



COOL SITES WE LIKE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Location: National Constitution Center, Philadelphia

Phone: (215) 627-6222

Web: www.constitutioncenter.org

Why we like it so: Located on the Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is a museum devoted to the constitution and constitutional history. The spacious building contains a variety of interactive exhibits, as well as a theater that performs a live play with audio-visual special effects that take place all around the audience. The center offers catering service and can accommodate as many as 700 for a reception on the second floor or 700 on the entrance level floor.

ect one step closer to reality

Hotel construction in San Antonio is booming. A 12-story Hotel Congress recently opened downtown, and construction is underway on a 1,100-room Grand Hyatt Convention Center Hotel, which is expected to be complete in 2008. Construction on a JW Marriott is planned to begin in 2009 as part of a PGA resort.

Bookings of the Virginia Beach Convention Center is exceeding expectations, according to the bureau. Since the facility opened in July 2005, it has hosted 40,000 attendees, generated 60,000 room nights and made a total economic impact of \$11 million for the

Virginia Beach area. To date, the facility has 107 conferences, meetings and sporting events on the calendar through 2012.

Springfield, MO-based John Q. Hammons Hotels & Resorts has acquired 30 acres of land on Lake of the Ozarks in Orange Beach, MO. The development company now plans to do a feasibility study to decide if the location is best suited for a luxury event and convention center or for upscale vacation condos.

Events held at the Orange County Convention Center contributed more than \$1 million in charities in the Orlando community. For example, \$17,000 worth of improved security measures was donated

to Rock Lake Elementary through a contest sponsored by the American Society for Industrial Security; more than 1,000 books were donated to Orange and Seminole County schools through the Reading by Nine program and the Orlando Home Show; and more than \$10,000 worth of sporting equipment was donated to the Florida United Way from the Superflow.

The International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEFP) plans to hold its annual conference at the Hawaii Convention Center every five years through 2010. The group has held several of its conferences in Hawaii since 1970 and has used the convention center twice.

TECHNOLOGY WATCHLIST

Sell conference sessions

CompuSystems (www.compusystems.com) has added features to its online registration product that promote upselling of conference sessions. The system analyzes the demographic information collected about each registrant, as well as the sessions they selected, and makes suggestions about other conference sessions that the attendee might find interesting, much like Amazon.com suggests additional purchases before customers check out. For example, if registrants indicated they work in marketing or signed up for marketing sessions, the system would suggest other marketing sessions that registrants with similar demographic profiles chose.

