

SMOFCON

Aug./Sept. 1992

PROGRESS REPORT

WORKING, PLAYING AND EATING HARD

New SMOFCON Traditions Promised in New Orleans

COME EARLY, STAY LATE

The Doubletree Hotel's SMOFCON rates are good for contiguous stays (space permitting) –if you want to play in New Orleans, come down early (or up, if you're from south Florida) and/or stay late. Our Hospitality Suite, run by Debbie Hodgkinson, will open on Wednesday afternoon, December 9th and be open through Monday.

SMOFCON hotel rates are \$69.00 for single or double occupancy, and \$74.00 for triple and quad. The hotel will hold the room block until November 16th. Check-in time is 3:00 PM the day of arrival; cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to date of arrival. Please identify yourself as being with SMOFCON when making your reservation. A reservation envelope is enclosed with this Report.

The Doubletree Hotel is located at the foot of Canal Street, near the majestic Mississippi River. The Riverwalk shopping center and the French Quarter, with its beignets and café au lait, the "Moon Walk" and the new Aquarium of the Americas, are all close at hand. The mailing address is 300 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70130 and the phone number is 504/581-1300.

NEW ORLEANS SAVINGS

Karen Meschke recommends that you call for the "New Orleans Good Times" coupon book. The phone number for this free book of special discounts at restaurants and other attractions is 1-800-926-1992.

BRUNCH AND ALL THAT JAZZ

The suggestion of a Sunday Brunch featuring New Orleans-style delicacies was greeted with some enthusiasm. We're tentatively planning to go ahead with this concept and expect the cost to be about \$22.00 per person. Please let us know if you wish to attend by checking the box in the Reply Card on page 3 of this report.

We are discussing the possibility of having a live jazz band at the Brunch. The cost is \$300 to \$350. Please let us know if you would like to listen to jazz during your meal, even if the cost of the brunch would be several dollars higher per person.

A LITTLE LAGNIAPPE

In New Orleans, "lagniappe" means a little something extra. This Report contains a little lagniappe for you: a color map of the convention area and the city at large, along with mass transit and taxicab information and phone numbers.

A SMOFCON in New Orleans begs to veer from the SMOFCON tradition of double-tracked programming from dawn (doesn't dawn come at 10:00 a.m.???) until the wee hours of the night (that happens at 11:00 p.m., right?). We'll work hard, but we'll also find some time to play by combining work and play and great food!

This seems like a great year to explore planning and developing a restaurant guide. We'll develop a method to create a restaurant guide, test our methodology, do the research and produce the guide in real time. We'll be testing our restaurant guide form, of course, by eating at the wonderful New Orleans restaurants and everyone filling out the form. Ever have your dinner partners arranged by choice of restaurant?

THE BEST FORMS

Please send the best forms for volunteer signup, sign requests, program participant releases, logistics processing, etc., that you have worked with so that we can share them with all SMOFCON members. The deadline is November 16th. Please send them to Bill Jensen at the address on the mailer portion of this report (Page 4).

DECEMBER 11-13, 1992 • Doubletree Hotel, Canal St., New Orleans, LA
ROOMS: \$69.00/night single or double occupancy, \$74.00/night triple or quad
MEMBERSHIP: \$40.00 until 11/16/92; higher at door

N'AWLINS HOSPITALITY

Good food and drink has been a traditional part of SMOFCON since the first one, organized by Theresa Renner, Joe Siclari and Ben Yalow. This seems especially called for in New Orleans, so known for culinary delights.

New Orleans' restaurants are world renowned for their hospitality. Some, however, are not very hospitable if you don't make reservations in advance. The SMOFCON Committee will be pleased to make advance reservations for you at the following restaurants in (or a short taxi ride from) the convention area. For those of you who prefer making your own reservations directly, phone numbers are herewith provided.

(All phone #'s in 504 area code.)

