



SHOT E-Newsflash 5 September 2023

Help SHOT Better Understand Your Views

Dear SHOT members,

If you live in the US, you may have seen reports about an ongoing labor dispute between hotel workers and their employers in the greater Los Angeles area, including Long Beach. Although SHOT's hotel reached a temporary settlement with the union in the spring, that settlement expired in June, and the Long Beach Hyatt Regency is now back on the [union's list of hotels that do not have living wage contracts](#). Events ranging from Taylor Swift concerts to the [annual meeting of the American Political Science Association \(APSA\)](#) have been affected by this dispute. APSA's approach was to move sessions out of affected hotels, but this solution proved deeply unsatisfactory for many; the organization's ultimate decision to keep its conference in LA has caused deep rifts within its membership and made national news.

SHOT officers are approaching this situation with care. Our hotel has not seen picket lines or active protests, but the union has been rolling strikes across hotels throughout the area. This means that late October could well see an active strike—especially if/when the union learns of our meeting. The union has called on conventions to boycott area hotels until the dispute is settled. It has warned travelers to expect dirty rooms until then, which is particularly alarming as the pandemic sees a new surge.

We have no way to predict when a resolution might occur. One way or another, however, we need to make a final decision by late September. To preserve the opportunity to present research and nourish intellectual exchanges, one option could be to move the meeting online.

We recognize that beyond the financial consequences for SHOT as an organization, any decision also has consequences for individual members. We therefore wish to hear your thoughts as we consider our next steps. Please [go here](#) to offer your thoughts. In order to inform our deliberations, we need to hear from you **no later than next Monday, 11 September**.

Many thanks for your patience as we figure out a plan that meets SHOT's needs.

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