continue to be

Brad Fitch — Trailblazer and Volunteer Extraordinaire



Back in the beginning of Web presences for the regions in the mid-90s, Brad Fitch created Region IV's site to serve us. And like all *Volunteers Extraordinaire*, Brad did the heavy lifting with such grace that we Region IVers could not see the hours of work and creativity involved. We saw the product that helped us plan our spring meetings and deliver information to the Region effectively. Brad has retired from the University of Detroit Mercy and is now the Emeritus Director of Sponsored Programs there. At the same time, the role of Webmaster is rotating to a new university under the direction of a new Webmaster. The Region IV Board of Directors and the Communications Committee wants all to know that the work of Region IV was made much easier, more effective, and more enjoyable through Brad's efforts. Thank you, Brad! We would not have the fine Web site that we do without you!

impressed by their resilience.

The Region IV Board of Directors held its annual summer meeting on August 27, 2001 in St. Louis. A significant portion of our discussion centered around attracting and retaining new members. Are we doing enough? Are there other things we could and should be doing? Woven into these conversations was talk about retaining our current members. Are members satisfied with the level of service and the opportunities for professional development currently being provided? It seemed to be the consensus of the board that we investigate oppor-

Letter from the Chair (continued from Page 2)

tunities to serve our members better. An integral part of this discussion was determining how to identify the services our members desire and, once they've been identified, how to provide them. The Region IV Board of Directors encourages you to communicate directly with us. When you have ideas, comments, questions or concerns, contact any of the members of the Board.

Thank you, Region IV members, for your never-ending energy in supporting the activities of the region. I hope to see you in Washington next month and in Madison in the spring!

Sincerely,
Jim Maus
Region IV Chair

Newcomer Activities at the National Meeting

A *welcoming reception* will be held in the Region IV Hospitality Suite from 5-6:15pm on Sunday, November 11. This will be an opportunity for newcomers to get to know their Board of Directors and Regional Representatives to the National Board.

On Monday evening, after you've had a chance to enjoy a fabulous dinner at one of Washington's premier restaurants with the *Dinner Groups*, the National Board of Directors and the NCURA staff will be hosting a *Dessert Reception* for all first time attendees from all regions. We encourage all first time attendees to come, enjoy wonderful desserts, and to get to know your representatives.

Looking Ahead to Madison

Here's an event you will not want to miss this spring! Mark your calendars for Region IV's 2002 meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, April 27-30.

The City and Its Sites

Madison makes all the "Top 10" lists: #1 place to live in America; #2 farmer's market; #3 safest of 100 largest cities; and #4 best bicycling city. It is a lovely city nestled between two lakes. Downtown Madison has wonderful restaurants, diverse shopping, a vibrant pedestrian mall, and Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace Convention Center. This center will be the location of our spring meeting. The spectacular multilevel structure features public promenades and rooftop gardens with striking lake views, especially at night. You can view details about the convention center at <http://www.mononaterrace.com>.

Madison's downtown "Museum Mile" features:

Madison Art Center	http://www.madisonartcenter.org
Madison Children's Museum	http://www.kidskiosk.org
Wisconsin Historical Museum	http://www.shsw.wisc.edu/museum
Wisconsin Veterans Museum	http://museum.dva.state.wi.us
Elvehjem Museum of Art	http://www.lvm.wisc.edu
University of Wisconsin Geology Museum	http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~museum

Featured Speaker

This year's theme is "Ethics in Research." Our plenary speaker, R. Alto Charo, Professor of Law and Medical Ethics at the University of Wisconsin, has focused on research ethics throughout her career. She teaches courses on health law, bioethics and biotechnology law, food and drug law, medical ethics, reproductive rights, torts, and legislative drafting. Professor Charo is the author of over seventy-five articles, book chapters, and government reports on topics including voting rights, environmental law, family planning and abortion law, medical genetics law, reproductive technology policy, and science policy and ethics. Since 1996 she has been a member of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission where she has participated in drafting its reports "Cloning Human Beings" (1997), "Research Involving Persons with Mental Disorders that May Affect Decision making Capacity" (1998), "Research Involving Human Biological Materials: Ethical Issues and Policy Guidance" (1999), "Ethical Issues in Human Stem Cell Research" (1999), "Ethical and Policy Issues in International Research: Clinical Trials in Developing Countries" (2001), and "Ethical and Policy Issues in Research Involving Human Participants" (2001).