Brennan's / 525-9711

Commander's Palace / 899-8221 (By reputation the best restaurant in New Orleans; expensive; a taxi ride from the hotel)

Bayona / 525-4455 (A great place to try something new; many dishes are unique to this restaurant, having been created by the chef, Susan Spicer; less expensive—entrees are between \$15 and \$18)

Bon Ton Cafe / 524-3386 (Small, casual dress, good Cajun food)

Emeril's / 528-9393 (The Chef, Emeril Lagasse, cooked at Commander's for seven years before starting his own restaurant; expensive; 15 desserts)

K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen (Very tough to get into, but does not take reservations)



-Y'ALL
COME!
MGL/'92

SMOFCON PROGRAMMING

With all this fun, we'll still find time to share a lot of information and discover new ways to run conventions of all sizes smoothly. Panelists (and members of the audience) will share their experiences working on small, medium and large conventions.

If there is enough interest (half a dozen people), we'll set up workshops so that SMOFCON members can give presentations (bid presentations or other material) and then watch the re-run of the presentation. A gentle critique and recommendations will follow. Anyone interested?

Please let us know if you would like to coordinate a workshop (of whatever stripe). We can arrange for supplies and equipment, if we know about them by October 15th. We expect to have both Macintosh and MS-DOS-based computer systems (and associated printers) at SMOFCON as well as a copier, three hole punch, stapler, and other office supplies.

In addition to panels and workshops, we'll try some informal time around the pool working out ways to do things we don't yet know how to do. These semi-formal discussions will concentrate on areas which are unsolved problems for convention runners, such as using (and not abusing) volunteers. For example, one real unsolved problem is how to use volunteers that no one on the

committee currently knows in that person's "highest and best use." Since we're *all* volunteers, we need to find ways to work with other volunteers that bring out the best in others and in ourselves.

E-MAIL DIRECTORY

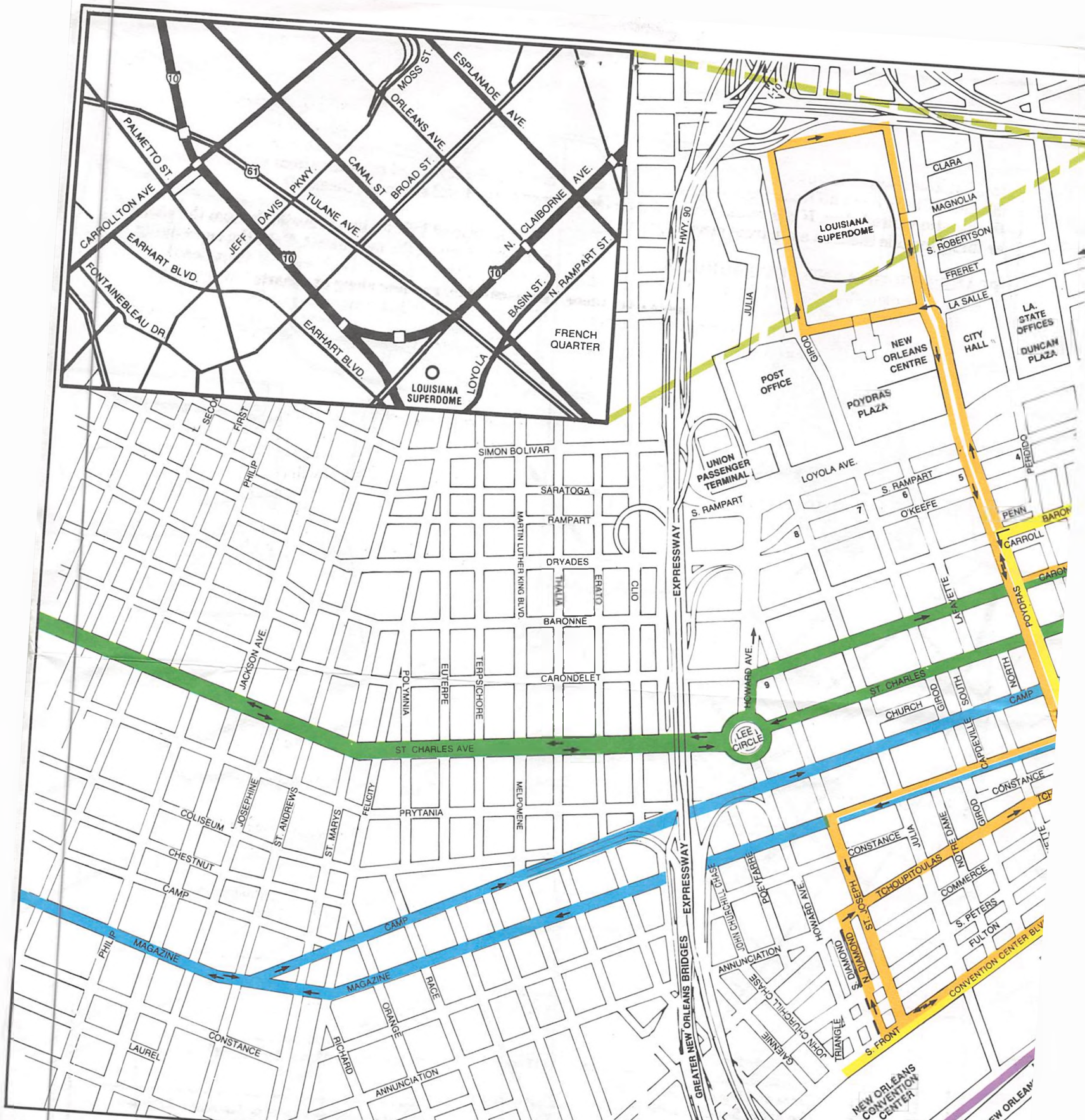
John Lorentz is compiling a fannish electronic mail directory to make it easier for fans running cons to "network" with one another—literally. John's Compu-Serve address is 74007,3342; Internet users can send him mail at 74007.3342@compuserve.com (no period on the end).

