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www.RPPTL.org

January 26, 2017

Dear Executive Council Member:

Howdy, everyone! I hope 2017 is off to a great start for you. Attached is the Meeting Registration Form for our RPPTL Out of State meeting in AUSTIN, TEXAS! We have tried to create a balanced schedule with a combination of structured group events and free time. Because I love to offer incentives, the first **80** people to send in their registration form will receive a special welcome gift to be presented at our main dinner on Thursday night. Don't miss out! You will also want to send in your registration forms quickly because some of the tours have a maximum number of guests.

If you haven't ever been to Austin, I think you are in for a great treat. Austin is not only the capital of Texas, it is the fastest growing city in the United States, it is known as the live music capital of the world with over 200 venues featuring live music, and it is home to exceptional dining, unique artwork and eclectic shopping. Because this is our out of state meeting, we will not be holding our usual committee meetings but we will have an Executive Council Meeting on Saturday morning.

Attached is a much prettier brochure of events but here is a brief run-down of the schedule:

On Wednesday evening, we will be having a welcome reception at the lovely Four Seasons Hotel located on Lady Bird Lake (which is a reservoir on the Colorado River). Weather permitting, we will be outside – but let's be realistic – given the history of our meetings thus far, Mary Ann has a plan B in case of rain, freezing sleet, or locusts. Whether inside or out, we will have liquid refreshments, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and live music.

Thursday morning, we will begin with a double decker bus tour of Austin so that those of you who have never been to Austin can get the lay of the land. Our bus will stop at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and the State Capital. Lunch is included in this tour. After the tour, there will be some time to explore on your own before you head back to the hotel to put on your comfortable clothes and prepare for dinner and dancing (Texas style) at world famous Stubbs Bar-B-Q. There will be delicious food and line dancing

lessons to help you burn off some of those calories. No pressure to participate – you can just watch if you don't want to put on your cowboy boots – but I hope you will give it a try!

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On Friday, we have 3 options: 2 involve special “road trips” and 1 is for those that want to stay local. When I told many of you that we would be going to Austin for the out of state meeting, I received inquiries about side trips. The most frequently requested tours were to the Alamo and to HGTV Junkie Heaven – WACO, TX – home of Magnolia Farms of Fixer Upper fame. One is north and one is south so we are offering 2 separate tours. Both will leave the hotel early Friday morning and return to the hotel late in the afternoon.

For those that want to stay around Austin, we will be using the APP to help like-minded RPPTLs explore together. Austin is full of parks, hiking trails, bike paths, shops, restaurants and over 200 venues that offer live music at almost any time of day. Because we want our spouses and guests to be able to use the app, you will note that their email addresses are requested on the registration form.

Friday night we are organizing a series of dine arounds at some of Austin’s best restaurants. Austin is home to many restaurants that are far too small to host a group of our size but we wanted to give you the opportunity to experience them. We have contacted the restaurants to reserve the largest table with the maximum number of guests that are still able to order off the menu and not be limited to banquet options. In addition to the restaurants listed, there is a list of other local restaurants attached to so that you can also make your own dine around plans if you would prefer.

On Saturday morning, we will be having our abbreviated Executive Council Meeting. As is our section policy, we will not be voting on anything at this meeting – other than perhaps a vote on the best meal that you have had since arriving in Austin.

On Saturday afternoon, we have two separate tours offered simultaneously – each lasting approximately 3 hours give or take. One is Austin “BBQ and Brew” and the other is called Austin Art Crawl.

Option 1:

The BBQ and Brew Tour: Austin is known for its BBQ and breweries and this tour is designed to give you a chance to sample some BBQ and local craft Beers by visiting 3 different establishments. Austin has dozens of BBQ joints ranging from new food trucks to long-established downtown restaurants. The city also has 18 licensed breweries, many producing award-winning brews of national and international acclaim. This tour provides the best of both, three stops total for tastings of unique craft beer and samples of out-of-this-world BBQ. This combination tour is a dream come true for every meat-lover and beer enthusiast! Please note that the food stops include tasting size portions that together will add up to a full-size meal. Just a note about stop 1 – Franklin’s has been known to have lines of people waiting hours and several hours so this tour is one of the only ways to try Franklin’s without the famous queue.

Stop 1: Brewery and Franklin's

Stop 2: Brewery stop 45 minutes

Stop 3: Terry Black's Barbecue

Option 2:

Austin Art Crawl: Austin’s art scene stretches from high-end museum quality exhibits in upscale galleries to some of the country’s best street murals. The Austin Art Crawl takes in a great cross-section of material and typically includes fine contemporary pieces at the Wally

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Workman Gallery, locally made treasures at Austin Art Garage, and funky Dr. Seuss works and movie posters at Art on 5th. In between galleries, we'll weave through the city checking out the best street art, from HOPE Outdoor Gallery, to the famed "I love you so much" mural, the "Austin Postcard" and offbeat works tucked away off the tourist path.

Sunday Farewell:

For anyone staying for breakfast on Sunday, please make note on the registration form. Depending on the number of responses, we will be in touch about scheduling breakfast/brunch. For the athletically talented RPPTLs, there is a newly organized Bike Club to offer another fitness option in addition to our well established RPPTL Runners! Austin offers many bike and jogging paths. For those who would rather row than pedal or run, the Waller Creek Boathouse (related to Chip?) is located within an easy walk from the hotel. The Boathouse offers rental kayaks and also has a lovely little restaurant and deck for those that prefer to observe the athletes.

I look forward to seeing you in Austin!

Sincerely,



Debbie Goodall
Chair
RPPTL Section