

CTPA Quarterly Meeting Minutes / Write-Up

January 21, 2014

Gage Building 7th Floor, 18 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago

Doors opened at 5:30pm and attendees helped themselves to delicious refreshments. Approx. 65 CTPA members and guests, plus 50 Roosevelt students were present.

Donna Primas called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

The CTPA celebrated the New Year 2014 by hosting our first quarterly meeting in a brand new home, thanks to friends at Roosevelt University and in particular CTPA member Bill Host, Associate Professor at Roosevelt (and CTPA member since 2005). We think of Roosevelt occupying the famed Auditorium Building and its dazzling new blue glass tower, but this school also has classrooms in Louis Sullivan's Gage Building at 18 South Michigan Avenue. We enjoyed our new meeting space on the 7th floor in a vast windowed room looking out onto Millennium Park and the lakefront. Heavenly! Thank you to Donna Primas and Bill Host and whoever else helped to make this transition for the CTPA from former meeting space at Lawry's to such a happy new location.

Donna introduced **William R. Host** is Associate Professor in the university's Evelyn T. Stone College of Professional Studies, more specifically the Manfred Steinfeld School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. (Steinfeld, industrialist and philanthropist, endowed the school, among other contributions to education.) Bill explained the different types of hospitality disciplines that are part of the curriculum in Hospitality and Tourism Management, then introduced fellow RU instructors present. To further explain the RU Hospitality & Tourism curriculum we were given a colorful brochure. To respond to a question, Lisa L. Meredith, the destination marketing instructor, gave an explanation of that curriculum.

About 50 students from three classes joined our meeting and I think we all got a sense of how the CTPA and the school work toward many of the same goals in the overall tourist industry. We had to laugh when Donna pointed out the single meeting space flaw: interior columns which separate the seating into two areas. This evening, one section was almost all students, while the other was almost all CTPA members.

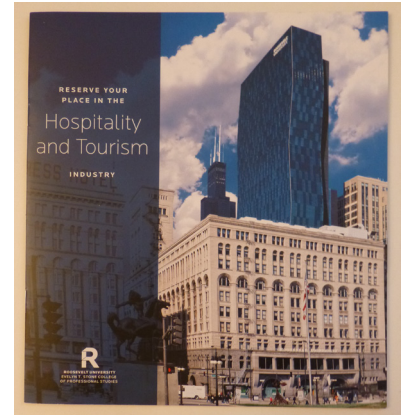
Attendance. Sharon Sylvester notes that among the expected attendees, there were about 10 cancellations, most likely due to the subzero weather atop our latest snowfall. As always there were a few members who simply arrived, without having indicated they would attend and others who no-showed. Of course we are glad to see everyone, but it is not easy to provide refreshments for a group without knowing just how big a group is expected. Therefore, **PLEASE send your RSVPs in advance of the program.** We thank you to those who were courteous to let us know that you could not attend after all.

Refreshments. Your CTPA was generous in providing a sumptuous feast of cheeses, crackers, chips and dips, fruit, crudités and cookies. Coffee, hot water with a variety of tea bags, iced tea, some cans of soda, and fruited water were the liquid libations. It was beautifully laid out by Aramark, the in-house caterers for Roosevelt University. Happy New Year!!!

The Program. The room comes with a SMART SCREEN, a large high-tech board or screen connected to a laptop. Donna's excellent updated agenda was posted on the screen, showing slight modifications to the agenda sent earlier to CTPA. There were several brief presentations instead of a single speaker.

Bill Host/Roosevelt University

Donna introduced **Bill Host**. **Bill** talked about the Hospitality Program at Roosevelt. Students learn about management of hotels, food and beverages, meetings and events; administration of tourism, sports hospitality and club and casino management. The brochure notes that theirs is a “world-class program in a world-class city,” and “The Chicago area, with its vibrant tourism and convention business is the ideal training ground for hospitality and tourism professionals.” Host says “Because of Roosevelt’s location, we are able to use the city as our ‘laboratory’ like no other school in the country.”



CTPA Short Business Meeting

Donna mentioned CTPA business briefly, reminding us that **dues are due January 31** and the **2014 Directories will be distributed at the March 25 quarterly meeting**. For the benefit of the students and new CTPA members present, she explained our relationship to the national (NFTGA) and international (WFTGA) guide organizations and noted the next WFTGA meeting will be held in Prague in **January 26-30, 2015**. The most recent NFTGA national meeting was held in Denver. Holly Jensen was the CTPA rep at that conference and had just returned. She said it was the best guide conference she had been to. We expect to hear more about it from Holly and CTPA member Terry Hall, the NFTGA Treasurer.

The remaining quarterly CTPA meetings will be on **June 9** and **October 6**. At the **March 25** meeting, Rolf Achilles will talk about his recently published book on the Chicago School of Architecture. In June, Pamela Bannos will reveal the Hidden Truths of Lincoln Park.

It was also mentioned that as a CTPA member, throughout the year there are opportunities to attend behind the scene tours of different attractions and a chance to see exhibits at the many museums and historic venues in the city.

To show the diversity of our membership and for the benefit of our student guests and those new to CTPA, Donna introduced the CTPA officers, associate members, new members, foreign language guides in attendance, ITMI & IGA graduates, docents and corporate travel directors who are themselves CTPA members. It was pointed out that students and Associate members might be able to help one another through job internships that could lead to employment after graduation!