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

In the great tradition of "Trivial SMOFs," "If I Ran the Zoo" and "The Exciting Worldcon Bidding Tournament," SMOFCON 9 plans to host a game early in the convention. If you have ideas about how to structure a game (so that it is fun as well as an ice breaker), please contact Priscilla Olson or Patty Wells (after Magicon).

EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT IT, BUT...

December in New Orleans is a good deal warmer than you're probably used to if you're from any region other than the Deep South. ("Snow"? Who dat?) But that doesn't mean it won't be chilly. Pack at least one or two sets of winter clothes to be safe, but a T-shirt and jeans should be sufficient for wear inside the hotel, with a sweater or jacket for venturing out.



**Tourism Related
Transit Routes**

RIVERFRONT STREETCAR

Monday - Friday: 6 AM - Midnight
 Saturday & Sunday: 8 AM - Midnight
 Fare \$1.00 each way
 Prices Subject to Change

EASY RIDER CBD SHUTTLE

Monday - Friday: 6:30 AM - 6:30 PM
 Saturday: 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM
 No Sunday. One route; travels both directions
 Prices Subject to Change

VIEUX CARRE

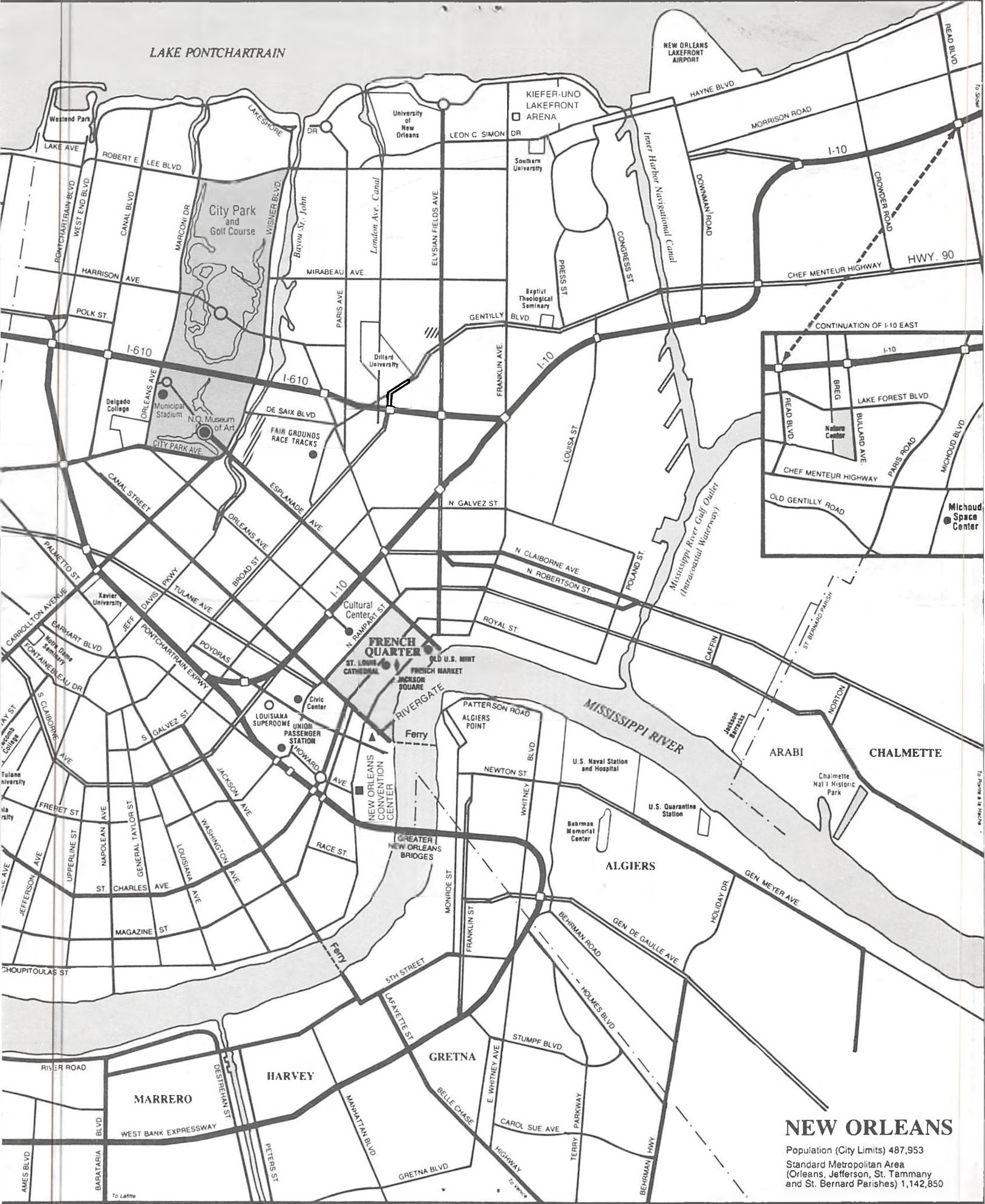
Monday - Friday
 5:00 AM - 7:23 P
 Fare 80 Cents, Tr
 Prices Subject to Change

Senior Citizen & Handicapped. Valid with RTA I.D. or Medicare Card. Magazine, Vieux Carré, Bus & Streetcar 30 Cents
 Easy Rider 30 Cents, Transfer 2 Cents. Mississippi River Bridge Tolls: \$1.00 passenger car Ferry Tolls: \$1.00 passenger car

