

SUGA News Line

Special Conference Edition

SunGard Public Sector Users' Group Association

APRIL , 2009

President's Message—Steve Jones

Hello SUGA members – we need your help!

Be a SUGA hero!

Due to the economic conditions gripping the world we are seeing a low number of registrations for the May 2009 conference. We were expecting a lower attendance for this year's conference but current attendance indicators are showing it to be lower than we had pessimistically anticipated. This has the possibility of putting the SUGA organization in a serious financial condition due to the contract obligations we committed to three years ago with the RIO.

If you are undecided about attending the conference for financial reasons – let me try to persuade you. Sign up and get approved for a user led session, come to the conference and you get the following:

- ◆ From SunGard Public Sector: get a maintenance fee credit for your organization's annual maintenance (up to \$1000 per person, \$2000 per organization)
- ◆ From SUGA: up to 3 free nights stay at the RIO for the 2009 conference
- ◆ Discounted room rates from the RIO
- ◆ The deep appreciation of the SUGA members, the Board of Directors and SunGard Public Sector

Information about user led sessions is in the January 2009 newsletter - <http://www.huginc.org/news.html>.

All this makes this year's conference a terrific deal, possibly a break even event. If you are considering attending the May 12-15 conference, we hope

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We need your participation at the 2009 SUGA Conference and are looking forward to receiving your registration!

Your Board of Directors is available to answer any questions you may have regarding this years conference. Their contact information is at the end of this newsletter. Give them a call !!

SunGard Public Sector Users' Group Association

this will convince you to join us. In addition, this is an excellent year for the organization decision makers to attend the conference as SunGard has many announcements about future products and information regarding the Enhancement Request results. To find out more about the conference go to the following web address: <http://www.huginc.org/Conference/conf.html>

ER voting

As of April 3, 2009, we began the first round of voting for the Version 8 Enhancement Requests (ER's). This is to make improvements that you deem to be important for the next version of SPS Administration and Public Safety software. For more details please go to the following web address: <http://www.huginc.org/request.html>. Please participate in the Enhancement Request Process – this helps all of us by making the products we use better. The more users that get involved with ER's the better we are at helping SunGard improve the product. Results of the ER voting will be discussed at the May International Conference at the Rio.

Questions or comments

As always, if you have any questions about anything SUGA, please do not hesitate to contact any SUGA Board member. Our contact information is at: <http://www.huginc.org/board.html>

IT'S A WINNER



21ST ANNUAL
SUGA

EDUCATION CONFERENCE

RIO RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

MAY 11 – 15, 2009



We Need You!

Yes,You!!

With the economic downturn all of our budgets are tight. In many cases, travel has been the first item cut from budgets. The SUGA Board understands this issue, as our organizations are in the same boat as yours.

However, the SUGA organization is really in a bind this year because we had to contract with this hotel in April 2006 in order to book the space required to put on the conference. We had anticipated about 1000+ attendees but it looks like we will be lucky to reach 600. This means that SUGA will need to cover the contracted food and beverage, and guaranteed number of rooms out of our budget, at the \$139 rate.

At this point, all the board can say is that we need your organizations support and hope that you are able to find a way to attend. On our end, we've worked with SunGard Public Sector to add sessions that will truly add value to this year's conference. For example:

- ◆ Sessions on available Public Safety grants from \$787 Billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- ◆ A session on the availability of \$7.2 billion dollars in broadband grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- ◆ A session on the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, and requirements to protect customers from identity theft.
- ◆ SunGard Public Sector has continued its support of up to 40 user-led sessions by offering customers credits towards maintenance fees for leading user experience sessions (see the Oct. '07 newsletter at http://www.huginc.org/newsletters/archive_Oct07.html)
- ◆ In addition to the maintenance credit offered by SunGard, the SUGA board is offering up to three free room nights for user-led presenters. Between these two offerings there may be little or no "real" cost for attending. In fact, the offerings can lead to a net financial gain to your organization.

If you and your organization have benefited from the annual conferences we are asking for your support. Remember, SUGA is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization made up of government entities like yours. We depend on you for the success of the SUGA organization. In all, the annual expenses for presenting the conference are just under \$800,000.00, most of which is covered by registration fees, and without conference attendees, SUGA cannot exist.

Conference
registration
will remain at
\$395 through
May 5



2008-09 SUGA Board of Directors. From top left: Pam Brown, Jim Dahl, Brenda Wener, Anthony Sorce, Tino Anthony, Valerie Broxson, Steve Jones

Did You Know the Conference and Travel Industry...

...employs over 17 million people. The industry contributes \$240 billion to the economy annually, and contributes \$39 billion in federal, state, and local taxes?

One in eight Americans is employed in some form of the conference and travel industry. These professionals include taxi and shuttle service drivers, hotel staff, food service workers, conference planners and a host of other professions. Not to mention those people employed in the airline, train, and bus travel industries. If current economic trends do not change, industry leaders estimate that they may have to lay-off approximately 1,000,000 employees.

It has been estimated that in one day of travel you will help to support approximately 100 jobs (see http://www.youmustbetrippin.com/road_warriors/how_i_saved_100_jobs.php).

Just think of the positive impact the annual International SUGA conference and the RUG conferences have on the economy.

How Does SUGA Compare?

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the SUGA Board of Directors takes great effort to keep annual International SUGA Conference costs as low as possible, and at the same time offer a quality educational experience. The board thought it would be beneficial for you, our members, to have a quantified representation of how we compare to similar educational conferences.

The following chart compares major expenses for attending the SUGA conference compared to those of six other conferences. These conferences include three that are dedicated to the public sector, and three that are marketed to general IT interests.

Conference	Location	Registration		Hotel Rate*	Airfare**	5-Day IRS Per Diem***	Total For 5 Day/4 Night
		Early	Late				
SUGA (2009)	Las Vegas	\$395	\$495	\$60-\$90	\$311	\$198	\$1,264
GMIS (2008)	Atlantic City	\$450	\$595	\$99-\$129	\$341	\$178	\$1,485
Extensity (2008)	Tampa	\$550	\$750	\$109	\$181	\$178	\$1,523
GFOA (2009)	Seattle	\$500	\$620	\$158-\$199	\$404	\$198	\$1,898
Common (2009)	Reno	\$1,495	\$1,695	\$139	\$219	\$198	\$2,468
TechMentor (2009)	Orlando	\$1,595	\$1,895	\$169	\$317	\$156	\$2,744
Cloud Computing Expo (2009)	New York	\$1,045	\$1,995	\$195	\$609	\$198	\$2,830

* Using higher room rate from range.
 ** American Airlines from Chicago O'Hare.
 *** Assumes lunches are included with conference.

As you can see, the efforts of this and previous boards have paid off. The basic cost of attending the 2009 SUGA conference in Las Vegas, is well below the cost of all other conferences surveyed.

Where else can you get four full days of quality training for under \$1,300.00?

We are looking forward to networking with you at the Rio,

Las Vegas, Nevada

May

11-15, 2009

SunGard Public Sector Users' Group Association

The Place to be May 11—15, 2009!



If you register within the group rate of \$139 per night, the Rio is offering some special prize drawings!! See out conference page for more details!

So, why is SUGA going to Las Vegas for 2009?

- More rooms = better prices = less cost to our attendees!
- SUGA is so large it can now only fit in a few hotels in the country....more of which are in Las Vegas. So, unless we want to go to a convention center, which would mean we have to raise our registration fees, we have lots of choices in Las Vegas (again = less cost to attendees!)
- Tons of airline choices with lower fares = less cost to our attendees!

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