

## Congratulations New CGMP Graduates 2007!

SGMP is proud to present another graduating class of the Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) program! The following SGMP members took the CGMP course and exam in Washington, DC, this past July 2007.

- Stephanie Anderson, CGMP, Dept. the Treasury
- Scott Ash, CGMP, DoD, DHRA, CPMS, JLDD
- Cindy Barner, CGMP, B. F. Saul Company
- Jewel Booker, CGMP, Mental Health, Mental Retardation & Substance Abuse State Board
- LaQuinta Bruster, CGMP, Department of Health and Human Services
- Barbara Campbell, CMP, CGMP, University of Tennessee
- Shannon Cross, CGMP, Hilton Garden Inn
- Janet Fadden, CGMP, DoD/DISA
- Roxanne Feaga, CMP, CGMP, Constella Group
- Betty Gilmore, CGMP, Millennium Services 2000+ Inc
- Deborah Henton, CGMP, DoD/DISA
- Anna Holaus, CGMP, US Census Bureau
- Virginia Hoover, CMP, CGMP, BRTRC, Inc
- Philippa Houston, CGMP, DoD/DFAS
- Nancy Huggins, CGMP, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- Veroniqueca James, CGMP, FDIC Training Center
- Tiffany Kilpatrick, CGMP, Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center
- Carletta McKinney, CGMP, Hotel Washington
- Michael Moses, CGMP, GSA
- Verna Robinson, CMP, CGMP, Educational Services Inc.
- Michelle Schilling, CGMP, St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area CVB
- Rugger Smith, CMP, CGMP, BCP International LTD



- Alea Stewart, CMP, CGMP, Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc
- Gerrie Sturman, CGMP, Marriott International
- Gloria Upchurch, CGMP, Lumetra
- Brian Wiegand, CGMP, Westin Tysons Corner

### In this Issue:

Congratulations New CGMP Graduates	1
New SGMP Conference Manager	2
Dates for Upcoming SGMP Conferences	2
CPR Highlight: Erma Abeyta	3
Call for 2008 Topics	3
CPR Highlight: Jim Zukowski	4
Per Diem Rates Effective October 1, 2007	4
Marriott Launches New Government and Military Web Site with Enhanced Offerings and Resources	5
Chapter Presidents	5
National Board	6
Highlighting Your Chapter Presidents	6
Chapter Calendars	7

## Conference Manager Joins SGMP Headquarters Staff



Effective August 1, 2007, Mr. Christopher Middleton joined the SGMP headquarters staff as Conference Manager. Having over 15 years of meeting planning experience and two years of hotels sales experience, Chris brings with him 17 years of meeting in-

dustry knowledge. Chris will be handling all the logistics and attendee registration for the annual conferences; Carrie Elkins will be in charge of SGMP annual conference exhibits. Carrie has been an SGMP headquarters staff member for over five years.

Chris and Carrie are looking forward to working with all of you on the upcoming 2008 SGMP Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas, June 11-14, 2008.

## SAVE THE DATES!

### Upcoming SGMP Annual Education Conferences

**Dallas, Texas, June 11-14, 2008**

**Louisville, Kentucky, May 13-16, 2009**

**Kansas City, Missouri, May 19-22, 2010**

**Norfolk, Virginia, June 8-11, 2011**

*Government Meeting Professional* newsletter is published by the Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP), a national organization of meeting managers and suppliers. Send all suggestions and inquires to: Society of Government Meeting Professionals, 908 King Street, Lower Level, Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 549-0892; fax (703) 549-0708. All members are encouraged to submit articles for publication; send to Lynnette Simpson at [LSimpson@sgmp.org](mailto:LSimpson@sgmp.org).

Copyright © 2007 by the Society of Government Meeting Professionals. All rights reserved. No part hereof may be reproduced in any form without written consent of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals.

## CPR Highlight: Erma Abeyta, President, Arizona Chapter

**1. When did you become a member of your chapter?** I became a member of SGMP in the late 1980s.

**2. Why did you decide to become a member?** I was in a job that required meeting planning skills and I felt that joining the organization would allow me to learn and grow in the field of meeting planning. It would also allow me to network—new to Arizona, this was what I needed.