For Route and Schedule Information Call: The RTA Ride Line 5

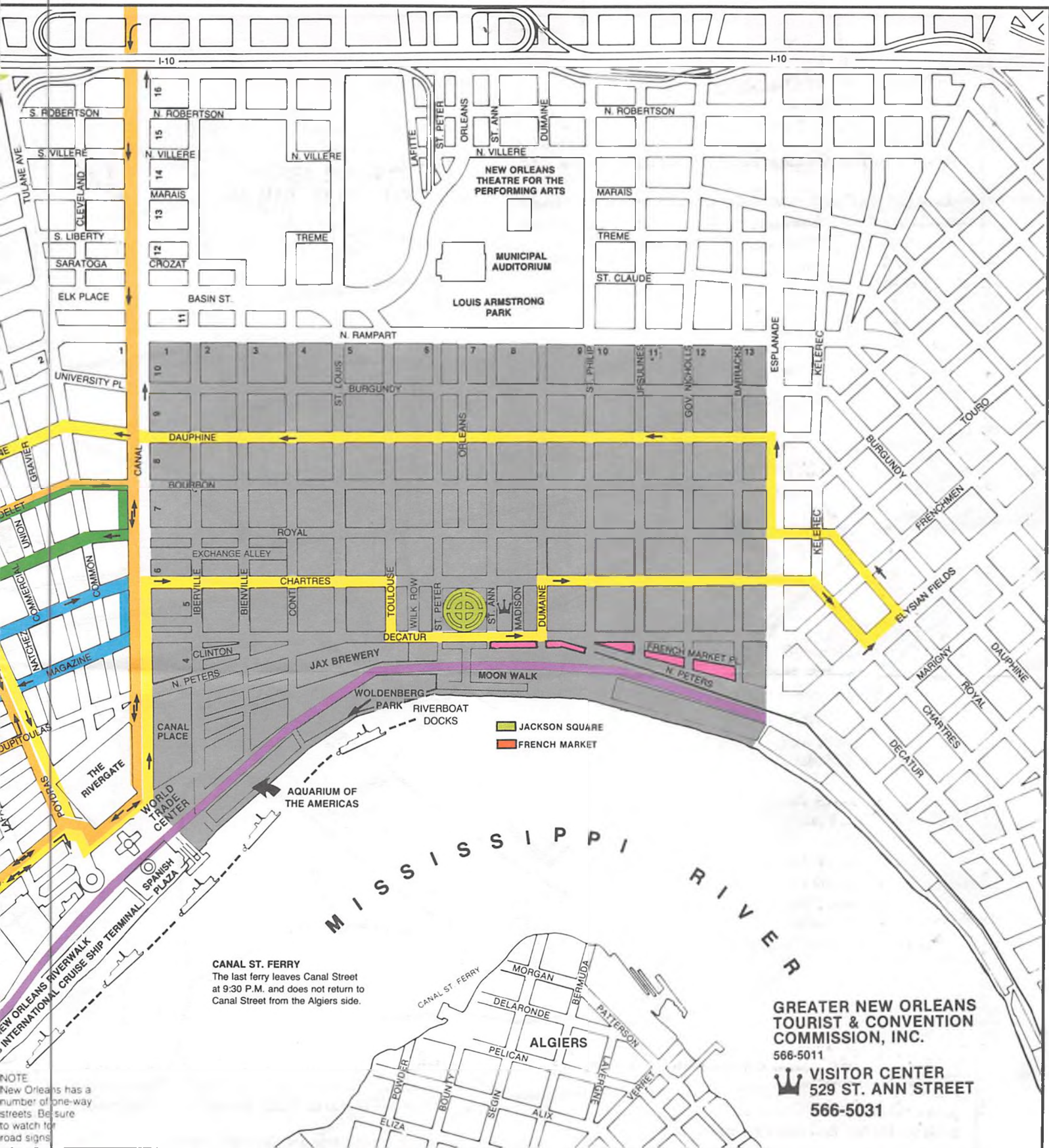
LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN

NEW ORLEANS LAKEFRONT AIRPORT



NEW ORLEANS

Population (City Limits) 487,953
 Standard Metropolitan Area
 (Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany
 and St. Bernard Parishes) 1,142,850



CANAL ST. FERRY
 The last ferry leaves Canal Street at 9:30 P.M. and does not return to Canal Street from the Algiers side.

