



The Voice of the 1031 Industry

25 YEARS AND COUNTING

FEA's First Annual Conference

"Mark your calendars for the FEA's First Annual Conference and Meeting to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, between November 10-12, 1995. The Conference will afford FEA members, Affiliates and staff the first opportunity ever to convene a national a conference devoted exclusively to the furtherance and understanding of our profession, within an atmosphere of communication, interaction and camaraderie between and among members." -1994 September FEA Update

Five years after the formation of the FEA, the location for FEA meetings shifted to the north. The 1994 FEA calendar listed multiple regional meetings. More than 40 professionals attended the February meeting in Northern California, and 30 professionals attended the March meeting in Salem, Oregon.

The business of the FEA Board of Directors included implementing strategies to grow membership and establishing regional chapters. The FEA continued to build affiliate relationships, to work on improving the quality of the seminars and workshops, and to finalize the FEA Code of Ethics.

In 1994, FEA Membership Chair Scott Saunders focused on implementing a robust communications plan to keep members and potential members informed. At the same time Federal Regulatory Committee Co-chairs Andrew Potter and Kathleen Robinson advocated FEA positions at the state and federal levels, educating legislators and others involved with the regulatory process.



Desert Inn, Las Vegas

The FEA then started receiving requests for information from far beyond the California and Oregon borders as the business moved East. The December 1994 *FEA Update* headline announced: "FEA to Hold First Ever Annual Conference and Meeting in Las Vegas". So while Congress debated capital gains tax cuts and the Republicans pushed forward with their "Contract with America," the FEA Board met at The Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada. The key participants shared regulatory updates and suggestions for best practices with industry professionals from across the country.

Margo McDonnell recalls there were nearly 100 attendees at the first FEA Annual Conference and Meeting, and of those only a handful were from east of the Mississippi. The meeting was structured much like the current conferences, only the sessions lasted longer. McDonnell's first meeting left a lasting impression "*What's always struck me about FEA members was how open they were about sharing information,*" commented McDonnell who will be attending her twentieth FEA Annual Conference this year.