**3. Why did you decide to become a chapter board member (president)?** Before elections, I was approached by several members asking me to run for president. I didn't consider this immediately; however, closer to elections, I began to see that the chapter could use some new ideas and direction for the growth of the chapter. With the help of the chapter members, I hope to see some growth and changes within the chapter.

### Call for 2008 Topics, Programs, and Speakers!

SGMP is searching for the best suggestions in topics, programs, and speakers for the 2008 Annual Education Conference in Dallas, Texas, June 11-14, 2008. Please provide ideas that will enable SGMP to create another informative and topical educational experience for our members. Go to the [Education Conference Sessions](#) section of our Web site for the 2008 anticipated conference tracks. Send suggestions or offer training or speaking services by sending all information and inquiries to [Charles Sadler, CHSP](#), Deputy Director. The final date for your suggestions is August 25, 2007. We look forward to your ideas!

**4. What changes would you like to see within your chapter?** I would like to see inclusiveness, having all members working well together. I believe that every board member needs to be a working member and that all members need to participate, join committees, and volunteer. I'd also like to see new initiatives such as sponsorships for monthly meetings, meeting planners attending meetings at no cost, a large scholarship program, an excellent educational program with topics that are going to benefit our members, our own recognizable brand, and perhaps providing on-line learning for all. This chapter doesn't belong to me, it belongs to our diverse members who are experts in their fields and are also great professional leaders.

**5. What type of membership growth initiatives are you working on?** We are currently working at increasing membership by 20 percent based on the current membership as of July 1, 2007, and also maintaining 100 percent of our current membership.

**6. What educational programs is your chapter working on?** We are going to model our educational program after the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) exam topics. Our meeting theme for this year: Importance of Certification. We want to educate, promote, and encourage members to obtain their Certified Government Meeting Professional, CMP, Certification in Meeting Management, Certified Hospitality Sales Professional, Certified Hospitality Marketing Executive, or other professional certification they need.

## **CPR Highlight: Jim Zukowski, President, Texas Lone Star Capital Chapter**

**1. When did you become a member of your chapter?** Ten years ago.

**2. Why did you decide to become a member?** I saw the value of SGMP. The educational programs were worthwhile and the networking was great!

**3. Why did you decide to become a chapter board member (president)?** I decided to bring a new direction to the chapter and to market this organization to a larger audience. I wanted to increase membership in the chapter and to create more involvement.

**4. What changes would you like to see within your chapter?** I would like to see the following changes in our chapter:

- New committee members to come up with new ideas for the chapter
- More partnerships with associations with similar interests and memberships
- More community involvement with the Austin industry
- News media awareness of our community involvement
- Diversified sponsorship for our programs and events

**5. What type of membership growth initiatives are you working on?** We are working on new incentives to recruit members; access to other state agencies that have meeting planners; retention efforts on those members who have lapsed.

**6. What educational programs is your chapter working on?** The chapter is working on the following programs:

- August: Chapter retreat to outline 2008 programs
- September: State of the travel industry in Texas
- October: Panel discussion on CVBs and their ability to support planners and suppliers in achieving successful meetings. Also, we will feature planners and their bosses to show our chapter appreciation.
- November: Reverse trade show to highlight planners and the services their agencies provide and the meetings they plan
- December: Recognize our volunteers and award the supplier and planner of the year

### **Per Diem Rates Effective October 1, 2007**

On October 1, 2007, the fiscal year 2008 federal domestic per diem rates will become effective. The rates are posted on [www.gsa.gov/perdiem](http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem) and in the Per Diem Bulletin 08-1 ([www.gsa.gov/ftbulletin](http://www.gsa.gov/ftbulletin)).

One notable change is the increase in the standard continental United States (CONUS) lodging per diem rate to \$70 from \$60. The standard CONUS meals and incidental expense rate will remain the same at \$39 for a total standard CONUS per diem rate of \$109.

