



Wearing a Red Vest in Washington

by Judy Williams

When you arrive at the Hilton Washington Hotel in a few months, the folks you will see in the bright red vests will not necessarily be trying to keep warm. They will be members of the Local Events Committee (LEC), whose role is to promote and provide local flavor for the 34th Annual AMATYC Conference, November 20-23, 2008, in Washington, DC. Over 40 AMATYC members from VMATYC, MMATYC, and the Mid-Atlantic Region have been working since 2005 to make this the best conference ever. Once at the Hilton Washington Hotel, you will find these red-vested hosts ready to guide you to rooms, staffing the Internet Café, and offering Professional Networking/Hospitality options and information about the city.

Since Washington is such a great destination, bring your family for a few extra days of sightseeing either before or after the conference. Check out the Local Arrangements site at www.amatyc.org for things to do. You can arrange tours of government agencies through your local congressional office, or perhaps still get in on a White House Tour (www.Senate.gov or www.House.gov). Getting anywhere in the city is easy using the Metrorail and bus system; there is even a Metro Trip Planner at www.wmata.com.

When you arrive at the hotel look for the red vests for guidance to rooms and conference registration areas. They'll be out in force Thursday morning to help you locate those first sessions. Thursday morning at 8:15, bring your family and friends to the session, "Making Connections", S7 in the Cabinet Room, to hear from AMATYC spouses and children about their favorite city activities. If you're staying around the hotel Thursday evening, drop by the Networking Room between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. for games, cookies, and music, where "Fuzzy Slippers and PJs are Welcome."

The LEC members have been collecting information about restaurants, theaters, and sporting events. When theaters and arenas confirm their Fall season schedules, check the Local Arrangements site for ticket information. Come by the Networking Room to sign up for Friday or Saturday evening social groups or get advice about what to do in Dupont Circle, the neighborhood around the hotel, or to hear about other parts of the city.

These are just a few of the ways the LEC members are working to provide an enjoyable conference for you. They've collected the instructions for planes, trains, and automobiles for the conference miniprogram you'll get in August.

The LEC members are excited about this conference and can hardly wait to see all of you in Washington for a monumental time for mathematics - a slogan that originated in the VMATYC business meeting at Germanna CC two years ago!

