

WELCOME

In this issue of INMEX News we highlight an ongoing labor dispute with Hyatt at three Boston area hotels. We also draw attention to some labor issues in California, and we profile one of our favorite cities—the city of Atlanta—and the newest union hotel option in the South. Most importantly, we welcome a new staff member and a new partner to the INMEX family.

In these uncertain economic times, INMEX is committed to getting unparalleled value for our clients, and to delivering a level of service that is second to none. So far, we've had a memorable 2009. Thanks to all of our clients and suppliers. You all make INMEX possible, and we look forward to continued work with you this year!

-Neal Kwatra
Executive Director
INMEX

Hyatt Fires 100 Housekeepers at 3 Boston Hotels

Citing a response to the lagging economy, Hyatt eliminated the housekeeping departments at three Boston area hotels on August 31, 2009. As a result, approximately 100 housekeepers' jobs were terminated at the Hyatt Regency Boston, the Hyatt Regency Cambridge and the Hyatt Harborside at Boston Logan International Airport. All three hotels are non-union. Hyatt's action provoked an unprecedented public outcry from Massachusetts's political, labor and business communities.

Many of the housekeepers, who are predominately immigrants and women, had worked in the hotel for 20 years when their employment was terminated, and most were making as much as \$15 per hour, according to published reports. In addition to the unexpected termination, many of the housekeepers were required to train their replacements.

And those replacements will face dramatically different conditions at these hotels. Hyatt subcontracted these jobs to HHS, a national outsourcing company, who started the new housekeepers at \$8 per hour. Where the old workforce was also getting health insurance and other benefits, few (if any) of the new housekeepers will be receiving health benefits.

In addition to this, several of the new housekeepers report having to clean many more rooms per day than their

predecessors, in some cases 50% more.

Shortly after the firings, the fired housekeepers were greeted with a wave of public support. UNITE HERE Local 26, which represents hotel workers in union hotels in the Boston area, immediately launched a boycott of these three

properties. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick stated that he would ask state workers to boycott Hyatt's hotels if the fired workers were not brought back. The City Councils of Cambridge and Boston have approved a boycott of the Hyatt hotels, and the Massachusetts legislature is



currently considering approving similar legislation. Many guests, such as the National Employment Lawyer's Association and the Boston Chamber of Commerce, have moved or are moving their events from the hotels.

Recently, Hyatt announced that it would institute a program that would assist the fired housekeepers in finding comparable work and would extend health benefits to them for the next few months. But community, political and labor groups are pushing to get these housekeepers their jobs back.

If INMEX clients are interested in helping these workers, please call INMEX's Director of Meetings, Sheree Gibson, and she can get you in touch with the groups on the ground in Boston.

We've revamped our website!
Come and visit! www.inmex.org

San Francisco Hotel Workers to Vote on Strike Authorization

UNITE HERE Local 2, which represents 12,000 hotel restaurant, stadium, event center and food service workers in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, has scheduled a strike vote on October 22, 2009. The vote would apply to 8500 Local 2 members, who work at 31 full-service San Francisco hotels. The scheduled vote is a direct response to contract negotiations between those hotels and



Local 2 members, who have been working without a contract since August. According to union officials, contract talks with employers have not made significant progress.

There have been numerous picket lines with hundreds of workers at several hotels in the area

since the contract expired, and there was an arrest action on September 24th, where 1700 hotel workers and supporters marched on downtown San Francisco streets demanding a fair contract. The march culminated in a planned act of civil disobedience where 92 workers and supporters were arrested.

According to a Local 2 spokesperson, the industry is using a sagging economy as an excuse to try to get long-term concessions from Local 2 members. The union claims that it has been open to negotiating a less expensive deal with hotels, provided that deal is short term.

Meeting planners will remember that some of these hotels engaged in a 53-day lockout of 4200 San Francisco hotel workers after the contract with Local 2 expired in 2004, which resulted in significant disruption to events and hotel services. This lockout and the related labor action led to tens of millions of dollars in moved and cancelled meetings business in San Francisco hotels.

We encourage all of our clients and other meeting planners to contact INMEX for the latest in these negotiations and labor actions, especially if you're planning to visit San Francisco.

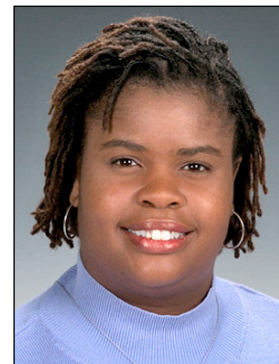
Sheree A. Gibson, CMP, joins INMEX

We are pleased to announce the addition of Sheree A. Gibson, CMP, to the INMEX team. Sheree has over fifteen years invested in the meetings and events industry with a solid reputation for producing high profile, quality events. Her extensive experience in aligning marketing, organizational goals with meeting and event strategy will help INMEX clients produce cost saving, efficient, successful events.

As the Senior Planner she is responsible for managing all aspects of client events; supervising event staff; and business development. With strong industry relationships and a wide-ranging knowledge in meetings-event management, program development, and event marketing, Sheree's strengths as a strategic, creative thinker, who is adaptable are assets to our clients and their events.

