

SRSA Newsletter

Southern Regional Science Association

September
2000

The Association will meet in Austin, Texas April 5-7, 2001. This meeting will celebrate four decades of service to regional science in the south. The Association will commemorate its 40th Anniversary with a reception honoring past presidents. The reception will be Friday evening and all past presidents will receive a personal invitation to attend this years meeting.

Additionally, Judy Stallmann will organize a panel session of past presidents to discuss the Association's contributions to regional science over the past four decades. Any past presidents willing to share their experiences should call Judy (see addresses at a glance.)

The meeting site, The Driskill Hotel, is an historic building in downtown Austin and has recently undergone a complete renovation. As usual the program chair, Frank Hefner of the College of Charleston, promises a varying and interesting program. Frank will be contacting you about organizing or chairing a session or discussing papers. Remember, it's OK to contact him first (see addresses at a glance).

Copies of the conference and hotel registration forms will be available else where on this web site following the November Executive Council meeting and in the January newsletter.

The 2001 SRSA Graduate Student Paper Competition--The 2001 Barry Moriarty Graduate Paper Competition deadline is February 1, 2001. The SRSA urges its members to encourage qualified graduate students to participate in the competition. The winning student will receive recognition at the awards luncheon and a prize of \$500 to defray the cost of attending the annual meeting in Austin, Texas. Details of the competition are provided in an attachment to this newsletter along with other information pertaining to the 2001 SRSA meeting.

Questions regarding the competition should be addressed to Dr. David Barkley, 255 Barre Hall, Regional Economic Development Research Laboratory, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0355. Dr. Barkley may be reached by phone at 864-656-5797, or by e-mail dbrkly@clemson.edu

Greetings from the President--'Tis past Labor Day, the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of the new academic year for most of us. Before I remind you to ask what you can do for SRSA in 2001, I will indulge in some personal reflections.

After catching the tail end of the RSAI World Congress in Lugano, Switzerland (the Rio of Europe), I stole a few days for a long awaited field trip to Tuscany. I had been to Florence some thirty years ago when I did not have the patience or the wisdom to appreciate what many regard as the birthplace of the Renaissance. I saw David (named after my oldest son), strolled the Uffizi and the Ponte Vecchio with Leonardo and Michelangelo, a couple of fellow travelers in regional science. We discovered the charm of less frequented places in Montalcino and sipped some fine brunello: Bella Toscana indeed!

I mention this experience mostly for our younger colleagues, not the yada, yada crowd. After so many years of attending regional science and geography meetings in North America, Europe and Asia, I remember many airports and hotels, but had not lingered enough to experience a real sense of many places I had been. Nowadays I insist on a field trip after each meeting, even if it only means one extra day in the Miami Beach area or Austin, Texas. I thoroughly recommend getting into the habit: you will turn your conference travels into voyages of discovery. So, when you plan for your next SRSA meeting in Austin, Texas April 5 - 7, 2001, try to steal a day among the blue bonnets of the Texas Hill Country or visit the shrine of Texas liberty in San Antonio.

The call for papers is included in this newsletter. **SHARE IT NOW:** post it on you door and bulletin board, tell your colleagues. And inform our program chair, Frank Hefner, Hefnerf@cofc.edu of your plans.

And now to other issues that relate to SRSA, our meetings and our organization. We are a grassroots, democratic organization concerned with the intellectual and pragmatic pursuit of regional science, specifically in the American South, but also around the world. We contribute to scholarship and the pursuit of knowledge through the discourse that takes place at our annual meetings and in the pages of our journal: The Review of Regional Studies under the excellent editorial leadership of Bill Latham and Steve Hastings. And we are at our best when all of us play our part in the organization.

The Executive Council named in this newsletter has the responsibility for representing you and for ensuring a prosperous future for regional science in our region and elsewhere. 2001 is a special year for us because we will celebrate our 40th birthday. If there is any issue you feel should be addressed by the Council, please be in touch with any one of us. If you are not content, we are not content.

At our annual business meetings we have to deal fairly quickly with issues that affect SRSA, though the Executive Council does officially meet twice a year, once at the North American meetings of RSAI (November 9-12 this year in Chicago); and once during our annual conference.

Let me share with you three issues that are on the agenda for the November meeting, though they represent continuing concerns.

One is the location for future meetings of the association. Northern Virginia will be the location of the 2002 meeting (we usually meet every third year in the greater Washington area). At our last business meeting, Louisville, Kentucky was selected as the site for 2003. In Chicago, we will make a decision on 2004, between St. Louis, New Orleans, and a possible location in Florida.

Since my turn on the Council, the usual discussion on future locations has involved two models: the continuing tradition of meeting in locations throughout the SRSA region (the representative model), versus a preference for more amenity-oriented locations including resorts (the amenity model). There are valid reasons for both approaches, but we tend to favor the former: hence Louisville and St. Louis for the future. Our Western colleagues (WRSA) have shown the resort model to be very successful, and in some locations they have attracted a larger number of participants (not an insignificant variable) than the North American meetings. Would you prefer to meet in more amenity-oriented locations in the future? Please remember: WRSA meets in late February, typically in a California resort and may attract more snowbirds as well as more international participants (as we did in Miami Beach). Also, the cost of hotels at resort locations in April may be higher. Let me know what you think as well as any suggestions about specific locations: johnrees@uncg.edu.

