



## Proposal for NAVA 42 (2008) in Austin, Texas

The Vexillological Association of the State of Texas proposes to host the 42d Annual Meeting of NAVA in Austin, Texas. 2008 is the 75th anniversary of the 1933 Texas Flag Act, which officially re-established the Flag of the Republic as the State Flag of Texas.

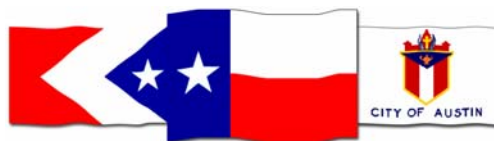
NAVA 42 will be held in Austin from 10-12 October 2008. The date was chosen because The University of Texas plays the University of Oklahoma at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas that weekend. Holding NAVA 42 in Austin during Texas-OU weekend should ensure better availability of airfares and hotel rates since all the football fans will be in Dallas.

The conference hotel will be in Downtown Austin, making it convenient to air travelers not wishing to rent cars. There are a number of hotels in downtown, and The University is scheduled to open an executive conference center in summer 2008 that straddles downtown and The University campus.

The hosts will organize a tour of Austin's flag holdings, primarily at the State Archives and the State Capitol. The Archives hold flags and flag related material, the Hall of the House of Representatives in the State Capitol holds the San Jacinto Battle Flag, and the Bob Bullock Museum holds both Texas and U.S. Flags from before the War Between the States to the present time. The hosts will secure an appropriate keynote speaker such as University Law Professor Sanford Levinson, who has collected flag images and given talks on flags such as *And They Whisper: Some Reflections on Flags, Monuments, and State Holidays*, and *the Construction of Social Meaning in a Multicultural Society*.

Austin is the "Live Music Capital of the World" and features numerous musicians playing various genres all over the city each night. Other attractions of the Austin area include the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, the Blanton Art Museum, and the Lady Bird Johnson National Wildflower Research Center. Austin is roughly 90 minutes from San Antonio and the Alamo, and two hours from the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library. The area's cultural and historical offerings make it attractive to accompanying persons and for before/after meeting extended stays. The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is served by the major legacy and discount airlines: American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Northwest, Southwest, United, and US Airways-America West.

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The geographic location of the meeting in Texas meets NAVA's goal of diversity of sites. It will have been 16 years since a meeting was held in Texas. Prior NAVA meetings in Texas were NAVA 23 in Dallas and NAVA 26 in San Antonio.

The VAST organizing committee consists of Hugh Brady, coordinator, James Liston, Harry Oswald, Pete Van de Putte, and Kin Spain. Harry successfully hosted NAVA 28 in Portland, Pete successfully hosted NAVA 26 in San Antonio, and Kin has been involved with the annual meeting process as a former NAVA president. Hugh has experience in large-scale presidential campaign advance work for Dukakis-Bentsen and Clinton-Gore, and has an active law practice in Austin.

The committee believes Austin, Texas, is a vexillologically-interesting destination that would draw strong attendance from NAVA members.

Questions about this proposal should be directed to:

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