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SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE STATES

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE STATES

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Introduction

Students, businessmen, historians, housewives, travellers, and many other people frequently seek information on the states of the United States. Questions on economic resources, tourist attractions, living conditions, and political and historical developments are often asked. This compilation has been prepared to guide the researcher to the proper sources of information on each state.

The best starting point for most research is the local public or school library. Any of the standard encyclopedias ("World Book Encyclopedia," "Encyclopedia Americana," "Collier's Encyclopedia") provide background information on the states. Bibliographies usually appear at the end of each article. Books can be located by checking under the name of the state in the card catalog. Periodical articles of interest can be found by using indexes such as "Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature" and "Public Affairs Information Service Bulletin."

This compilation is designed to provide a guide to further sources of detailed information on the states.

Historical Information

Books and articles on the history of the United States are numerous, and should be readily available in local libraries. Four major works serve as guides to many of these writings:

- Adams, James Truslow. Dictionary of American history. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1942.

 More than one thousand historians, representing a cross section of American historical scholarship, contributed to the writing of the encyclopedia. Admiral Byrd wrote the account of his Polar flights; General John Pershing wrote of the American Expeditionary Forces. The items are signed by the authors. Suggested further readings are listed at the end of each entry.
- Harvard guide to American history. Edited by Oscar Handlin,
 Arthur Schlesinger, Samuel Morison, etc. Cambridge, Harvard
 University Press, 1954. Z1236.H27
 A selective guide to books and articles published up
 to December 31, 1950.
- U.S. Library of Congress. General Reference and Bibliography Division. A guide to the study of the United States of America; representative books reflecting the development of American life and thought. Prepared under direction of Roy P. Basler by Donald H. Mugridge and Blanche P. McCrum, Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, 1960. Z1215.U53

 A bibliography of works on various aspects of American civilization. Contains 32 chapters, with such headings as: literature, religion, military, geography, economic life, etc. Long annotations accompany most citations. Supplements are now being prepared.
- Writings on American history. Washington, National Historical Publications Commission. Annual. Z1236.L331

 Designed to include every book and article having any considerable value for study and research in the history of the U.S. from primitive times to date. Divided into three main sections: historical profession, national history, regional, state, and local history.

Historical information on individual states and local communities can often be obtained by writing state historical societies. The "Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada" (published biennially by the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tennessee) lists organizations that are working actively to preserve and disseminate knowledge about the past. The societies listed in this directory are non-profit and educational, and may be able to provide appropriate information. We have extracted the addresses of the major state historical agencies from this directory. Often, the major agencies can provide detailed information about other historical organizations in the area they serve; thus, information on the state, the county, or the city may be available.

The major state historical organizations are as follows:

Alabama Department of Archives and History 624 Washington Avenue Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Alaska State Historical Library Pouch G., State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801

Arizona State Department of Library and Archives 3rd Floor, State Capitol Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Arkansas Historical Association History Department University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703 California Historical Society 2090 Jackson Street San Francisco, California 94115

State Historical Society of Colorado 200 14th Avenue Denver, Colorado 80203

Connecticut Historical Society 1 Elizabeth Street Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Historical Society of Delaware 505 Market Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Columbia Historical Society 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Florida Historical Society University of South Florida Library Tampa, Florida 33620

Georgia Historical Society 501 Whitaker Street Savannah, Georgia 31401

Hawaiian Historical Society 560 Kawaiahao Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Idaho State Historical Society 610 North Julia Davis Drive Boise, Idaho 83706

Illinois State Historical Society Old State Capitol Springfield, Illinois 62706

Indiana Historical Society 140 North Senate Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

State Historical Society of Iowa 402 Iowa Avenue Iowa City, Iowa 52240 Kansas State Historical Society Memorial Building 120 West Tenth Street Topeka, Kansas 66612

Kentucky Historical Society Old State House, Box H Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Louisiana Historical Association Box 44422 Capitol Station Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Maine Historical Society 485 Congress Street Portland, Maine 04111

Maryland Historical Society 201 West Monument Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Massachusetts Historical Society 1154 Boylston Street Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Historical Society of Michigan 2117 Washtenaw Avenue Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Minnesota Historical Society 690 Cedar Street St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Mississippi State Department of Archives and History Box 571 Jackson, Mississippi 39205

