



**Association of Zoo and Aquarium
Volunteer Administrators
10th Annual National Conference
November 9-12, 2008**



“The Future’s so Bright”

This November, the crab puts on the sunglasses and heads south to Tampa, Florida where The Florida Aquarium will host the annual **AZAVA** conference. Nothing about Tampa Bay is typical. From the dramatic design of the minarets at the historic Tampa Bay Hotel to the brilliant sunsets that electrify the evening sky, the Tampa Bay area is tropical and alluring. There is plenty to see and do in the Tampa Bay area. Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo is here to explore. Busch Gardens with its North African theme has something for all ages. If Beaches is your thing, there are miles of water ways and beaches to relax on. The Florida Aquarium, located in the Channelside district of downtown Tampa, is a 200,000 square foot facility housing more than 20,000 aquatic plants and animals from Florida and around the world.

Lodging: Embassy Suites Tampa – Downtown Convention Center at 513 S Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33602 is the sponsor hotel for the AZAVA conference. The hotel is less than two years old and has many amenities to compliment your stay with special rate of \$159. Please put **AZAVA** in Group/convention code if booking online or tell them you are with AZAVA if making reservations by phone. Tel: 1-813-769-8300. The special rate of \$159 is available until September 10th, 2008. So make your reservations as soon as possible.

Directions & Transportation: Downtown Tampa is located just five miles east of Tampa International Airport. From the Airport, take I-275 North towards Tampa. Exit # 44 Downtown East/West and merge onto Tampa Street and follow the signs to the Convention Center/Harbour Island. Turn slight left under the expressway and slight turn right onto South Franklin Street. Turn left at the light onto Channelside Dr turn right onto Florida Ave. The hotel is on your right. The average taxi from Tampa International Airport to downtown is \$20-\$22. There are several shuttles you may take to Downtown. To name two – Bay Shuttle, 813-259-9998 www.tampabayshuttle.com and Blue One Transportation 813-226-0022 www.blueonetransportation.com.

Reception & Banquet: A welcome reception will be held at The Florida Aquarium on Sunday, November 9th from 6-9pm. Check in will be from 5:30-8pm. Spouses and guest may attend for \$15. Lunch and snacks will be provided each day of the conference. Made to order breakfast is included with your hotel at Embassy Suites. Dinner will be on your own with the exception of the closing banquet on Wednesday, November 10th from 6:30-9:30pm in front of the Panoramic Window in the Coral Reef gallery. Spouses and guest may attend the closing banquet for \$30 each. Optional evening events and socials are in the planning.

Registration Information: Please return the completed registration form with your registration fee payment to: Casey Melton, Florida Aquarium, 701 Channelside Dr., Tampa, FL 33602 or fax to 813-273-4160. The registration fee is \$200 if registered before September 1, 2008. The registration fee will increase to \$225 after September 1, 2008. Those registered by September 1, will be entered in a special drawing.

If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please contact Regi Mezydlo regi.mezydlo@czs.org

We look forward to seeing everyone at The Florida Aquarium this November. Should you have any questions, please contact Casey Melton at 813-273-4121 or email cmelton@flaquarium.org.

