

We're happy to announce that the Invitation for Participation for the American Folklore Society's 2008 annual meeting (set for Louisville, Kentucky, on October 22-26, and with the theme of "The Commons and the Commonwealth") is now available on the AFS web site ([www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm](http://www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm)).

The online proposal pages ([www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/nextAMreg.cfm](http://www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/nextAMreg.cfm)) for the meeting are also open for business, and will stay open until midnight on March 31.

This year there are four new policies for the submission and review of proposals and the organization of the meeting program. They are:

1. There can be no more than 4 papers in a single panel. If a panel includes a discussant, there can be no more than 3 papers in that session.

2. Each paper presentation will be allotted 30 minutes on the program. This slot includes 20 minutes for the presentation and approximately 10 minutes for questions and discussion, which will follow immediately after each presentation. To accommodate this change, sessions will now run for 2 hours rather than 1 hour and 45 minutes.

3. In its short and long abstracts, each organized session (whether panel, poster session, forum, or media session) must explicitly address either the theme of this year's meeting or one or more of these core concepts of the field of folklore: art, context, folk, genre, group, identity, performance, text, or tradition. We encourage all approaches to this requirement, and welcome proposals that challenge, stretch, expand, enrich, or refute current or past definitions of any of these concepts. We also encourage those submitting individual proposals to address the theme or these concepts in the same ways.

4. Chairs of organized sessions will be responsible for submitting all presenters' names, institutional affiliations, presentation titles, abstracts, and audio-visual equipment needs for their session. Chairs must submit these materials all at once, and must submit them online. This means that all individual presenters in a pre-organized session must do two things:

- a. They must give their session chair their names, institutional affiliations, presentation titles, abstracts, and audio-visual equipment needs before the deadline, so that the chair can submit all proposal materials for the session by the deadline.

- b. They must complete their own registration and payment for the meeting before March 31.

We have been able to negotiate very favorable room rates for the meeting at our host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Louisville. Regular rooms will be \$110 per room per night (plus tax), and student rooms will be \$55 per room per night (plus tax). These prices, Louisville's central location, and the proximity of the meeting to folklore graduate programs at Western Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Missouri, and North Carolina should make for an especially lively and engaging event.

Our thanks go to the local committee for the meeting (Chris Antonsen, Erika Brady, Tim Evans, Barry Kaufkins, Johnston A. K. Njoku, and Michael Ann Williams from Western Kentucky University; and Bob Gates, Mark Brown, and Sarah Schmitt from the Kentucky Folklife Program) for their work so far, and that to come, to plan the meeting and its attendant social events.

We both look forward to seeing you in Louisville this October.

Tim Lloyd and Mabel Agozzino, AFS