State Historical Society of Missouri Hitt and Lowry Streets Columbia, Missouri 65201

Montana Historical Society 225 N. Roberts Street Helena, Montana 59601

Nebraska State Historical Society 1500 R Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 Nevada State Historical Society 1650 N. Virginia Street Reno, Nevada 89504

New Hampshire Historical Society 30 Park Street Concord, New Hampshire 03301

New Jersey Historical Society 230 Broadway Newark, New Jersey 07104

Museum of New Mexico Palace of the Governors Box 2087 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

New York State Historical Association Box 391 Cooperstown, New York 13326

North Carolina State Department of Archives and History Box 1881 Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

State Historical Society of North Dakota Liberty Memorial Building Bismark, North Dakota 58501

Ohio Historical Society Ohio Historical Center Columbus, Ohio 43211

Oklahoma Historical Society Wiley Post Historical Building Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Oregon Historical Society 1230 S.W. Park Avenue Portland, Oregon 97205

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building Box 1026 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108 Rhode Island Historical Society 52 Power Street Providence, Rhode Island 02906

South Carolina Department of Archives and History 1430 Senate Street Columbia, South Carolina 29211

South Dakota State Historical Society Soldier's and Sailor's Memorial Building Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Tennessee Historical Commission 403 7th Avenue, N. Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Texas State Historical Association Room 2/306 - Richardson Hall University Station Austin, Texas 78712

Utah State Historical Society 603 East South Temple Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Vermont Historical Society Pavilion Building Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Virginia Historical Society 428 North Boulevard Richmond, Virginia 23221

Washington State Historical Society 315 North Stadium Way Tacoma, Washington 98403

West Virginia Department of Archives and History 400 E. Wing State Capitol Charleston, West Virginia 25305

State Historical Society of Wisconsin 816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department State Office Building Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Government and Politics

Information on state governments and politics can also be found in local public or college libraries. A prime source is the state manual, issued by each state, often called the "blue book." A typical manual contains the following: brief summary of state history, biographies of elected officials, list of members of the judiciary, description of state services, statistics on population and elections, and a copy of the state constitution. These manuals are issued periodically, usually by the Secretary of State.

In addition, the following sources should be useful:

America votes; a handbook of contemporary American election statistics. Compiled and edited by Richard M. Scammon.

Washington, Governmental Affairs Institute. Biennial.

JK1967.A8

Arranged by state, this book gives voting statistics on presidential, gubernatorial, and congressional elections.

Began in 1945.

Book of the states. Lexington, Ky., Council of State
Governments. Biennial.

Provides information on the structures, working methods,
financing, and functional activities of the state
governments. Covers all three branches, and the services
performed by them. Two supplements list state administrative
officials and members of the legislature.

Fesler, James William. The 50 states and their local governments.

New York, Knopf, 1967.

This book is a compilation of essays on the problems of the nation's state governments. Chapters cover such things as "personnel and money," "policy making," "legislators and governors," "judicial reform," and "elections and political parties." The book includes many tables, a bibliography arranged by state, and a comprehensive index.

Lockard, Duane. The politics of state and local governments.

New York, Macmillan, 1969.

This book focuses on the "political dynamics" of state and local governments. The author states that "my simple thesis is that there is an integral, necessary, and invariable relationship between the political process and the governmental process." He analyzes state and local governments in an age of change, and shows how modern developments have affected the political process.

Peirce, Neal R. The border south states. New York, W.W. Norton, F216.2.P43 -----The deep south states of America. New York, W.W. Norton, F216.2.P44 -----The great plains states of America. New York, W.W. Norton, 1973. F595.2.P44 -----The megastates of America. New York, W.W. Norton, 1972. JK2408.P43 -----The mountain states of America. New York, W.W. Norton, 1972. F721.P45 1972 -----The Pacific states of America. New York, W.W. Norton, 1972. F851.P43 1972 Peirce attempts to follow the lead of John Gunther's Inside U.S.A. by providing a "good and true account of the American condition." Subtitled "People, Politics and Power," each volume explores the economic, political and social conditions of the states covered. Peirce supplemented his research by personal visits and interviews with 1500 men and women representing all levels of society. Each volume contains maps and an extensive bibliography of books and articles for further study, along with a detailed index and list of interviewees. Projected volumes to complete the series will cover the Mid-Atlantic, New England, and Great Lake states.