## Marriott Launches New Government and Military Web Site with Enhanced Offerings and Resources

On August 14, 2007, Marriott International unveiled its new Web site dedicated to government and military travel in an effort to provide a "one stop shop" booking portal for all types of travel needs. This initiative follows on the heels of Marriott's introduction in March 2007, of its government per diem rate qualification guidelines.

These guidelines provide government and military personnel increased availability and compliance to the GSA per diem rates, making it even easier to do business with Marriott brands across the United States. Check out Marriott's new Web site, [www.marriott.com/gov](http://www.marriott.com/gov).

### SGMP National Chapter Presidents

**Arizona Chapter:** Erma Abeyta  
(480)-517-8134, [erma.abeyta@riomail.maricopa.edu](mailto:erma.abeyta@riomail.maricopa.edu)

**Atlanta Chapter:** Ross J. Avina, III  
(404) 679-1593, [ravina@dca.state.ga.us](mailto:ravina@dca.state.ga.us)

**Buckeye Chapter:** Conni Siegmund, CMP, PMP  
(614) 325-8197, [conni@sgmpohio.org](mailto:conni@sgmpohio.org)

**Central Florida Chapter:** Beth Miller-Tipton  
(352) 392-5930, [bmt@ufl.edu](mailto:bmt@ufl.edu)

**Chicago Chapter:** Vernon R. Spears  
(312) 353-0769, [spears.vernon@dol.gov](mailto:spears.vernon@dol.gov)

**Crossroads of America Chapter:** Nancy Gilbert  
(317) 233-7616, [ngilbert@isdh.state.in.gov](mailto:ngilbert@isdh.state.in.gov)

**Florida Capital Chapter:** Arlene F. Roberts  
(850) 245-9072, [arlene.roberts@fldoe.org](mailto:arlene.roberts@fldoe.org)

**Greater Oregon Chapter:** Lila Duncan, CMP  
(971) 673-0163, [lila.m.duncan@state.or.us](mailto:lila.m.duncan@state.or.us)

**Heart of America Chapter:** Genie Greenberg  
(816) 936-5855, [genie.greenberg@ssa.gov](mailto:genie.greenberg@ssa.gov)

**Heart of Illinois Chapter:** Linda K. Schneider, CMP  
(217) 753-4117, [lschneider@icasa.org](mailto:lschneider@icasa.org)

**Houston Gulf Coast Chapter:** Sanaa H. Taylor (acting president)  
(713) 209-4081, [sanaa.h.taylor@irs.gov](mailto:sanaa.h.taylor@irs.gov)

**Louisiana Chapter:** Libby Noto  
(225) 326-6048, [notol@ag.state.la.us](mailto:notol@ag.state.la.us)

**Michigan Chapter:** Deborah Jensen, CMP  
(517) 482-7533, [deborahjensen@childcrt.org](mailto:deborahjensen@childcrt.org)

**Missouri State Capital Chapter:** Maurine R. Hill  
(573) 522-2633, [maurine.r.hill@dss.mo.gov](mailto:maurine.r.hill@dss.mo.gov)

**National Capital Chapter:** Tecumsch Deloney, CGMP  
(202) 857-2638, [tdeloney@zerotothree.org](mailto:tdeloney@zerotothree.org)

**North Texas Chapter:** Theresa Nelson  
(214) 413-5479, [theresa.j.nelson@irs.gov](mailto:theresa.j.nelson@irs.gov)

**Northern Lights Chapter:** Corrine D. Sullivan  
(651) 201-7241, [Corrine.sullivan@state.mn.us](mailto:Corrine.sullivan@state.mn.us)

**Old Dominion Chapter:** James P. Morgan, CMP, CCM  
(434) 767-2398, [phil.morgan@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:phil.morgan@dcr.virginia.gov)

**Pacific Northwest Chapter:** Lorna L. Linden  
(360) 664-5085, [llinden@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:llinden@dshs.wa.gov)

