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George Chase, Vice President  
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Local 65-699, A.F. M  
609 Chenevert  
Houston, TX 77003

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Dear ICSOM Delegates, AFM Local Officers, and Guests,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Greater Houston Area for the 2010 ICSOM Conference. Local 65-699 and members of the Houston Symphony Orchestra will be hosting this year's conference.

Houston is a vibrant international city that heartily enjoys tradition of being a place of firsts. General Sam Houston, the city's heroic namesake, was the first president of the Republic of Texas. Houston, the city, was the first word spoken from the surface of the moon and the first to build an air-conditioned sports stadium. Houston surgeons have performed numerous firsts in heart surgery, we house one of the best and largest medical centers in the world, and the city is leading the medical community in making cancer history.

Known around the world for NASA Space Center, Houston is also the proud home of a dizzying array of performing arts groups, professional sports teams, shopping destinations and great restaurants.

Any day of the week all year long, Houston audiences marvel at the artistry of an impressive range of performing arts groups, home of the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, The Alley Theatre and Theatre Under the Stars; here the arts are a significant part of everyday life. Home of the 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World (the Houston Astrodome) and the Port of Houston is one of the largest ports in the U.S.A., Houston is home to many colleges and universities including the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and the Moore's School of Music at the University of Houston. We also have an amazing array of world class art museums including the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Menil Collection, the Museum of Natural History— the list goes on!

No matter what your preference, downtown has something for you. The Symphony, Opera, Ballet, and the Theatre District are within walking distance (or a short pedi-cab ride) from baseball and basketball. Restaurants and bars can fill you up, while fitness centers can slim you down. Office Buildings stretch high into the air near condos and lofts that lure Houstonians tired of long commutes. Fish swim and tigers pace at the Downtown Aquarium; while humans ride and jog down the hike and bike trails along Buffalo Bayou. Fountains shoot into the air on Main Street, while tunnels stretch below. Parades, dragon boats, art cars and festivals shake things up.

Those of you who can come early or stay after the conference might want to stay in Houston as part of a vacation. We will provide links and lists of area attractions for you.

Houston has also one of the most numerous and varied list of restaurants, many of them walking distance from our conference hotel, the Downtown Houston Hyatt Hotel, right in the heart of the city.

For our mixer we have planned a fabulous reception at Inn at the Ballpark, and tickets to the game at Minute Maid Park between the Houston Astros and the New York Mets. Minute Maid Park is described as a ballpark "which combines the feel of an classic old-time park with the amenities of modern ones". Coincidentally, Minute maid is directly across the street from our Local Musician's Union 65-699.

For our traditional evening off there is also the new House of Blues a short distance from our hotel or the new Discovery Green which has: a one-acre lake, children's playground, interactive water features, amphitheater stage and slope, dog runs for large and small breeds, public art works, HPL Express, spacious green lawns, great restaurants: The Grove and The Lake House.

We look forward to having you here in our great city, should you need assistance with anything, please don't hesitate to call us at Local 65-699, 713-236-8676.

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