New members: Wendy Bright, Bernard Turner, Paul Pfeffer, Val Adams, Starr Ivey, among others.

Associate members: Walt Chaddick, Chicago Trolley; Daniel Ecklund, Chicago Hosts; Stephanie Kite, Britespark; Alice Tell, My Kind of Town; Leah Axelrod, My Kind of Town Tours and Events; (NEW) Brady Doersher, Wander Bikes/Electric Bike Rentals; Drew Sexton, Accenting Chicago; Gilbert Longoria, Chicago Tour Company; Jeff Carter, Friends of the Chicago Portage; Jacob Kaplan, Forgotten Chicago; Soila Lampinen-Rwambuya, Wedgewood USA.

Members were reminded that in December Judy Lammering's husband had passed away. Donna then read Judy's thank you to all who had expressed their sympathy.

Choose Chicago / IPW (International Pow-Wow) Conference

“Chicago Welcomes the World” in April 2014 – **Saturday, April 5 through Wednesday, April 9**. **Jolene Haran** spoke effectively for the ChooseChicago group, sans microphone! She was most enthusiastic about this upcoming event. She explained that what used to be called the “international pow-wow,” a major travel and tourism convention, has been hosted repeatedly by Orlando, Las Vegas, or LA. It came to Chicago in 1998, a long time ago, before Millennium Park, before Trump

Tower, before many changes to our skyline, not to mention awareness of the importance of attracting tourists to our city. Estimated attendance is approx. 5,500 domestic and international visitors.

Today, Chicago has ten international offices solely to attract tourism. We've moved up from 10th place to No. 9 in "market share," and expect 50 million visitors by 2020. This IPW is a big deal for ChooseChicago, and it will be staffed by hundreds of volunteers, from greeters at the airports to escorts on shuttle busses, hosts at hotels, tour guides, and any number of other (unpaid) positions. It is estimated that 800 4-hour shifts need to be filled, so all CTPA members, and students, and everyone's friends and family and neighbors could be encouraged to volunteer.

As a reward for services rendered, volunteers will be given red jackets to wear and keep. Also, if anyone volunteers for more than one four-hour tour of duty, he/she will receive two passes to a museum. This portends to be a very exciting week for Chicago and everyone involved in its success, and we're encouraged to get involved.

Jolene told us that the two big events planned for the week. The first unexpected venue is a visit to the Cinespace movie studios on the near west side, since Chicago is the locale for a number of television and film productions. The closing night event will be at the Museum of Science and Industry. There will be "post-fams" (complimentary tours after the convention closes) hosted by our neighbors like Wisconsin and Indiana, who also stand to benefit from the IPW being held in our glittering center of the Midwest.

Jason Lesniewicz, who used to be a part of the Cultural Center's tourism program, is now with ChooseChicago and his focus is on Chicago neighborhoods. He worked hard to get a map to "extend beyond the Loop" and include neighborhoods. Samples of the big new maps were distributed at the meeting and are at hotels and elsewhere.

Second Presbyterian Church (at Michigan & Cullerton)

Lisa Napoles made an excellent brief presentation about Friends of Second Presbyterian Church, the artistically historic church itself, and the volunteer guides available for tours. Their docent training program will begin in the spring. She pointed out that among our group, Sharon Sylvester is a docent, Albert Walavich was once a docent, and that Bill Tyre, who is director of Glessner House Museum, is one of the instructors in their docent training.

Second Pres was named in 2013 as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. There are only three such in Illinois, and this church is the only one in Chicago. (The other two are Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Church in Oak Park and Church of the Holy Family in downstate Cahokia.)

Past congregants of the church were among the wealthiest of early Chicago: the Pullmans, the Swifts, Amours, the family of Marshall Field, etc. and this may be why the church has such a rich décor. This church is the only place in Chicago with so many – nine – Tiffany studio stained glass windows.

Tours are on Wednesday and Saturday, plus Sunday after services. You can call tour coordinator Ann Belletire at 312-432-0300, or preservation manager Lisa Napoles at 800-657-0687. Email them at historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com and via the website www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.com. A variety of tour options are available and custom group tours can be arranged.

As students began to leave to go to class, in closing, Donna took a moment to acknowledge **Adrian Edwards-Magnus** who was standing in the back of the room. She is an RU hospitality student who works on the 7th floor of the Gage Building, and it was her duty to oversee the room and our event that night, to make certain all went smoothly from meeting set-up to equipment functionality to clean up.

Social Time

At 6:50pm the business portion of the meeting ended and CTPA members continued networking and enjoying our new space.

To facilitate moving around and getting to know one another better, Donna provided a “CTPA Bingo Game” that a few people were using. It was a fill-in-the-blank paper with identifiers of members such as “is a Greeter” and “lives in highrise building.”

For those who love trivia, history and architecture, Donna Primas had also prepared a PowerPoint “quiz” of approx. 70 of her photographs of Chicago (with hints). The show ran in a continuous loop with each image displayed for about 10 seconds on the big screen. Thank you to Donna for making this evening a very special event to ring in the New Year 2014.

Nearly everyone had departed by 7:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Judith Randall, Co-Secretary

& Gina V Driskell, Co-Secretary