



ARIZONA

A COOL PLACE TO VISIT!



Lenny Hulme and Kelly Kennedy
2008 Host and Hostess

Season's Greetings from Arizona!



Kelly and Lenny shown here at this year's conference in Louisville.

Lenny and I, like most of you, are already looking forward to the 2008 IMSA Summer Conference here in Arizona. Really, it's less than 289 days away! That may seem far off, but we can honestly say that after seeing the hard work, and valuable time that went into this year's conference in Louisville, we need to get busy! As the hosts of the 2007 Conference, Pat and Debbie Seifert will be a tough act to follow. IMSA members and their companions benefited from Pat and Deb-

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bie's knowledge of the Louisville area, and thoroughly enjoyed the companion activities at Churchill Downs and the historic district of Downtown Louisville. The effort that went into coordinating volunteers at the conference was no small task. (Think of how many people you saw wearing the yellow t-shirts – they were all volunteers.) The "And . . . They're Off!" theme night was also a success. Lenny and I didn't win, place or show, but we ate like horses. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank Pat and Debbie, and look forward to seeing them next summer in Arizona.

We also wanted to thank the IMSA Staff. They are truly amazing. We still cannot believe how they do what they do, and keep smiles on their faces. Constant deadlines, questions, and unforeseen circumstances kept them so busy. We're not sure we even saw them sit down for a full meal during this week-long event. Hopefully, by now, they have had a chance to catch their breath and relax a little bit. (But not for long, right?)

We would be remiss if we did not pass along kudos to the Louisville Marriott Downtown. The accommodations and staff were top-notch. Their professionalism, willingness to help, and overall knowledge of the downtown area were truly an asset to this conference. Hopefully, everyone had the opportunity to visit Fourth Street Live. The venue offered a little

something for everyone, and an added bonus - was within walking distance of the Marriott.

The Louisville Conference was my first opportunity to actually work in the Arizona Section Booth. I enjoyed meeting so many IMSA members and their companions. Lenny was glad to see familiar faces. There was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm toward the 2008 Conference in Arizona. But it was funny to hear people ask, "Come to Arizona . . . in July? – Are you crazy?" As members of the Arizona Section pointed out the area attractions and the five-star accommodations at the Wild Horse Pass Resort, we could see people envisioning a conference that would entail both business and pleasure, and even the opportunity to bring the family along for a summer vacation.

The 2008 IMSA Summer Conference will showcase the best accommodations and scenery the Phoenix area has to offer. The layout of the Conference Center at the Wild Horse Pass Resort promotes easy access to both technical sessions and vendor exhibits, and has been the destination choice of several major organizations hosting corporate events.

Until next time, Lenny and I would like to wish everyone a very safe, happy holiday season.