

Welcome to Las Vegas!

By Bob Schoff – SSA Chairman

SSA STAFF

MICHAEL T. SCANLON JR.
President & CEO
mscanlon@selfstorage.org

MIKE BLACKETT
Vice President, Operations
mblackett@selfstorage.org

LYN BRACKETT
Vice President, Education & Training
lbrackett@selfstorage.org

TIMOTHY J. DIETZ
Vice President
Communications & Gov't Relations
tdietz@selfstorage.org

DEREK KNIGHTS
Vice President, Finance & Administration
dknights@selfstorage.org

MARTHA M. MORRISON, CMP
Vice President, Meetings & Trade Shows
martham@selfstorage.org

GINNY A. STENGEL
Vice President, Member Services
gstengel@selfstorage.org

FARIBA BEG
Creative Director & Web Administrator
fbeg@selfstorage.org

ANNA K. CANLAS
Director, Research & Data Analysis
acanlas@selfstorage.org

TOM COMI
Director, Advertising Sales
tcomi@selfstorage.org

JENNIFER L. PETTIGREW
Director, Registration, Vendor &
Sponsorship Relations
jpettigrew@selfstorage.org

JOHN DUNLAP
SSA Globe Editor
jdunlap@selfstorage.org

JOAN BACCAY
Manager, Membership Services
jbaccay@selfstorage.org

CAROL BOWLEY
Administrative Assistant
cbowley@selfstorage.org



This September, your Self Storage Association (SSA) returns to the spectacular Caesars Palace for its annual convention and trade show. This year's event promises to be the most important self storage meeting of the year. In times like these, only those who take advantage of the latest information will thrive.

The conference kicks off on Wednesday, September 9, with SSA's new educational program for regional supervisors and the Affiliated Associations Council (AAC) meeting. The Regional Supervisors Program is an intense course in managing multiple facilities. The AAC meeting allows the affiliated states input to the SSA board and contains programs designed to help the individual states with association management. Also on Wednesday, the SSA will present the Economic Summit II, building on the very successful Economic Summit I held this spring at the SSA International Conference and Trade Show in Dallas. A separate registration is required for the Economic Summit and the regional supervisors training.

Be sure to arrive early Thursday, as right out of the gate we will be covering some very important legislative developments that translate to your bottom line. This has been a busy year in many states; SSA president Mike Scanlon will discuss the efforts made by our legislative team to support these goals. In addition to our keynote address, the industry will also welcome three deserving inductees to the Self Storage Hall of Fame.

A brand new exhibit hall awaits SSA conference attendees for 2009, opening at 11:20 a.m. The new hall replaces the "tent" formally used for exhibits in the past. The best self storage specialists and vendors will be on hand to demonstrate the latest products and services at the trade show. The very popular "Innovation Alley," where companies that have launched new products over the last year give brief presentations, is also located in the exhibit hall.

Later Thursday afternoon, the Large Operators Council (LOC) meets and concurrent educational sessions are held, including topics on customer privacy, branding and the Internet. Finally, the day ends with the ever-popular roundtable discussions, followed by the opening reception.

Join us early on Friday for "Hot Coffee and Hot Topics," a usually rousing early morning open discussion. Mid-morning, we continue with the Foundation Forum, where famed author and journalist Bob Woodward will report on the new administration's progress to date.

There's something for everyone. Friday afternoon, the Mid-Sized Owners Group (2-9 facilities) and Team One (single-facility owners) meet, and there will be a special "Chat Room for Facility Managers." The SSA "Comedy Hour" reception helps raise money for our foundation and is a great way to kick off the evening.

The conference closes on Saturday with an early-morning breakfast/open discussion followed by the educational topics of financing, operating in a bilingual environment and the latest on solar systems for self storage.

On behalf of your SSA board of directors, we hope you enjoy the show. Please feel free to stop any of us and share your comments. We truly welcome your input. Thanks to all involved in putting together this year's show! It will surely be one not to miss. ❖