

FGIA Conference Facilities Usage Fee

FGIA leadership and staff are continually exploring options to reduce the time commitment and cost of conference attendance for members.

Many of you are aware that conference contracts must be signed at least two years in advance to secure properties with appropriate meeting space, sleeping rooms, room rates, location and quality of service and accommodations. The contracts include a minimum commitment to the number of guest rooms, and falling short of the minimum room commitment results in an onerous attrition fee. In the past, this attrition fee has ranged from \$30,000 to \$80,000 per conference. Attaining the room night commitment also triggers the waiver of all of the meeting room fees.

This has prompted staff to explore cost effective means for ensuring that as many attendees as possible stay on the conference property. Those who choose to stay at offsite hotels receive the benefits of the conference facilities, yet do not contribute to the necessary commitments that allow FGIA to forego the cost of the common meeting space.

First and foremost, FGIA has and will continue to seek more competitive room rates that are in closer proximity to airports and/or public transportation.

Secondly, a **\$350** facilities usage fee will be enacted for those who attend conferences, but elect not to stay at the conference host hotel. This usage fee has been in place since the 2010 Annual Conference. ***Note: Any number of nights reserved at the conference hotel qualifies for waiver of the facilities usage fee.***

If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided in this notice, please contact Florica Vlad (Events Manager) at fvlad@fgiaonline.org or (847) 303-5859, ext. 121.