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First Convention Center Convention Landed

Partners in Flight, an environmental organization headquartered in Boise, Idaho, is the first confirmed convention that will be held in the new Convention Center, the McAllen Chamber of Commerce has announced.

“We are very pleased to have this particular group coming to McAllen,” said McAllen Chamber of Commerce Vice President and Director of the Convention and Visitors’ Bureau Nancy Millar. “We have wanted to host them for some time, but have not had the facility to accommodate them until now. Hosting this prestigious organization is a coup for McAllen.”

The conference will be held in February of 2009. Details have yet to be worked out, she said, but the group is expecting to bring between 600 and 800 delegates who will stay for at least five nights. “We expect that many will also come early or stay late to take advantage of the McAllen metro’s birding opportunities,” she said. This one convention, she added, could easily contribute 4,000 hotel room nights and bring an economic income of \$665,000 to McAllen.

“I am very excited about our landing this first convention,” said McAllen Convention Center Manager John Sellers. “Confirming the first convention in a new facility is always a challenge, but having this one in hand will assist us in attracting others. The Convention Center staff looks forward to having the opportunity of delivering superior service to the association so that the delegates leave with the greatest, most positive experience.”

Partners in Flight is a consortium consisting of hundreds of private organizations, natural resource agencies, private businesses, industry associations, private landowners, foundations, universities, and individual citizens dedicated to maintaining healthy bird populations in the United States and throughout the Western Hemisphere.

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Cut line: The City of McAllen and McAllen Chamber of Commerce announce the first convention confirmed for the new convention center. Standing, Craig Lewis, McAllen Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board, left; Steve Ahlenius, McAllen Chamber of Commerce President and CEO; Seated: Nancy Millar, McAllen Chamber of Commerce Vice President and the Director of Convention and Visitors’ Bureau; McAllen Mayor Richard Cortez