



In Case You Missed It: 2014 Best. Conference. Ever.

- AUSPL Resource Center
- One-on One with Congressman Blake Farenthold (R-TX) & Congressman David Jolly (R-FL)
- AUSPL Mail Bag: Online Forum to Chat with Fellow Lessors
- Talk it up With Postal Exhibitors
- Six Amazing Workshops
- Mentoring by AUSPL Board Directors
- Live Teleconference with USPS EMCOR VIPs Mike Goodwin, Kim Barnes
- Cocktails with Exhibitors
- Jazz Dinner Cruise aboard Steamboat Natchez
- Yummy Creole Cuisine
- Riverboat gambling: Big Winner: \$500,000+ (play money)
- Grammy Nominated Dukes of Dixieland
- Gambling for Real at Harrah's After-Party
- POSTPlan Update: Postmaster Association VIPs Mark Strong, Steve LeNoir, & Tony Leonardi
- Tom Samra & Karen LaFave dish on the Postal Service
- Postal Journalist Evan Kalish
- Beignets at Café du Monde
- Music, Shopping, Dining in the French Quarter

REFLECTIONS

BEEFLECTIONS?

by a Conference Aficionado

by Barbara Barrett, AUSPL, P.R. Director

I've planned numerous events during my career, from a "Chili Cook Off" to the "Leukemia Super Swim Classic" to booking celebrities for a charity fundraiser, but the most notable is our own AUSPL Conference.

Each conference is special. And this year's meeting will be hard to beat! Foodies (like me), jazz fans, and history buffs enjoyed New Orleans whose motto – "Laissez les Bon Temps Roulez" (Let the Good Times Roll) – is synonymous with the French Quarter.

It was a pleasure to see all the happy faces at the Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans–French Quarter on Thursday and Friday, March 27–28. And no wonder, it was like a two-day return to college, and all the classes were electives! Over the years, I've come to know many of you and enjoy catching up with you. Best of all, I appreciate working with the great team in Scottsdale!

Add a couple Congressmen to the mix, individual mentoring sessions with members of the board, a cruise down the mighty Mississippi complete with yummy Creole cuisine, Dixieland jazz, and throw in some gaming tables—it was fabulous. You should have been there!

The postal lessor community is like no other. After six workshops, a live teleconference with EMCOR officials Michael Goodwin and Kim Barnes, we understood why we need to really know our lease, especially our maintenance rider. Overall, many of us now feel better equipped to negotiate with CBRE, too. We are smart, strong and confident after two days of in-depth training.

Let me sum up the conference in a few words:

- ★ **PATRIOTIC.** New Orleans Fire Department Color Guard kicked off the general session.
- ★ **IMPRESSIVE.** Congress showed up.
- ★ **INSTRUCTIVE.** A primer on POSTPlan from Postmaster Association VIPs Mark, Strong, Steve LeNoir, and Tony Leonardi. Postal Service VIPs Tom Samra and Karen LaFave shared the ups and downs the Postal Service faces and how they are shaking up the agency by merging seven FSOs into two locations in Denver and Greensboro.
- ★ **FUN.** Evan Kalish entertained with stories and photos from his visits to nearly 6,000 post offices. Post-conference he got 60+ "likes" on his Facebook page!

