

# The Texas Tattler

## The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You, But Not in a Creepy Way

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Editor in Chief

The 2008 NCBC Conference is just weeks away! This third and final installment of the Texas Tattler includes a slew of useful information on transportation, social events, educational sessions, and general information to make your stay in San Antonio more fun than a barrel full of monkeys. We will not in fact have a barrel full of monkeys at the conference but we will have a Sheriff's Office to assist you with any of the conference events or



Texas Western Staff Displays "Business Casual" Conference Wear

amenities in and around San Antonio. The Sheriff's Office will be located on the fourth floor of the Grand Hyatt. (There could be some Monkees at Pat O'Brien's. They were a major influence on the Beatles, by the way.)

We look forward to seeing you August 5-8, at the fabulous Grand Hyatt Hotel.

## The Elegant Way Around Town



What exactly is the white horse in this picture doing? Bucking for a promotion?

We have made arrangements for transportation to and from the Grand Hyatt and other official conference hotels, the Westin and St. Anthony. Service will be provided by Elegant Transportation, but don't get any ideas that there will be limos just because it's called "Elegant." It's shuttle bus service.

In addition to shuttle service to/from the hotels, we will be providing transportation for some of the social events.

In general, transportation will be available each morning (in time to get you to the Chuck Wagon Breakfast on the days it is served), each afternoon (after your head is all

stuffed with knowledge), and to/from the social events on Wednesday and Thursday.

Detailed transportation signs will be posted at the hotels and a copy of the schedule will also be in your conference materials.

## Your Conference Forecast



Monday

Hot



Tuesday

You guessed it.  
Hot



Wednesday

Small animals burst into flames.



Thursday

When did we land on the surface of the sun?



Friday

So hot that your raisin-like appearance will shock friends and family when you arrive home.

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# Social Events Galore

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## Tuesday, August 5

### VIVA SAN ANTONIO! HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Buses for this tour will be picking up participants from the St. Anthony Hotel at 8:30 a.m, the Westin Hotel at 8:45 a.m, and finally the Grand Hyatt at 9 a.m. A representative from Texas Western (hereinafter referred to as "Tex-Rep") will be along to host this event. If you are also signed up for the Institute of Texan Cultures tour, get off at the Grand Hyatt upon your return and join the tour group in the lobby (see below).

### INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES TOUR

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

If you signed up for this event, please meet in the lobby of the Grand Hyatt at 2 p.m. Participants will be walking to the Institute and the tour will commence at 2:30 p.m. A Tex-Rep will be along to host this event.

### PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Located in beautiful Texas Ballroom Salons A/B/C on the fourth floor of the Grand Hyatt. See your friends and colleagues like you've never seen them before. . .in chaps. NCBC President Ken Gardner will hand out some awards, Texas Western Chief Deputy Steve Salata will officiate the Western Wear Contest, and there will be much rejoicing.

## Wednesday, August 6

### MEXICAN MANHATTAN RIVER BARGE DINNER & TOUR

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

If you have signed up for this cruise, you'll meet in the lobby of the your hotel (Grand Hyatt, Westin, or St. Anthony) at 6 p.m. A Tex-Rep will be escorting you to this event. If you are planning to stop by Pat O'Brien's after the Mexican Manhattan dinner cruise, a Tex-Rep will escort you to this as well.

### COUNTY LINE RIVER BARGE DINNER & TOUR

8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

If you signed up for this cruise, you'll meet in the lobby of your hotel (Grand Hyatt, Westin, or St Antony) at 8 p.m. A Tex-Rep will be escorting you to this event.

### GEORGE PRENTICE AT PAT O'BRIEN'S

6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for this special NCBC night at Pat O'Brien's. The cover charge of \$15 includes the dinner buffet and gratuity, payable at the door (no checks or credit cards, please). Pat O'Brien's will also have a cash bar for your alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage needs. The buffet will be served at 7 p.m. and the entertainment will commence shortly thereafter. The entrance to Pat O'Brien's is at 113 Alamo Plaza. A Tex-Rep will be in the lobby of each of the three hotels at 6:15 p.m. to escort you to Pat O'Brien's. Otherwise, head on over there when you're good and ready.