Call for Volunteers

Of course as always, a spring meeting would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers who share their expertise with their co-members of Region IV. Please consider joining the ranks of those volunteers this spring. There are many opportunities for new and experienced members to participate in this professional development activity. If you're new to research administration, you might consider leading a roundtable discussion and taking advantage of the networking opportunities. If you're an experienced sponsored projects administrator, consider sharing your expertise with colleagues at a concurrent session or regional workshop. To participate, please contact Debi Galloway at gallowdj@uc.edu or Joanne Altieri at jaltieri@kucr.ukans.edu and help make this year's meeting a success!

Planning for DC

Where to Start?

If you haven't already checked out the NCURA Web page at <http://www.ncura.edu/meetings/43>, what are you waiting for? In addition to including all the information about the meeting itself, the site has a virtual cornucopia of links to sites containing information about travel to DC, ground transportation, special discounts available to meeting attendees, "fun happenings," and a virtual tour of the city!

Given that we are traveling to the Annual Meeting under unusual circumstances, here are a few items worth spotlighting:

All Airline Travelers

- Most airlines now limit carry-on bags to one bag plus one personal item (such as a purse or a briefcase).
- Increased FAA security measures are in place and passengers are required to bring a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or current passport.
- E-ticket travelers should check with their airline to make sure they have proper documentation. Written confirmation, such as a letter or itinerary from the airline acknowledging the reservation, may be required.
- Airlines advise checking in two hours prior to departure.
- It's a good idea to call your airline regarding flight information before leaving for your departure airport.

If Arriving at Ronald Reagan Airport

- You can check the current status of Ronald Reagan National Airport at <http://www.fly.faa.gov/flyFAA/index.html>.

Ground Transportation

- The Supershuttle is available from BWI; the Washington Flyer Shuttle service is available from the Ronald Regan and Dulles airports. Taxicabs and limos are always an option. Train (MARC) and Amtrak transportation is also available from BWI. Check out the NCURA site for details.

If you are at all insecure about getting around in DC, remember that taxis are almost everywhere and are a safe means of

getting from place to place. You might find the security and convenience to be a good trade-off for the slightly higher cost over rail transportation.

In the Neighborhood

Not familiar with the neighborhood of the hotels? Here are some useful links to help you plan ahead:

- **Restaurants and other nightlife options:** Search by area (i.e., Dupont Circle or Woodley Park/Zoo), type of cuisine, and other criteria at <http://dc.diningweb.com>. Restaurants offering a discount to meeting attendees can be found at <http://www.ncura.edu/meetings/43/Dinner.html>. *Be sure to print out the coupons before you leave for DC!*
- **The Phillips Collection:** About a 15-minute walk from the hotel, the collection includes 20th Century art from the Impressionists on. Currently, the Special Exhibits are *Pierre Bonnard: Early and Late* and *Impressionist Still Life*. Tickets may be purchased in advance. For more information, see <http://www.phillipscollection.org>.
- **Kramerbooks:** Located down the street from the hotel. <http://kramers.com/>
- **The MysteryBooks Store:** <http://www.killerbooks.com>.

Beyond the Neighborhood

What else is going on in Washington? Well, for pretty much anything you want to know about DC, see <http://washingtondc.4anything.com/>. From this site you can browse or search for everything from getting around, to entertainment, to shopping, to kids' activities, to places of worship. For the places that are on many visitors' must-see list, you'll want to check out:

- **The Smithsonian** at <http://www.si.edu>
- **The Smithsonian's exhibits** at <http://www.si.edu/activity/exhibits/start.htm>
- **The National Gallery of Art** at <http://www.nga.gov>
- **The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** at <http://kennedy-center.org>
- **Other performing arts and entertainment venues** at <http://4washingtondc.4anything.com>

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Calling All Volunteers!

The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers! We need your help in contacting new members before we travel to Washington to help new members meet others from Region IV. Volunteers also are needed to help in the hospitality suite at the meeting. It's simple: you just need to smile and say, "Hello," plus it's a great way to meet others from our region. For now, I simply need your name. Later, I'll know specifics about times and will contact you for your choices. If you want to volunteer for a particular time (morning, noon, evening), let me know your preference. You can reach me at 402-554-2286 or mfarnham@mail.unomaha.edu to volunteer. Hope to see you soon!

Mary Laura Farnham
Membership Chair