A second agenda item involves the most efficient way of publishing our journal at a time when technology is rapidly changing and electronic solutions need to be considered. The quality of the journal is not an issue, merely the price. Conventional publication costs continue to rise while we have a relatively low circulation. A committee was formed to look into solutions that may include electronic outlets, consolidation with other similar journals, engaging a commercial press, as have other regional science journals. Should you have ideas or experience with such issues, please contact members of the committee: Bill Latham, co-chair, Steve Hastings, Kevin McNamara or Judy Stallman.

A third and continuing agenda item is the need to recruit for new members and encouraging them to attend our meetings. Recruitment, especially among younger colleagues and students, is vital to the survival of any organization. It can also replenish and rejuvenate the intellectual roots. Since many states within the SRSA region have done well in terms of demographics and economic growth during the past decade, recruitment should be relatively easy for us. And by helping SRSA, you can also help regional science as a whole. As a new member of the executive council of our international organization, Regional Science Association International (RSAI), I can report that membership and recruitment is an issue of concern throughout regional science. As of May 2000, RSAI membership numbers were running behind those of 1999.

So, as we face those new, bright and keen regional scientists of the future in our fall classes, I ask you to spread the message about SRSA and RSAI and encourage new members in any way possible. And encourage them to come to Austin in April 2001.

Finally, please note that we are the official hosts of the North American meetings in the enchanted city of Charleston, South Carolina, November 2001.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in Chicago at the North American meetings and again in Austin, April 2001 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of SRSA.

My best personal wishes,

John Rees

President

SRSA Web--We think the site contains much useful information about the Association. As well as links to several sites of interest to regional scientists, including federal data sources and several universities as well as institutions and other associations--such as RSAI and the other regional science associations.

Again, if you have any comments, suggestions for additional links, or thoughts about the site please send an e-mail to Ted Trott. If you wish to advertize a position on the SRSA jobs page, please send the information to Ted; either in hard copy or e-mail.

The site can be reached through the TIPP home page at George Mason University or directly at the following new URL: www.srsa.org.

The Review of Regional Studies a peer refereed journal is published three times a year for the Southern Regional Science Association by the College of Business and Economics at the University of Delaware.

The editorial board for the Review has been re-constituted for the first time in a number of years. The editors gratefully acknowledge the services of those leaving the board and look forward to working with both those who are continuing joining and the new members.

The editors also want to thank all those individuals who referee manuscript submissions for the Review and especially those who write extensive, thoughtful detailed comments for the authors. These comments make it possible for many authors to revise their papers to meet the standards for publication in the Review.

Volume 30, Number 1, Summer 2000 is at the printers and is scheduled for mailing in September. It has been designated the 30th anniversary issue and will have a special cover. Volume 30, Number 2, Fall 2000 is in the type-setting/copy editing stage with a target mailing date of October. Volume 30, Number 3, Winter 2000 has now been filled and will begin moving toward a mailing in November or December. Papers are currently being accepted for Volume 31, Number 1, summer 2001.

The North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association

International--The 2000 North American meetings of the Regional Science Association International are being held at the Midland Hotel in downtown Chicago. The meetings are November 9-12.

The Midland is centrally located in the Loop just around the corner from Chicago's renowned financial district. CTA subways from and to O'Hare and Midway airports are just a few blocks away, as are the famed elevated tracks forming Chicago "Loop." The Midland is within easy walking distance of the

city's premier entertainment and cultural attractions and just a short El ride from Chinatown, Greektown, and The Magnificent Mile. For tourist information visit <www.chicago.il.org>.

The Midland Hotel recommends that you make a guaranteed reservation at least 6 weeks in advance. To make reservations, call 800-621-2360 toll-free and ask for in-house reservations.

Western Regional Science Association will hold its 40th Anniversary Meeting at the Palm Springs Riviera Resort and Racquet Club February 25-28, 2001.

The Western Regional Science Association was formed in 1961. To mark the anniversary a number of special features are being planned for our 40th Annual Meeting. The conference will be held in the lovely conference center of the Palm Springs Riviera Resort and Racquet Club. It will begin with registration and an opening plenary session on Sunday afternoon, February 25. Paper sessions will be held all day Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, February 26, 27, and 28.

Get working on a paper for submission by the October 15 deadline. Remember, abstracts are not accepted. Papers on any regional science topic are welcome. As per longstanding WRSA custom, all offers will be screened by the Program Committee prior to invitations being issued for presentation. Abstracts are not accepted, but at the time of the October 15 submittal deadline papers may be in draft form. Those wishing to organize a special session are encouraged to contact Dave Plane (520.621.1738 or e-mail <plane@u.arizona.edu>) as soon as possible.

Deadline for January 2001 Issue: December 15, 2000

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