**Rocky Mountain Chapter:** Kimberly Pease  
(720) 963-3444, [Kimberly.pease@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:Kimberly.pease@fhwa.dot.gov)

**Sacramento Chapter:** Emily Schroeder  
(916) 419-7534, [eyoungsc@aging.ca.gov](mailto:eyoungsc@aging.ca.gov)

**San Diego Chapter:** Karen S. Charest  
(760) 682-0271, [kchares@wested.org](mailto:kchares@wested.org)

**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter:** Tom Hirano  
(510) 637-2068, [tom.hirano@irs.gov](mailto:tom.hirano@irs.gov)

**SGMP North Carolina Chapter:** Monica Glover  
(919) 843-6518, [glover@sog.unc.edu](mailto:glover@sog.unc.edu)

**St. Louis Gateway Chapter:** Jeanette Turnbaugh  
(636) 477-6600 x402, [jturnbaugh@stpetersmo.net](mailto:jturnbaugh@stpetersmo.net)

**Tennessee Chapter:** Beth Smith-Bell  
(615) 532-9128, [beth.smithbell@state.tn.us](mailto:beth.smithbell@state.tn.us)

**Texas Lone Star Capital Chapter:** Jim Zukowski  
(512) 255-3947, [jzukowski@austin.rr.com](mailto:jzukowski@austin.rr.com)

**Wild West Chapter:** Maggie McGowan, CGMP  
(405) 325-7634, [mmcgowan@ou.edu](mailto:mmcgowan@ou.edu)

## SGMP National Board of Directors and Headquarters Staff

**President: Melody Kebe, CMP, CGMP**  
GIG-Combat Support (GSM), Defense Information Systems Agency, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3201; 703-882-1795; melody.kebe@disa.mil

**First Vice President: Rob Coffman, CGMP**  
U.S. Department of Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1132, Washington, DC 20220; 202-622-0210; Robert.Coffman@do.treas.gov

**Second Vice President: Lagina Fitzpatrick, CMP**  
The Resort at Port Arrowhead, P.O. Box 1930, Lake Ozark, MO 65049; 573-365-2334; lfitzpatrick@theresortatportarrowhead.com

**Secretary: Kim Blanding**  
Oregon Judicial Department, Supreme Court Building, 1163 State Street, Salem, OR 97301; 503-986-5512; Kim.L.Blanding@ojd.state.or.us

**Treasurer: Connie Elliott, CMP**  
The Bravo Group, 290 Dabney Lane, Lake City, TN 37769; 865-254-8734; celliott@mindspring.com

**Director: Claudette Ferris CPS/CAP**  
Program Assistant, CO Dept. of Public Health & Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Denver, CO 80246-1530; 303-692-3380; Claudette.Ferris@state.co.us

**Director: Darryl Arancio, CHSP, CGMP**  
Marriott International, 2100 RiverEdge Parkway, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA 30328; 770-270-0422; Darryl.Arancio@marriott.com

**Director: Debra Kilpatrick**  
Office of the Attorney General of VA, 900 E Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219; 804-225-3886; dkilpatrick@oag.state.va.us

**Immediate Past President: Donna Carey, CGMP**  
Business Services Office, Department of General Services, 707 Third Street, Sacramento, CA 95605; 916-376-5336; donna.carey@dgs.ca.gov

**Executive Director: Carl C. Thompson, CGMP**  
SGMP Headquarters, 908 King Street, Lower Level, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-549-0892; carl.c.thompson@sgmp.org

**Deputy Director: Charles S. Sadler, CHSP**  
SGMP Headquarters, 908 King Street, Lower Level, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-549-0892; charles.sadler@sgmp.org

**Conference Manager: Christopher Middleton**  
SGMP Headquarters, 908 King Street, Lower Level, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-549-0892; conference@sgmp.org

**Membership Services Office: Carolyn Bentsel**  
6 Clouser Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055; 800-827-8916; membership@sgmp.org

**SGMP Headquarters: Carrie Elkins**  
908 King Street, Lower Level, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-549-0892; fax: 703-549-0708; carrie@sgmp.org

### Highlighting Your Chapter Presidents

Would you like to get to know the other chapter presidents within SGMP? Stayed tuned for the next newsletter! In each issue, we will feature an SGMP president or two.

