



Now that summer is in full swing once again.....I wanted to remind you of the upcoming annual meeting scheduled for Oct. 2-4, 2007 in Salt Lake City, UT. Please be sure to renew your membership of \$20 if you have not already done so. In addition, those attending the meeting will need to submit the application form to attend the annual meeting with the appropriate payment of \$85 to cover the meeting expenses. This information will also be listed on the website for your utilization at www.whis.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!!!

Also, we will be having silent auction. Each member state represented will be responsible for bringing an item to donate for the event. Please coordinate with those attending from your state and find something unique to your state that others would enjoy. Come prepared to have some fun!!!

I want to thank New Mexico for hosting our 2006 annual meeting. They worked diligently to make everything come together, and it was a rewarding experience for all who were in attendance! We enjoyed a spectacular tram ride (for those gutsy enough to attempt it), viewing the scenery, walking through the botanical gardens and observing numerous animals at the zoo.

For those of you who are wondering.....Yes, we did hear some great presentations on various topics pertaining to conducting inspections and safeguarding plant materials. We also discussed those matters that are of concern to us collectively within the Western Region with movement of infested plant materials. Insightful information was shared regarding aquatic weeds, and resources that are available to us as inspectors for gathering information on this subject. This was very informative, as it is a rapidly expanding arena where most inspectors are not fully proficient with water-loving plants. We also heard about the associated problems of invasive species that could be introduced with the movement and distribution of these items, and knowing what to be on the lookout for.

I am looking forward to another successful year. I encourage you to fully engage yourself within the organization contributing your ideas and information. Each member has very insightful information to share with the group. This is YOUR organization and what you put into it, is what you will receive from it in return. There are endless opportunities for everyone!

Michele Mettler
President