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS
 TOURIST & CONVENTION
 COMMISSION, INC.**
 566-5011
VISITOR CENTER
 529 ST. ANN STREET
 566-5031

- **ST. CHARLES STREETCAR**
●
MAGAZINE
■
Taxicab from the Airport to Downtown/French Quarter
- Only 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week \$21.00 for up to 2 people, \$8.00 for each additional passenger
- Transfer 10¢ Fare 80 cents Regular meter fares begin at \$1.70, increases \$.20 every 1/5 of a mile or 40 seconds. \$.50 for each additional passenger.
- Prices Subject to Change Prices Subject to Change Prices Subject to Change

For RTA Buses and Streetcars, children under 3 ride Free with fare paying passenger. VisiTour Pass available for one & three day use — 569-2700 for purchase locations.

69-2700 — Open 24 Hours

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Revised 7/91



To LaBrea and Hwy 51 South to Hwy 61

JEFFERSON PARISH INFO

NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

RIVERTOWN USA

To Airport

To Lakefront

- ◆ PONTCHARTRAIN CENTER
- ★ JEFFERSON PARISH INFORMATION CENTER
- ◆ NEW ORLEANS INFORMATION CENTER 566-5011
- ▲ RIVERGATE
- SUPERDOME
- NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CENTER
- KIEFER-UNO LAKEFRONT ARENA

THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS
TOURIST & CONVENTION COMMISSION, INC.
566-5011

PROGRAMMING SUBJECT IDEAS

What aspects of con-running would you like to discuss? In what areas do you have experience to offer as a panelist? Check these off from our list of suggestions on the questionnaire below. If you would like to add an idea or three, include them on a separate piece of paper.

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

Once your plane has touched down at Moisant Field, you still have to get yourself and your luggage from there to the Doubletree (quite a walk!). Be warned: Cab fare from the airport to the Central Business District, or CBD (where the hotel is located) is \$21.00 for two people. If you're not rich enough to ignore that rate, a commercial shuttle is available for far less (usually \$5 to \$7) and its vans run at regular intervals throughout the day.

If you're rich enough to rent a car at the airport, here are directions to the hotel: Follow the access road to I-10 and head east. Exit at Canal Blvd. (where I-10 meets I-610) and continue on I-10 to the Vieux Carré exit (1st exit after you pass over Canal St.). Down the off-ramp, turn right onto Rampart St. and then left onto Canal, and follow Canal to the river. The hotel is next to the Rivergate Convention Center on your right.

For those driving in from out of state, I-10 enters the city from both east and west. Follow the signs to the Vieux Carré exit; from there, the above directions apply.

Amtrak passenger trains and Greyhound buses serve New Orleans daily, both arriving downtown at Union Station. Call their toll-free nationwide reservation numbers for fares and schedules from your area. (And cabs to the hotel are much cheaper!)

Public transit information is available from the phone numbers given on the map insert. Take the opportunity to see the city via America's oldest still-operational streetcar line, running along St. Charles Avenue past historic Garden District mansions and the Audubon Zoo. A riverfront streetcar line (the "Ladies in Red") serves the French Quarter, the Aquarium and the Riverwalk shopping complex.

LOOKING AHEAD

SMOFCON 10 will be held the weekend after the 1993 British National Science Fiction Convention, EasterCon, on the island of Jersey. The theme of SMOFCON 10 will be "A Clash of Symbols" and will concentrate on the differences between conventions in the U.S., Britain and Europe. The Hospitality Suite will be run as a British-style fan lounge, with British beers from the brewery down the road and Belgian chocolate from the on-site chocolate shop. SMOFCON 10 hopes to attract con-runners from Eastern Europe as well as Western Europe and America. Write to SMOFCON 10, 63 Drake Road, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 1LQ United Kingdom for further information and membership rates.

SMOFCON 1992 MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill in this form, then tear it off and mail it in an envelope to us at the address on the reverse side.