## Thursday, August 7

### FIESTA AT MAVERICK SQUARE

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

We mosey over to beautiful Maverick Plaza at La Villita for the Fiesta Group Dinner. The moseying begins around 6 p.m. for that annual rite of passage known as the NCBC group photo at 6:30 p.m. **IMPORTANT FACT:** You must have your Fiesta ticket to enter Maverick Square. There are no exceptions and no accommodations can be made on-site once we arrive at Maverick Square. So if you want to eat and drink you'll have that ticket clutched tightly in your little hand.

# News You Can Use

The official NCBC Registration Station will of course be at the Grand Hyatt Hotel and will be open throughout the conference.

The Registration Station will be located on the fourth floor of the Grand Hyatt.

For those folks who are attending the MSU offerings on Tuesday, August 5, you can pick up your conference materials on Monday, August 4, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## Picking Up Your Conference Materials

If you are staying at one of the other lovely conference properties (Westin Hotel and St. Anthony Hotel), you can pick up your conference materials from the comfort of your hotel on Tuesday, August 5. Registration Stations will be open at the Westin and St. Anthony from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day.

The Registration Stations will be located in the lobby of each of these hotels, and will be staffed by bright and shiny representatives from Texas Western. If you're arriving after Tuesday, you can pick up your conference materials at the Grand Hyatt Registration Station on the fourth floor.



## I'll Take Potpourri for \$200

### Airport Transportation

If you're unsure of how to get to/from the airport, please check out the transportation guide on our 2008 NCBC Conference website at:

[www.txwb.uscourts.gov/information/NCBC%202008/](http://www.txwb.uscourts.gov/information/NCBC%202008/)

The transportation guide is located at the bottom left of the home page.

### Money, It's a Hit

The deadline to pay for the optional social events was July 11. Yes, I know that date has passed but you still have time to send your check to Celia Strickler. Please do so in advance of your arrival in San Antonio. Otherwise you risk losing your reservation on the Viva San Antonio! Tour, Institute of Texan Cultures Tour, and Mexican Manhattan or County Line Dinner Cruises.

### FedEx/Kinko's

If you'd like to ship your conference materials back rather than lug them on the plane, the Grand Hyatt has a FedEx/Kinko's location at the hotel. Texas Western will not be available to help you with your shipping needs. Hey, we got you to the Fiesta.

### We Fear Change

We will be unable to process any changes to your conference registration information after Tuesday, July 22. We need to spend the last week or so before the conference getting ready for the dance. You want us to look pretty, don't you?

One of the highlights of this year's conference is the extensive array of courses available that are eligible for credit from Michigan State University (MSU). This year's focus is on information technology. In addition to learning about managing IT projects MSU participants will also have a chance to be rock stars! Barry Lander (CA-S) and Maureen Connor (of MSU) have been instrumental in coordinating this program, much to the benefit of NCBC members.

The 2008 NCBC Conference concludes on Friday, August 8, with a series of peer-to-peer breakout sessions for the following groups:

- Chambers Support
- Court Managers
- Finance, Budget and Procurement
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Operations
- Retirees

## It's All About the Learnin'

We have asked some conference faculty members, who have been trained in the ways of the Force, to facilitate each of these sessions. They agreed, but only because we threatened to hide their luggage on Friday. While this is an open space format, we encourage you to think about and submit some questions or topics you might have in advance to help kick off the discussions. You can e-mail these to our conference e-mail box at:

[ncbc\\_2008@txwb.uscourts.gov](mailto:ncbc_2008@txwb.uscourts.gov)

Please list the specific peer-to-peer group in the subject line to help us organize the topics, e.g., "Court Managers Peer-to-Peer" otherwise we may think it's spam. And we get Spamalot. Ouch.

## Anonymous Quotes from NCBC Registrants



"I'm arriving in San Antonio early just in case the tequila supply runs out."

"The Texas Western Staff has been extremely polite and helpful in handling my registration questions." (Submitted by someone in Texas Western.)

"Who is Chuck Wagon?"