

AAR/SBL Annual Meeting Survival Guide - 2003

- 1) The SBL Annual Business Meeting is open to Members and is quite interesting AND a breakfast. (but begins at 7.00 am-ish!)
- 2) The CSWP (SBL) is another VERY good open, free meeting and breakfast - come early! (another 7am-ish start)
- 3) Also the Women's Orientation Meeting to wise you up and create a buddies network type thingy-feeling for women (otherwise can feel swamped in the 8,000 attendees!)
- 4) Also, scour the details of additional meetings and receptions to see what you are eligible for, e.g., first time attender, Scottish Universities, some religious groups, etc.
- 5) Also let all your friends know what hotel you'll be in. Then they and you can use voice mail to leave messages.
- 6) Use the Rolodex card and put it in the right place in the card index. You might want to check that it hasn't been pushed out of sequence during the conference by other less alphabetic persons! There's also notice boards for leaving paper messages, but many people don't seem to know about them; I am always telling people the boards have messages for them.
- 7) Find other people's hotels from it and leave them voice mail messages (usually free or very cheap) if you want to set up a meeting with them or receive a copy of their paper or apologise for missing their paper, etc.
- 7) Use your booklet and maps to identify where everything is (incl. toilets) The extra things will be water jugs and glasses randomly scattered through the building and coffee stalls, etc. in hotel lobbies especially for cheap breakfasts and lunches.
- 8) It is a good idea to note the buildings, floor and room of any paper you want to go to in your planner pages at the back of the booklet as it is always a frantic rush diving from one place to another without dropping everything.
- 9) Take plenty of your business cards to give to people and handwrite the request on the back, e.g. email me your paper, or can I email you for help?, etc. (If you have no business cards make some by cutting the fronts off envelopes addressed to you at work and adding your email address - or make them on PC).
- 10) Carry a refillable water bottle, and ? travelling toothbrush so that you can whiz from papers to chance coffee breaks and back without trekking/schlepping back to your room.
- 11) Shamelessly ask friend to keep things in their room at conference hotel if it would help, or to have a shower in their room (and so on). Make foolproof arrangements to give back key.
- 12) You can leave envelopes for people at their hotels, but voice mail them to let them know to pick them up.