



Breaking News - July 13, 2009

SSA management meets at “Jewel of the Desert”

Media report on “Management Tango”

Working at Social Security has never been easy – unless you’re in management, and you were lucky enough to attend a lavish meeting in Phoenix recently.

Dubbed the “Management Tango” by San Francisco Regional Commissioner Pete Spencer, the three-day event was held at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel. Its website boasts “a restful oasis of 39 acres covered with lush gardens, glistening swimming pools, and Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced architecture... the Arizona Biltmore has been a favorite of celebrities and U.S. Presidents throughout its colorful history.”

An estimated 700 SSA management officials were invited to the meeting, which included door prizes, skits, a dance company, and a lunch time speaker who was described as having a “healthy and irreverent sense of humor about people and the lives they lead.”

There were a number of after-hour activities as well. Managers were “invited to come try your luck at Casino Arizona...(it offers a variety of slot machines, blackjack and poker. It offers top of the line dining and entertainment.”

There was also a reception the first night that included musical entertainment, dancing, and refreshments.

AFGE has learned that similar meetings have been held around the country, even though the Social Security Administration has spent millions of dollars on interactive conferencing facilities.

And how did SSA pay for these extravaganzas? The Union is still looking into that question, but the agency has received \$1.2 billion in stimulus money from Congress that was meant to pay for new staff and to process disability claims faster.

FOX news and other media did several stories on the Arizona meeting. If you’d like to see and hear those reports, click on the following links, using your personal computer (***SSA computers do not allow video streaming***):

1) <http://www.theusreport.com/the-us-report/social-security-admin-trains-hundreds-at-arizona-biltmore.html>

2) www.azfamily.com/

3) www.foxbusiness.com/search-results/m/24735612/social-security-soiree-with-your-money.htm?q=social+security