Find out how long they have been a member, what activities they are spearheading for their chapter, why they wanted to be chapter president, and more.

## 2007 SGMP Chapter Calendars

### Arizona Chapter

Sep. 19: 20th Anniversary Celebration, Sheraton  
Oct. 17: Different Certifications Sample Test, Flinn Foundation

### Atlanta Chapter

Sep. 12: Room Attrition, Holiday Inn  
Oct. 17: Business Etiquette, Springhill Suites

### Buckeye Chapter

Sep. 17: Great Audio Visual, Holiday Inn Washington  
Oct. 15: Dealing with Change, The Columbus

### Central Florida Chapter

Sep. 20-23: SGMP Southeast Regional Education Conference, Sheraton Myrtle Beach  
Oct. 18: Fright Night! Meeting Planning Horror Stories, University of Florida President's House

### Crossroads of America Chapter

Sep. 25: TBD, TBD  
Oct. 23: On a Jet Plane: Boss' Month, Sheraton Indianapolis

### Florida Capital Chapter

Sep. 18: Emotional Intelligence: A Key to Planning a Successful Meeting, Hilton  
Oct. 16: Cooperating with Green Lodging Facilities, Holiday Inn

### Greater Oregon Chapter

Oct. 4: 180 Ways to Transform Your Meetings, Monarch Hotel

### Heart of America Chapter

Sep. 19: What's New in Kansas City, Cordish Companies  
Oct. 17: Boss' Day Luncheon & Awards, Embassy Suites KCI

### Louisiana Chapter

Sep. 13: Technology, Metairie/Kenner  
Oct. 11: Follow the Law, Sheraton

### Michigan Chapter

Sep. 19: Legal Issues in Meeting Planning, Lansing Radisson  
Oct. 17: TBD, TBD

### Missouri State Capital Chapter

Oct. 11: True Colors, Fraternal Order of the Eagles

### Minnesota Northern Lights Chapter

Sep. 20: 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary, Rochester CVB  
Oct. 18: TBD, Crowne Plaza

### National Capital Chapter

Sep. 19: Program Year Kick-Off, Hotel Washington  
Oct. 17: TBD, Crowne Plaza

### North Carolina Chapter

Sep. 12: Benefits of Being an SGMP Member, Sheraton  
Oct. 10: Tips for Planning Accessible Meetings, Millennium Hotel

### Rocky Mountain Chapter

Sep. 25: You are the Weakest Link, Goodbye, Cherry Creek Hotel  
Oct. 6-8: Fall Educational Conference, Evergreen Lodge

### Sacramento Chapter

Oct. 4: Security and Safety, Red Lion Hotel

### San Diego Chapter

Sep. 12: Career Management Tips, El Cordovo Hotel  
Oct. 10: SGMP, A National Update, San Diego Airport Hilton

### San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Sep. 21: Silent Auction, Cathedral Hill Hotel  
Oct. 18: How to be Ergonomically Correct – On Site Back Aches, The Pickwick Hotel

### St. Louis Gateway Chapter

Sep. 26: TBD, TBD  
Oct. 24: TBD, TBD

### Tennessee Chapter

Sep. 18: SGMP & CGMP Presentation, Huntsville CVB & Von Braun Center  
Sep. 20-23: SGMP Southeast Regional Education Conference, Sheraton Myrtle Beach  
Oct. 16: Silent Auction, Dave & Buster's

### Texas Lone Star Capital Chapter

Sep. 13: State of the Travel Industry, Embassy Suites  
Oct. 11: CVBs and their Services, Hilton Austin Airport

### Wild West Chapter

Sep. 13: One Minute Manager Meets the Monkey, Hilton  
Oct. 11: Horror Stories of Crisis Management, Stillwater CVB