Snider, Clyde F. American state and local government. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1965. JK2408.S6

Discusses what the states do for the people.

Bibliographies follow each chapter.

Zimmerman, Joseph F. Subnational politics: readings in state and local government. New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970.

Contemporary problems of state governments are explored in this collection of essays. Harry Scheiber writes about "creative federalism," Floyd McKissick describes educational problems, and David Peck inquires into the question "do juries delay justice?" The readings are meant to supplement standard textbooks on state and local governments.

Tourist Attractions

There are many publications available which will enable a person to plan a successful tour of the United States. Road maps, atlases, and tour guidebooks can be found in most libraries. Magazines such as National Geographic and Holiday feature articles on interesting places to visit. Travel agencies, airlines, automobile clubs, and motor oil companies often offer advice for the traveler.

Following is a list of books that may be of interest to a prospective traveler:

American guide series. Compiled by Federal Writers Project,
Works Progress Administration, 1937-1949. Publisher varies.
Includes guides to each state, plus several cities and
regions. The state guidebooks give an overall summary
on the state (history, culture, economy) and note special
historical spots in each state. Newly revised editions
are currently being published.

American Heritage. The American Heritage book of great historic places. Narrative by Richard Ketchum. New York, American Heritage Publishing Co., 1957. E169.1.K418 Colorfully illustrated, this book highlights historical places in each section of the U.S.

Frome, Michael. National park guide. Chicago, Rand McNally.

Annual.

E160.F73

This is a new guide to all national parks with special sections on national monuments, recreational areas, seashores, parkways, and historic sites. Maps are given as well as highlights and activities of the park. The guide also contains information on accommodations, campgrounds, expected weather, and where to write for further information.

Mobil travel guide. New York, Simon & Schuster. Annual.

"Good food, lodging and sightseeing" information published in 7 volumes: California and the west; southeastern states; Great Lakes area; middle Atlantic states; northeastern states; northwest and Great Plains states; and south central and southwestern states.

Neal, Jack A. Reference guide for travellers. New York,
R.R. Bowker, 1969.
Each state is covered in this lengthy bibliography.
Brochures published by state agencies are listed;
addresses on where to obtain the brochures are given.
The book also covers other countries of the world.

New horizons U.S.A.: Pan Am's complete guide to travel in the United States. New York, Pan American World Airways, 1971.

Tells where to go, how to get there, and what to do upon arrival. Brief, factual discussions on major U.S. tourist areas.

Rand McNally. Guidebook to campgrounds. New York. Annual.

SK601.A1R3

More than 15,000 U.S. and Canadian campgrounds are
listed with over 550,000 campsites. The directory
lists facilities such as shelters, toilets, snack bars,
and laundry, and activities such as hiking, swimming,
boating, etc. Maps are furnished and remarks on access
to the parks are given.

Schwartz, Alvin. America's exciting cities: a guide for parents and children. New York, Thomas Crowell, 1966.

E158.S38

Contains a small map of each city, lists annual interesting events, tells where to go and what to see, and contains information on restaurants.

State agencies that can provide information on historic, scenic, and recreational facilities in each state are listed below:

Alabama Bureau of Publicity and Information 11 South Union Street Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Department of Economic Development Alaska Travel Division Seward Street Juneau, Alaska 99801

Office of Economic Planning & Development 3003 N. Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Arkansas Publicity and Parks Commission State Capitol Building Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Division of Tourism and Visitor Service 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, California 95814

Department of Local Affairs Office of Travel Development State Capitol Annex Denver, Colorado 80203

Connecticut Commerce Department Office of Travel Promotion 210 Washington Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Department of Community Affairs and Economic Development State Capitol Dover, Delaware 19901

Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau 1129 20th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Department of Commerce Division of Commercial Development State Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Georgia Department of Community Development Tourist Division 270 Washington, Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Hawaii Visitors Bureau 2270 Kalakaua Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Idaho State Department of Commerce and Development Room 67 U State House Boise, Idaho 83701

Division of Tourism Illinois Department of Business and Economic Development 222 S. College Street Springfield, Illinois 62706 Tourism Division
Department of Commerce
Room 117 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Tourism and Travel Division Iowa Development Commission 250 Jewett Building Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Kansas Department of Economic Development State Office Building Topeka, Kansas 66612

