

IVS REUNION

TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER THINGS.

I talked to Annie Cundiff, a representative of the Kansas City Tour Guides Association. She has since faxed me 5 pages of information. (I can send a copy of this to you)

There are no combination tour guides and buses in K.C. She cited 7 different bus companies which the association works with. The cost for a tour guide from the association is \$150 for a minimum of 3 hours, and \$35 for each additional hour. The association has several different tours they recommend. The Kansas City tour is 3 hours with 10 to 15 minute stops at Union Station and Kaufman Gardens. They also sponsor tours of Independence, the Underground Caves, Weston and St. Joseph as well as Homes, Art and Museum Tours.

Annie recommended that if we want to spend a greater amount of time at some place, i.e. Steamboat Arabia, World War I Museum, we should start the guided tour part after the visit to this place, rather than paying for a tour guide standing around.

At our workshop in October we used Overland Limousine for bus transportation. The bus driver actually scoped out the remote place in Wyandotte County we were going to ahead of time, so I was impressed, irrespective of GPS. Overland was one of the companies mentioned by Annie. I talked to Stephanie at Overland to get price quotes. The charges for a 55 passenger bus for a five hour minimum is \$716.83, and \$128.79 for each additional hour. Assuming we would need a bus for 7 hours (it might be 6), the total cost would be \$974.41. With the bus loaded with 54 payees, that amounts to a little over \$18 per person. Even with fewer persons and other contingencies (I did not ask about taxes) it should not be more than \$25 per person.

My daughter in law recommended an aunt of hers (and her high school history teacher) as a possibility to provide a guided tour of Kansas City. I talked to her aunt, Mary Beth Craddock. She is a history teacher and says she loves Kansas City and its history. I got the impression from talking to her that she would be well prepared. I mentioned to her that we were thinking about visiting the Truman Library and Steamboat Arabia but might like to perhaps drive through or past some locations such as 18th and Vine. She said she easily had enough to talk about from the Plaza to the Truman Library to the Steamboat Arabia and back to the Plaza. When I asked her how much she would charge, her reply was "just buy my lunch". I told her I thought we could do a little better than that.

Both Annie Cundiff and Mary Beth were interested in the IVS attendees and background.

Questions:

What are the options if we have more than 55 in attendance. (It should not be a problem for the K.C. Tour Guides Association. Mary Beth said she thought she could get someone else if we needed another person)

If we think we will have more than 55 attendees, do we want to offer two different tour options, a first choice and second choice with a first come first serve approach? We might offer one tour as discussed above and a second tour that would include the World War I Museum. This becomes more difficult logistically, however it has the advantage of not trying to accommodate 60 to 100 people arriving at the same time at one museum location.

It seems these are decisions that can be made later after we have a better idea of numbers. In the information that goes out on the IVS Newsletter these can perhaps be discussed as options.

On another topic I suggest we run the idea of letting non IVSers attend past the committee. We have had non-IVSers attend before, such as Rachel Biron, one of the Filipino nurses. A few of the Vietnamese interpreter and assistants have also attended, particularly the one in Santa Fe 3 to 4 years ago.

Larry Laverentz
