Site Selection Committee

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The Site Selection Committee completed their tours of potential sites for the 2028 TACRAO 2028 Annual Conference this past spring. The committee's intent was to identify a location in south Texas as we have not held our conference there since 2017. We initially considered Corpus Christi, McAllen, and South Padre Island. Due to preliminary pricing and lack of response from our contacts in South Padre we elected to only visit Corpus Christi and McAllen.

Both sites are capable of hosting an event our size but after much consideration, it was the decision of the committee to recommend McAllen as the site of the 2028 Annual Conference. While there were many factors that led to this decision, the primary reasons are listed below.

1) Cost Neutral: Thanks to the work of Conference Direct and the local convention and visitors bureau, we have negotiated a package that makes this a cost neutral site. Barring unforeseen circumstances or an intentional decision to spend more, this conference can be conducted without financial loss to the organization. Corpus eventually offered a similar possibility but with several contingencies that made the cost neutral nature of the proposal less certain.
2) The conference center has 5 participating hotels with extremely favorable rates and all are within walking distance eliminating the need for bussing that would be present in Corpus Christi. All hotels are new and in excellent condition.
3) The costs of food (and most notably coffee) were considerably less than they would have been in Corpus Christi. Additionally, all participating hotels offer free breakfast and free parking.
4) The conference space was far more suitable to our needs and in better condition.
5) There is a performing arts center attached to the Convention Center that will allow for extra space should it become necessary for the Big Event, President's Reception, or any other event.
6) The presence of 2 airports in close proximity make this location far more accessible.

The TEC voted on June 8th to approve McAllen as the site of the 2028 conference and authorized Conference Direct to finalize contracts.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chris Reed - Chair