Check program items at which you would like to:

Attend Speak

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Designing a Useful Restaurant Guide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Designing Forms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | email: Let's Do a Fannish E-Mail Directory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fannish Family Feud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Forming Policies: What, Why and How? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I Hate Bidding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Innovative (and inexpensive) Ways of Rewarding Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lighten Up! 101: Quick Ways to Introduce Fun into Conventions, and Why You Should |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Profits to Charity - Running a Con as a Fundraiser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pros and Cons: Examining the Spectator Syndrome |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing Training - for Yourself and Others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Publish or Perish? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Singing the Same Song - How to Make It Happen! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Space and How to Use It |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Art of Running a Small Convention's Art Show |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Con that Ate My Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Ins and Outs of Tipping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Story of the Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Underutilized Resource: The "Unknown Volunteer" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The World Convention as Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Timelines: Trouble or Savior? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | What Happens when Your "Micromanagement" is My "Benign Neglect?" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | What is the Purpose of a Pocket Program? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Who Gets Paid/Reimbursed |

Are you interested in having a Sunday Brunch?

Yes No

Would you like to have live music at the Brunch, even if it raises the price a couple of dollars?

Yes No

If you would like us to contact you by:

Voice—Area code/number:

Home: _____

Work: _____

Best hours to call: _____

Email direct—Home data transfer number: _____

Email via online service or Internet—Address: _____

Name of service/company/organization/school: _____

You need not answer any questions that you feel are invasive of your right to privacy.

SMOFCON Members List (as of 08/01/92)

Avery, B. Shirley	Mansfield, John
Becker, Tom	Meschke, Karen
Bemis, Judy	Oldham, Barbara
Bigglestone, Clint	Olson, Mark
Callahan, Chris	Olson, Priscilla
Clark, David	Parker, Tony
Cooper, Chris	Parsons, Spike
Deustch, Martin	Pavlat, Peggy Rae
Eastlake, Donald III	Pelz, Bruce
Eastlake, Jill	Pelz, Elayne
Fadgen, Elinor	Roepke, Dick
Fox, MaryEllen "Cricket"	Ross-Mansfield, Linda
Fremon, Pam	Sapienza, John T. Jr.
Goodman, Sarah	Sbarsky, Sharon
Hellinger, Stuart	Siclari, Joe
Hoey, Dan	Standlee, Kevin
Illingworth, Tim	Stern, Edie
Jaffe, Saul	Stocker, Dr. Jack H.
Lindboe, Wendy	Woehrle, Sally
Mann, Jim	Wright, Richard
Mann, Laurie	Yalow, Ben

SMOFCON 1992 Staff

<i>Programming:</i>	Debbie Hodgkinson
	Priscilla Olson
	Patty Wells
<i>Hospitality Suite:</i>	Debbie Hodgkinson
<i>Logistics:</i>	Mike Todd
<i>Hotel Liaison:</i>	Susan Brocato
<i>Treasurer:</i>	William Jensen
<i>On-Site Registration:</i>	Jane & Scott Dennis
<i>Technical Services:</i>	Jeff Berry
	Janet Moe
<i>Publications:</i>	Matt G. Leger
<i>SMOF-Con Chair:</i>	Peggy Rae Pavlat
<i>Additional Staff:</i>	Tom Hanlon
	Laurie Mann
	John T. Sapienza

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Electronic mail may be sent via Compu-Serve or Internet to:

>internet:cs.umd.edu!casemo!bill

or: casemo!Bill@cs.Umd.Edu.

Material for publication may be sent to Matt Leger at:

>Internet: mattleger@aol.com

or to Peggy Rae Pavlat at:

70272,2763 or:

70272.2763@compuserve.com

SMOF-Con
c/o William Jensen
8331 Donoghue St.
New Carrollton, MD 20784



George Flynn
P.O. Box 1069 Kendall Square
Station
Cambridge MA 02142

SMOF-Con 9 Progress Report