Department of Public Information Tourist and Travel Promotion Capitol Annex Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Louisiana Tourist Development Commission P.O. Box 44291 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Department of Commerce and Industry Amherst Street Augusta, Maine 04330

Department of Economic and Community Development Tourism Development Division 2525 Riva Road Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Massachusetts Department of Commerce and Development Leverett Saltonstall Building Government Center 100 Cambridge Street Boston, Massachusetts 02202

Michigan Tourist Council 300 S. Capitol Avenue Lansing, Michigan 48933

Minnesota Department of Economic Development Tourism-Travel Information 480 Cedar Street St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 Travel Department
Mississippi Agricultural and Industrial Board
1504 State Office Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Missouri Tourism Commission 308 E. High Street P.O. Box 1055 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Montana State Advertising Department Montana Department of Highways 1315 Eighth Avenue Helena, Montana 59601

Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission Information and Tourism Division State Capitol Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Nevada Department of Economic Development Capitol Building Carson City, Nevada 89701

New Hampshire Division of Resources and Economic Development State House Annex Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Department of Labor and Industry Office of State Promotion John Fitch Plaza Trenton, New Jersey 08611

Tourist Division
New Mexico Department of Development
113 Washington Avenue
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

New York State Department of Commerce Division of Public Information 90 Washington Avenue Albany, New York 12210

North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources Office of Industrial, Tourist and Community Resources 116 W. Jones Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 North Dakota Business and Industrial Development Department 900 East Boulevard Bismark, North Dakota 58501

Office of Travel and Tourism Economic and Community Development Ohio Departments Building Columbus, Ohio 43215

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department 500 Will Rogers Memorial Office Building Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Travel Information Division Oregon State Highway Department 101 State Highway Building Salem, Oregon 97301

Travel Development Bureau Pennsylvania Department of Commerce Capitol Building Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Rhode Island Development Council
Tourist Promotion Division
Roger Williams Building
Hayes Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Edgar Brown Building Columbia, South Carolina 29201

South Dakota Economic and Tourist Development Office Capitol Building Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Office of Tourism Development Andrew Jackson State Office Building Nashville, Tenessee 37219

Travel and Information Division Texas Highway Department Box 5064, Highway Building Austin, Texas 78701 Utah Travel Council Council Hall State Capitol Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Vermont Development and Community Affairs Agency Travel Information Council State Office Building Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Virginia Department of Conservation and Economic Development Virginia State Travel Services, Office of Information 9th Street Office Building Richmond, Virginia 23219

Washington State Department of Commerce and Economic Development Tourist Promotion Division General Administration Building Olympia, Washington 98501

West Virginia Department of Commerce, Travel Development Division 1900 Washington Street, E. Charleston, West Virginia 25311

Tourism and Information Division Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 4610 University Avenue Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Wyoming Travel Commission 2320 Capital Avenue Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Economic and Statistical Sources

Finding information on the economic resources of the states can be done in many ways. First, the state Department of Commerce can often provide the necessary information. Secondly, this information frequently appears in articles in such magazines as Fortune and Business Week; the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times feature articles on various aspects of state economies. In addition, the state itself publishes material which would be useful. Items such as

the budget, annual report of the governor, and reports on industries in the state often appear as "state documents." The Monthly Checklist of State Publications (published by the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.) indexes these items and the researcher should try to obtain this checklist at a local library.

Other prime sources of information are the city directories, published by R.L. Polk, Detroit, Michigan. These publications usually contain a directory of business concerns and private citizens, a buyer's guide, and an introduction to the city (climate, churches, recreational facilities, population, airports, industry, etc.).

The following works may also be useful:

Statistics sources. Rev. 3d ed. Detroit, Gale Research, 1971.

Z7551.S84 1971

This book is a "subject guide to data on industrial,

This book is a "subject guide to data on industrial, business, social, educational, financial, and other topics for the United States and selected foreign countries." The 1971 edition was edited by Paul Wasserman, Eleanor Allen, and Charlotte Georgi. The book is designed basically to identify primary sources of statistical data but the compilation also offers secondary sources. Emphasis is on U.S. publications, and on national rather than local sources.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Statistical abstract of the United States. Washington, Government Printing Office. Annual.

