

Murray: We had meetings last week with sales representatives from two local hotels in the Toledo Area: Marriott Renaissance, Maumee Bay Lodge. Before our visits and meeting with the sale staff, both of us had attended previous events (including professional meetings and social events) at each of these over the last few years. Our impressions are that either would be a great fit for 2021 ACG, both have the necessary facilities to hold such a meeting, including sufficient meeting spaces (main ballroom, 5+ breakout rooms, spaces for vendors and small group meetings, social events etc...).

Both are located same distance from DTW airport (45-50 minute drive) with the Renaissance in downtown Toledo on the Maumee River and the Maumee Bay Lodge, located right on Lake Erie and just 15 minutes from downtown. Both have been recently renovated and have wonderful public spaces, meeting venues, restaurants, and hotel rooms (with plenty of size options: single king, double queen, various suites). Likely a mid-week event in mid October would provide for plenty of open available spaces and less in way of other business or visitors using the hotels (compared to weekends or busier vacation seasons in summer/holidays). Both venues are very aware of and prepared to address COVID related issues and associated operations, although I think we all hope those are not factors a year from now!

Each would provide excellent meeting locations and atmosphere: Renaissance being downtown provides opportunities for site seeing, local bars/restaurants and field trips, including great views and walks along the Maumee River. With the Maumee Bay resort - including adjacent state park and golf course onsite - has wonderful views of Lake Erie and plenty of grounds and outdoor space/activities (feels isolated, but still only 10 minute drive to nearby stores and restaurants), plus field trips.

Our sense is that it may come down to whether ACG and its typical attendees would most appreciate the downtown vibe or more of a resort feel - but at a reasonable and comparable cost.

Although we did not get into details discussions regarding costs and budgets, our impression is that both would be financially viable for ACG, and importantly both clearly indicated flexibility in discussing terms and negotiating costs and contract details. Both had similar corporate hotel room rates (\$125-150) that are also open to negotiation in regards to food services and space rentals as part of a comprehensive contract bid – including room reservation commitments, A/V equipment and support (Renaissance uses affiliated A/V contractor, Maumee Bay Lodges provides A/V support in-house). They have plenty of experience hosting such professional meetings of this size.

Here are links to the hotels and also to their group meetings pages:

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/tolgp-renaissance-toledo-downtown-hotel/>
<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/event-planning/business-meeting/tolgp-renaissance-toledo-downtown-hotel/>

<https://www.maumeebaylodge.com>
<https://www.maumeebaylodge.com/groups/meetings>

Contacts:

RYAN KOLEDA
SALES MANAGER
Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel
444 N. Summit Street Toledo, Ohio 43604
T 567-702-6983 F 419-244-5118
rkoleda@firsthospitality.com

Bobbi Taylor
btaylor@greatohiolodges.com
740-801-8685

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call to discuss further please feel free to contact us.

Thanks

Dr. Patrick Lawrence
Chair & Professor
patrick.lawrence@utoledo.edu

University of Toledo
Department of Geography and Planning
Snyder Memorial, 3rd Floor Room 3000
1905 N. Towerview Blvd.
Toledo, OH 43606