

# **Southern States Communication Association**

## **Site Proposal for 2009 Convention**

### **Time and Place Committee:**

Chuck Grant (Chair)

Hope Bock

Katherine Hendrix

### **Local Arrangements:**

Tom Socha

**Norfolk, Virginia** is the city we recommend for the site of the 2009 convention.

Dates for the convention: April 1 – 4, 2009.

Chuck Grant, Emmett Winn, and Tom Socha have visited and recommend two hotels in downtown Norfolk. The hotels are **Sheraton Norfolk Waterside** and **Norfolk Waterside Marriott**.

### **Sheraton Norfolk Waterside**

Location: Downtown on the Elizabeth River

Size: 445 guest rooms and 19 suites

Room rates: \$149 (plus tax) for single/double

Meeting rooms: 15 separate breakout rooms

Banquet room: 12,500 square feet

### **Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel and Convention Center**

Location: Downtown on the Elizabeth River

Size: 405 guest rooms and 8 suites

Room rates: \$149 (plus tax) for single room

Meeting rooms: 13 (third floor of adjacent Convention Center)

Banquet room: 12,700 square feet (third floor adjacent Convention Center)

### **Amenities for both properties:**

- Connected by covered walkways to Waterside Festival Marketplace Mall offering shops, kiosks, an international food bazaar, and six sit-down restaurants
- MacArthur Center, a five-star shopping complex four blocks from the hotel
- Museums, D'Art Center, baseball stadium, and the National Maritime Center within walking distance
- Daily cruises available
- Fifteen minutes from Norfolk International Airport

**Advantages/Disadvantages of both properties:**

We will be the only group using the meeting space in the **Sheraton** (they will put that in the contract). The **Sheraton** has an excellent reception area and is closer to several restaurants. We have used the **Sheraton** for a previous conference.

The **Marriott** is adequate, but the meeting space is huge (four-story convention center). The **Marriott** would put our meeting space on the third floor of the convention center (the smallest space), and we would be competing with other conventions for their attention.

**Room rates for next three SSCA conventions:**

- 2006 Dallas \$99 per night
- 2007 Louisville \$139 single; \$149 double
- 2008 Savannah \$155 single/double; \$180 triple