



2006 Conference Schedule

Sunday, July 30

Afternoon – registration

5:00 – 7:00 – reception at conference hotel

Monday, July 31

7:30 – 8:30 – GRA Trustees Meeting

8:00 – 8:30 – Breakfast

8:30 – 8:40 – Welcoming Remarks

8:40 – 10:00 – Session 1: GRA Organization Roundtable

A chance to relate what the hot issues are in your state and how your organization is, or is not, dealing with them and why.

10:00 – 10:15 – Break

10:15 – 11:45 – Session 2: Solutions for Transportation Funding

Motor fuel taxes are no longer the sole, and soon may be not the most important, source of funds for building new transportation infrastructure and this session will be devoted to exploring alternative financing methods.

12:00 – 1:20 – Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 – Session 3: After Katrina

A discussion of lessons learned about disaster preparedness and response.

3:15 – 4:45 – Session 4: Pension Apprehension

A session devoted to uncovering what's up, or down, with public pension performance and management.

6:00 – 10:00? – An American Tradition at Its Finest

Nothing is more quintessentially American than spending a summer evening at the ole ballyard and we will do it in style by watching the Round Rock Express (AAA affiliate of the Houston Astros) from the Dell Diamond's Party Porch, a shaded porch on the third base side. Ballpark chow (served till 8:30) and refreshments (served till the first pitch of the 8th inning) are an added bonus – buffet includes grilled Angus burgers, hot dogs, chips and fresh baked cookies and beverage of your choice includes sodas, water, iced tea and a keg of beer. The cost of which is included in the conference registration fee. There will still be plenty of time after the game to boogey the night away in the downtown entertainment district.

Tuesday, August 1

8:00 – 9:00 – Breakfast

9:15 – 12:00 – Session 5: Tax Reform

To paraphrase a noted former Texas elected official: When legislative bodies meet, there are only three things that matter and they are money, money and money – everything else is just poetry. This session will be an in-depth discussion of efforts to reform tax systems and budgets, including limitations on taxing and spending. The goal, of course, being to not tax you and not tax me but tax the guy behind the tree and/or to pluck the most feathers from the goose with the least squawking.

Afternoon – free to enjoy whatever strike’s your fancy

6:00 – 9:00 – GRA Annual Awards Dinner

Wednesday, August 2

7:30 – 8:30 – GRA Trustees Meeting

8:00 – 8:30 – Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 – Session 6: GASB and GASAC News

An update and discussion of organization activities.

9:30 – 10:30 – Session 7: GRA Award Winners

Presentations by those who received awards so that they can tell us all what they did and how they did it.

10:30 – 10:45 – Break

10:45 – 12:00 – Session 8: GRA Organizations Roundtable

A valuable opportunity for everyone to share ideas and successful strategies for financing and managing successful organizations.

12:00 – Conference Ends – Onward thru the fog for another year till we meet again.