Published annually since 1878, this is the standard summary of statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the U.S. Appendix III contains an excellent guide to other statistical sources. The supplements to this book are also useful: "County and City Data Book," "Pocket Data Book USA," "Historical Statistics of the U.S. from Colonial Times to 1957," "Directory of Federal Statistics for States," "Directory of Federal Statistics for Local Areas."

World almanac. New York, Newspaper Enterprise Association,
Annual editions.

AY67.N5W7

A special section on the states covers their "resources,
history, industries, agricultural and mineral products,
tourist attractions, nicknames, and state symbols."
Another section gives population figures.

The following are other possible sources of economic and statistical state information:

Alabama Chamber of Commerce 468 South Perry Street P.O. Box 76 Montgomery, Alabama 36101

Department of Economic Development Industrial Development Division Pouch EE Juneau, Alaska 99801

Office of Economic Planning & Development 3003 N. Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce 911 Wallace Building Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

California State Chamber of Commerce 455 Capitol Mall Sacramento, California 95814

Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry 1390 Logan Street Denver, Colorado 80203

The Connecticut Business and Industry Association 60 Washington Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce 1102 West Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801 Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau 1129 20th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Florida State Chamber of Commerce 316 W. Tennessee Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Georgia Department of Community Development Industry Division 270 Washington Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Department of Planning and Economic Development Kamamalu Building 250 S. King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Idaho State Chamber of Commerce 524 Idaho Building Boise, Idaho 83702

Illinois State Chamber of Commerce 20 North Wacker Drive Chicago, Illinois 60606

Indiana State Chamber of Commerce Board of Trade Building Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Iowa Development Commission 250 Jewett Building Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Kansas Association of Commerce & Industry 500 First National Tower 1 Townsite Plaza Topeka, Kansas 66603

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce 300 W. York Street Louisville, Kentucky 40203

Louisiana State Chamber of Commerce Suite 201, Capitol House Hotel Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821 Maine State Chamber of Commerce 477 Congress Street Portland, Maine 04111

Department of Economic and Community Development Division of Economic Development 2525 Riva Road Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Massachusetts Department of Commerce and Development Leverett Saltonstall Building Government Center 100 Cambridge Street Boston, Massachusetts 02202

Michigan State Chamber of Commerce 501 S. Capitol Avenue Lansing, Michigan 48933

Minnesota Association of Commerce and Industry 480 Cedar Street St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Mississippi Economic Council - The State Chamber of Commerce Standard Life Building P.O. Box 1849 Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Missouri Chamber of Commerce 400 East High P.O. Box 149 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Montana Chamber of Commerce 110 Neill Avenue Helena, Montana 59601

Nebraska Association of Commerce & Industry 424 Terminal Building Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Nevada Chamber of Commerce Association 152 Water Street Henderson, Nevada 89015

Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire P.O. Box 30 540 Chestnut Street Manchester, New Hampshire 03105 New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce 54 Park Place Newark, New Jersey 07102

Association of Commerce and Industry of New Mexico 117 Quincy, N.E. Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

Empire State Chamber of Commerce 150 State Street Albany, New York 12207

North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources Division of Commerce & Industry 116 W. Jones Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

North Dakota State Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 2467 Fargo, North Dakota 58102

Ohio Chamber of Commerce 820 Huntington Bank Building 17 South High Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce American General Building N.W. 6th and Robinson Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

Department of Economic Development 317 S.W. Alder Street Portland, Oregon 97204

Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce 222 North Third Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Rhode Island Development Council Roger Williams Building Hayes Street Providence, Rhode Island 02908

South Carolina Chamber of Commerce 1002 Calhoun Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201 Greater South Dakota Association 222 E. Capitol Street Pierre, South Dakota 57501

State Chamber Division Tennessee Taxpayers Association Capitol Hill Building Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Texas Industrial Commission Sam Houston Building Austin, Texas 78701

Division of Industrial Promotion Arrow Press Square Building 2 Salt Lake City, Utah 84107

Vermont State Chamber of Commerce Greater Vermont Association 7 Langdon Street Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Virginia State Chamber of Commerce 611 E. Franklin Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

Washington State Department of Commerce and Economic Development General Administration Building Olympia, Washington 98501

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Kanawha Valley Building Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Wisconsin State Chamber of Commerce 411 West Main Street P.O. Box 1143 Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Wyoming Travel Commission 2320 Capitol Avenue Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001