

FAQ – Labor/Management Dispute between Hyatt and UniteHere!

June 25, 2012

TIA will host the FIATA 2012 World Congress, October 6-12, in Los Angeles, CA. In recent weeks Board members and some members have received communications regarding a labor management dispute between the Hyatt Corporation and the UniteHere! labor organization. The site of the FIATA Congress is at one of those Hyatt hotels, the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza.

This Q&A provides more information for any members with questions.

What is the nature of the dispute between the Hyatt Corporation and UniteHere?

UniteHere! (one of four unions at the hotel) and the Hyatt Corporation have been in the midst of conflict over worker safety and other issues. Tentative agreements have been reached to make wages and benefits the same as those in other hotels in which UniteHere has members (benefits are 100% employer paid). Policies regarding union-membership voting rules and broader Hyatt chain worker safety history remain unresolved.

The Hyatt, in response to UniteHere! Complaints, has had the injury records and substantive working conditions of 11 hotels thoroughly reviewed by agencies including OSHA and other State Plans. After substantial review by these agencies, no ergonomic issues or other serious working conditions affecting housekeepers or Hyatt's other associates have been cited and no corrective actions have been required. The Hyatt, in fact, has requested an alliance with OSHA to promote workers' safety and health and is the 2012 recipient of the Gallup Great Workplace Award for its ability to create an engaged workplace culture.

Are the hotels workers at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza on strike? No.

Why Are TIA members being approached by UniteHere?

Because of the continued disagreement over union-membership voting and worker safety history across the chain, UniteHere! is now urging travelers and meeting planners to boycott the Century Plaza Hotel. TIA is not alone in being contacted. In 2012, other major membership associations, such as the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, the Society for Prevention Research and the American College for Environmental and Occupational Medicine, are being or have been contacted by UniteHere! All have still scheduled to hold their conferences at the Century Plaza Hotel. Other hotels being targeted for boycotts are in San Francisco, Chicago, and Honolulu.

Will TIA respond in any way to the labor dispute?

No, TIA will not participate in any boycott at this time, however we do plan to remain in active contact with the Century Plaza Hotel representatives and keep you updated of any developments.

What if I am contacted by UniteHere! about the boycott?

Some TIA members have reported being contacted by UniteHere! representatives urging them to support a hotel boycott or asking them to call and learn about a "serious problem" at the hotel. Please contact TIA at 703-299-5700 if you have any questions. If you feel you have been contacted inappropriately, please let us know by calling the same number.