Sheree is a certified meeting professional (CMP); an active member of Meeting Professional International (MPI), most recently as a board director for the Greater New York Chapter, where she was awarded Planner of the Year in 2003. She is also a member of the American Marketing Association (AMA) and American Society of Association Executives (ASAE).

INMEX is thrilled to have such a seasoned professional as part of our team, and Sheree looks forward to working closely with our clients and suppliers in the days to come.



Spotlight on

If you are looking for a city that offers southern hospitality and some of the best convention and meeting facilities in the nation, Atlanta certainly fits the bill.

This is an exciting and progressive city, rich in culture and diversity. It is home to prominent leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and features inspirational points of interest such as The Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. And as an added bonus for INMEX clients, Atlanta is home to the Westin Peachtree Plaza, which is one of only two Union hotels in the city of Atlanta.

Atlanta enjoys three major sports teams and summer is a great time to experience the Atlanta Braves at Turner Field. An economical way to immerse oneself in many of Atlanta's major points of interest is by purchasing an Atlanta City Pass. This allows you entry to six of the city's most popular destinations including the Atlanta Botanical Garden and the world's largest enclosed exhibit of



marine life, the Georgia Aquarium.

Why else should you choose Atlanta as your destination city?

Atlanta is extremely accessible, as 80 percent of the U.S. population lives within a two-hour flight.

The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta

International Airport supports approximately 2,500 daily flights, allowing you flexibility in your travel planning.

MARTA, the city's quick, inexpensive transportation system, is accessible from the airport and provides service to the downtown convention district as well as many area attractions.

The accommodations and facilities in Atlanta are impressive. This city features more than 90,000 rooms, five major convention centers and over 2.1 million square feet of exhibit space. Atlanta has been revitalized with the infusion of 6 billion dollars in new development since 2005.

Atlanta is a contemporary choice of destination, brimming with rich cultural experiences and unending southern charm.



STARWOOD PREFERRED GUEST®

Book your next meeting at The Westin Peachtree Plaza and be inspired.

For more information or to make a reservation, westin.com/peachtree or call 404-659-1400.

©2009 Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. All rights reserved.



TAKE YOUR MEETING TO NEW HEIGHTS

As the tallest building in Michigan, the 73-floor Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center soars high above the Detroit River while offering spectacular views of the city. Inside, we're also well-equipped for meetings of every size, with 1,298 luxuriously appointed guest rooms and 100,000 sq. ft. of meeting space. Our central downtown location allows for easy access to the city's many historical and cultural attractions. A venue that meets your union needs in a city where unions command respect.

To book your next meeting, contact Kathy DeCiantis at **313.568.8377**.

DETROIT MARRIOTT AT THE RENAISSANCE CENTER
Detroit, MI
detroitmarriott.com



Disneyland UNITE HERE Members Fight for Healthcare

Over 800 Disney hotel workers, activists, and members of the Episcopal clergy staged a march and rally on July 14th that shut down a major boulevard and the entrance to Disneyland in Anaheim, CA. It was the latest in the labor dispute



between UNITE HERE Local 11 and Disney that began in February of 2008, when the contract between Local 11 members and Disney expired.

In that year and a half, tensions between Disney and Local 11 members have been slowly simmer-

ing, culminating on the 14th with the march and the rally, which marked a significant show of strength from Disney workers and the community.

The main point of contention in negotiations between Disney and Local 11 members is healthcare. Disney is asking Local 11 members to use a healthcare plan that would require them to begin paying monthly premiums, while workers prefer that the company continue paying into the Union's healthcare fund, which provides healthcare to all of its members.

Ada Briceno, who heads the Disney workers' division of Local 11, has hinted in several written publications that the union may soon hold a strike vote. If workers do eventually vote to strike, that could set the stage for a walkout of over 3,000 Disneyland workers and picket lines in front of one of the largest tourism destinations on the planet.

INMEX is communicating on a regular basis with the leadership of Local 11 and has the latest on this dispute. Before you book a meeting at a Disney property, make sure you talk with an INMEX representative for more information on this.

INMEX's Newest Partner: Expedia, Inc.

INMEX is proud to announce a new partnership with Expedia, Inc., which is the industry leader in online transient hotel bookings (through their website Expedia.com) and the owner of the preeminent online hotel rating website (Tripadvisor.com).

The unique partnership and sponsorship agreement between INMEX and Expedia will be based around shared information and resources

between the two organizations. Expedia will soon be posting information about labor disputes at hotels on its website as travel advisories for all of its clients. This means that INMEX clients can book through Expedia and be alerted of any strikes, pickets or boycotts at hotels

before they book their trip.

"This is a significant step forward for INMEX, and it shows the intrinsic value in the information we share with our clients and the services we provide for them," said INMEX Executive Director Neal Kwatra about the new partnership.

"We're proud to have an industry giant like Expedia as our partner, and are thrilled that their customers will soon have access to some of the

information we provide for our clients."

For more information about this partnership, contact your INMEX representative. And for great deals on hotels all across the country, we encourage you to visit our new partner's website, www.expedia.com.



Expedia[®]