

CASI



Proposal for 2021 Great Peppers' Meeting

Good day to you all. Here is a proposal that will be discussed on Friday before the Round Tables and is included on the Saturday agenda.

With the uncertainty we are experiencing at this time, the Board is bringing forth this proposal for your consideration. Time is of the essence, as you will see below.

For years, we have had the GPM in hotels and venues across the country. Because the GPM is funded through cook-off fees, we have always been able to fund the GPM. This year, however, has taught us a lesson.

The Sheraton Arlington Great Peppers' Meeting

2019-\$15,546

2018-\$20,499

Hotel rooms were \$124 a night.

The total contract for the Sheraton Arlington is valued at \$39,740.00. Part of the largest expense comes from the room nights. We are required to guarantee a certain number of nights spent in the hotel by the attendees and that number is part of the total contract. The number of guests staying at the hotel times the number of nights that have booked at the hotel. The remainder of the contract is for catering, meeting rooms, audio/visual, and of course taxes and fees.

The difference between 2018 and 2019 is that last year, the Directors paid for their own travel and hotel. This year, had we gone to Arlington, we would have been approximately \$10,000 in the red on the GPM and possibly more.

Looking at the expenses for having the meeting in Gonzales:

Meeting facility- \$2600.00

Caterer- \$2153.38

Total- \$4753.38 (This number is where we are right now. This does not include the addition of the guest fees and a few incidentals.)

RV space- \$35 a night

Hotel rooms- \$85 a night

Funding for the Great Peppers' Meeting is based on the number of chilis judged. Going into September this year, we were just below \$6000. That was the budget number I used when looking for sites and caterers. With the addition of the guest fees that help to underwrite this meeting, we will still come in well under the \$6000 mark and will have funds to transfer into the 2021 GPM fund. Not a lot, but in our case, everything helps. If, like we fear will happen and the next three months are without our normal level of cookoffs, we will be in even greater danger of underfunding the GPM in 2021.

Between the money raised throughout the year; the monies from the guest fees and the monies donated for the hospitality areas, I am very pleased with this year's outcome.

When we canceled the meeting with the Sheraton this year, we were required to pay a 10% fee of \$3974.00. The fee that we have paid carries over to the 2021 GPM at the Sheraton and is applied to the final bill. The hotel actually reduced the fee to ten percent because of the number of years we have had a relationship with them. Without this generosity from the hotel, we would have to have paid \$31,792

If we cancel the meeting at the Sheraton for 2021, here is a breakdown of the fees:

Cancel before December 31, 2020 \$3974.00 (the cancellation fee we have paid is applied and we are complete)

Cancel between January 1 and March 31, 2021 \$15,896.00

After March 31, 2021 \$39740.00

For your consideration:

2021 Great Peppers' Meeting- The Expo at JB Wells Park, Gonzales TX

We paid a \$1300.00 refundable deposit. What we have paid for the meeting this year would roughly be the same next year. Our regular scheduled meeting dates are available and I have temporarily reserved those dates for next year. They would be the first weekend after Labor Day September 10-12, 2021. If you decide to make the reservations for Gonzales, the deposit will be applied to next year.

If you make these decisions now, we are reserved with Gonzales for 2021. If during the upcoming chili year you decide to not have the GPM next year, the deposit is returned in full and we are out nothing.

For the delegates who fly in, we understand that the closest airport is Austin. However, when I look back at past GP meetings...in Baltimore it was about half an hour shuttle/drive to the Inner Harbor. The year it was held in Del Rio TX, you flew into San Antonio and had a three/ three and a half hour drive. In 2010, we were in Salado, which meant a flight into Austin and then an hour drive. When we were in Virginia, it was half hour to forty-five minutes by car, possibly longer depending on traffic.

The last option would be to not have meeting at all. If this option is approved, the decision will be irreversible.

Just a reminder about the 2021 Great Peppers' Meeting. We moved the rule changes to the 2021 meeting.

The decision about this meeting comes to down to finances as indicated. At this time we have some options. The longer we wait, the less options we will have.

Keith D Karaff
Executive Director, CASI