



Notice to 2013 Annual Meetings Registrants

SBL and AAR keep their members informed about labor situations in the cities in which we hold concurrent Annual Meetings. When we learn of labor situations that might affect our gatherings, we alert members as soon as possible. In the case of calls for boycotts, we make every effort to reduce usage at boycotted properties while maintaining our contracts. Cancelling hotel contracts would carry severe financial penalties for both SBL and AAR.

AAR and SBL respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all people, and we also recognize that our members have a choice of hotels. We hope that this notice enables SBL and AAR members to make informed choices as they register for the Annual Meetings and select housing.

The labor contract for the hotel workers at one of our conference hotels—the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel—has lapsed. The parties are in the process of negotiating a new agreement. While the negotiations are pending, the hotel staff, represented by Unite Here, continues to work under the terms of the expired agreement. In the meantime, Unite Here has urged a boycott of the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel until a new contract is ratified. We are seeking to reduce usage of this hotel for conference events.

In addition, the national Unite Here organization has called for a corporate global boycott of the Hyatt hotel chain. We have a contract with the Hyatt Regency Baltimore, but the situation in this hotel remains ambiguous. Notwithstanding its Hyatt identity, the Hyatt Regency Baltimore (which is a non-union property) is not on Unite Here's list of boycotted hotels or on its list of acceptable Hyatt properties. We are seeking to clarify this situation in discussions with our meeting planners, the hotel management, and the union. For now, we want to alert our membership to this situation. We will keep the members of our organizations informed about this situation.

Our hope is that the union and the hotels are able to ratify new contracts and settle all matters well in advance of our Annual Meetings. We look forward to seeing you in Baltimore.