

If we wish to continue to hold annual meetings in quality venues we will have to support them. We already have signed a contract for the New Orleans meetings in March, 2004. If we do not meet the guarantee, will not have the financial cushion to cover it. That would hinder, at best, our ability to hold future meetings, as our “credit rating” would be destroyed.

Some possible solutions to low attendance have been suggested. One is to explore merging with another regional association, or at least holding frequent joint meetings. Another is to hold meetings at selected well-known tourist destination sites, hoping that members will consider combining the meeting with a family vacation. Both of these have their downsides (losing our identity; members touring instead of attending sessions). What are your opinions and suggestions? The Council and I would like to hear what you think.

I hate to not have an upbeat message for my inaugural column, but I feel that this is an issue of enough importance to our future that all members need to be aware of it. So, send any thoughts you may have, and pay attention to the Call for Papers for the New Orleans meeting that will come out in early Fall. Remember, this will be an early call, as the meeting is a month earlier than usual.

Have a good summer.

Steve Smith

Steve Smith,
President

First Call for Papers

Southern Regional Science Association 43rd Annual Meeting

*March 11-13, 2004
Le Pavillon Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana*

Potential Topic Areas Include:

*Regional Modeling
International Trade
Resource Utilization
Environment Quality
Transportation Systems
Tourism and Recreation
Economic Impact Analysis
Rural Economic Development
Regional Migration/Labor Markets
Regional Development Issues/Policy
Public Finance and Investment Analysis*

Submit Abstract of Paper to:

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