



President's Report 2008 Annual Conference

The 2007/08 CIVSA year has been educational from a President's perspective. The excitement and energy our organization creates is a welcome force in sustaining the growth and stability of the Collegiate Information and Visitor Services Association. It has been a busy year in the life of CIVSA.

The current state of the membership is very stable and strong. Our current membership numbers are the highest they have ever been and much credit goes to the Regional Directors who are sharing information about CIVSA throughout the nation. We currently have one out-of-country member – Trinity Western University in British Columbia, Canada.

I hosted the mid-year board meeting at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida, and was pleased so many board members were able to join us in light of the difficult economic times for everyone. The meeting was very productive and allowed the board to continue moving forward with their projects and ideas.

Throughout the past year, a historical list of membership and conference attendance for the past 15 years has been compiled. We've also purchased new software to use with better database capabilities. This will greatly enhance the services available to our membership.

The Executive Board provided the Research and Assessment Committee with an Executive Resolution regarding research proposals and waiving conference fees for up to two members for the conference at which they present their findings in a keynote fashion. This year is our first year of having a presentation by a member regarding data actually collected from our members and applied to our jobs.

The Constitution Committee worked hard to update the constitution and by-laws to better align with the mission and goals of the Association. This is a very daunting task and much appreciation goes to Betty Spengler for her leadership in leading the committee to a productive outcome.

Our President-Elect, Janey Wheeler, helped design our new logo to keep us looking fresh and “hip” The 2008 conference unveils our new look which is sure to carry us through the coming years. Janey has also implemented a new event at our Annual Conference for new members – The First Timers’ Breakfast. I hope this will continue in the coming years and will be a successful retention piece.

The newly established Archive Committee has located a permanent facility to house our hard-copy archives and enable us to be more “mobile” when passing the torch to new leadership. Electronic archiving has also begun so locating previous association information should be at our finger tips.

New documents have been established to help better track expenditures and in gratis agreements in regards to conference tasks and activities. These forms will assist the board in maintain the utmost professional relationships with those speakers and corporations who are supporting the organization and the Annual Conference.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not send a special thank you to four long-time CiVSA members who have retired from their institutions during this past year. Fran Lane from the University of Georgia retired last December. She had been a member of CiVSA since 1995 and was President 1999-2000. Sandy Roberts from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill also retired last December and had also been a member since 1995. She also was President of the Association following Fran from 2000 – December of 2001. Sherry Case from Colorado State University just retired in April after being a CiVSA member from the very beginning. She attended EVERY CiVSA conference since 1994 except the 2003 and 2004 conferences and was the Nick Kovalakides Outstanding Member last year in 2007. Finally, Leslie Baumert who is currently at Oklahoma University will be retiring on June 30. Leslie was President following Sandy from December of 2001 until August 2003. This is the first conference Leslie has missed since 1997. All four of these women made an impact in my life in the world of CiVSA and personally. The organization is better for having each of them as active members. We will miss them all dearly.

In all, I am pleased to have been a part of the Executive Board for the Collegiate Information and Visitors Services Association and am proud to have led such a professional and innovative group of thinkers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tami Tassler
CiVSA President 2007/08