



GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONAL

SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT MEETING
PROFESSIONALS

The Official Newsletter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals
Volume 20, Issue 4 www.sgmp.org November/December 2001



Happy Holidays



Holiday Greetings from the National Board.

Inside this issue

- President's Message: Government Meetings... We Mean Business, *page 2*
- Looking to Norfolk and the National Conference, *page 2*
- Who Wants to be a Winner of the Newsletter of the Year Competition?, *page 3*
- SGMP Program of the Year Competition, *page 3*
- We Want to See You in Pictures, *page 4*
- SGMP's Annual Education Conference 2002 Highlights, *page 4*
- Chapter Presidents Roundtable: Comments from the CPR Chair, *page 5*
- An Editor's Note from Carl C. Thompson, Executive Director, SGMP, *page 5*
- Crossroads Community Service Project: Caring to Give our Very Best, *page 6*
- Arizona Chapter Shines with Community Service Projects, *page 6*

Education Foundation: When can I take the CMP examination?

By Stacy Janecka, CMP

Members who are interested in CMP certification can plan for the upcoming examinations offered by the Education Foundation. The next exam date is January 19, 2002, and will be offered in the following cities:

- ✓ Atlanta
- ✓ Chicago
- ✓ Dallas
- ✓ Denver
- ✓ Honolulu (at MPI Professional Education Congress)
- ✓ New York
- ✓ Orange County, CA
- ✓ Orlando
- ✓ San Diego
- ✓ San Francisco
- ✓ Seattle
- ✓ Washington, D.C.

If you plan to take the exam July 20, 2002, please note the following important deadlines that must be met:

- Submit Application with fee by March 11, 2002.
- Submit Exam Registration with fee by May 13, 2002.

Please contact Stacy Janecka with any questions by phone, 512-475-4680 or by e-mail, srj2@oag.state.tx.us.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Government Meetings... We Mean Business

By Cheryl Thompson, CMP

This past weekend I took part in very productive meetings of the SGMP Chapter Presidents Roundtable; 2nd Vice-Presidents Roundtable; Education Foundation; and National Board. The gathering, originally September 21 – 22, was rescheduled following the events of September 11. Over 98 percent of those who had planned to attend were present for the meetings. For many, it was their first travel experience since the terrorist attacks. Representatives from chapters across the country showed support of our meetings industry by arranging to leave family and business commitments and travel to Norfolk in order to conduct SGMP business.

During the two-day meeting, attendees were encouraged to add a personal message to a banner that read **“Government Meetings... We Mean Business.”** The banner will be delivered to the White House in support of President Bush’s message encouraging the country to resume business activities. The comments added to the banner expressed great support for President Bush as he leads our country in this time of crisis.

As you know, Norfolk is the site of our 2002 Annual Education Conference. While experiencing the sights and sounds of the city, the Honorable Paul Fraim, mayor of Norfolk, and Anthony DiFillip, president and CEO of the Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau joined the group. Again, our members can be confident of a venue that is conducive to both learning and networking. You will find additional information about the 2002 SGMP Education Conference in the *Government Meetings Advantage Magazine*.

This morning I was pleasantly surprised to receive a note from one of our members, Pam Stanley, who worked in World Trade Center Building Five. I had dropped her a note after the attack, inquiring as to her health and expressing concerns for her and her co-workers. While the terrorist attacks forever changed each of our lives, some members were more directly affected. It is good to know that Pam and her co-workers at the Council of State Governments were able to get to safety without any injuries.

As each of us face the impact of terrorism on American soil both personally and professionally, let me remind you of what the President told us on the evening of September 11: “A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.” I have seen how our SGMP members are working to show the steel of American resolve, and I applaud each member as we prove that **united we stand**.

Looking to Norfolk and the National Conference

By Patti J. Spain

While in Norfolk to attend the Chapter Presidents Roundtable meeting, we took a tour of the facilities where the conference will be in May. The following is a sneak preview of the Wednesday night opening reception at the Nauticus.

Home to the Battleship Wisconsin, Nauticus is an exciting 120,000 square-foot science and tech-

nology center (the National Maritime Center) located on the downtown waterfront. Touring Nauticus, you will find many interactive exhibits that will bring out the kid in all of us. Did you ever want to pet a two to three foot shark? If that is a little too adventurous, another tank has the more timid horseshoe crabs, sea urchins, and starfish, all inhabitants

continued on page 3

Government Meeting Professional is published six times a year by the Society of Government Meeting Professionals, a national organization of meeting managers and suppliers. Send all suggestions and inquiries 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. Articles submissions should be sent to Lynnette Simpson at LynnetteLy@aol.com.

All rights reserved. No part hereof may be reproduced in any form without written consent of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals. Copyright 2001 by Society of Government Meeting Professionals.

continued from page 2

of the Chesapeake Bay. The weather deck gives the curious a chance to touch a tornado and pretend to be a local meteorologist. These and many other exhibits will keep you busy for hours. Of course, there will be plenty of food stations and refreshment stops throughout the center.

Berthed adjacent to Nauticus, the Battleship Wisconsin is one of the largest and last battleships ever built by the US Navy. This enormous ship earned five battle stars during World War II. It remains an asset of the US Navy and its daily

operations are managed by the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, located within Nauticus. Since it is still under commission by the Navy (with the chance that it may be needed to assist with current anti-terrorism efforts), we will only have an opportunity to explore the battleship for one hour; no food or drinks are allowed.

Bring your cameras!

The Nauticus is an experience you do not want to miss. For more information, visit www.nauticus.org.

Who Wants to be a Winner of the Newsletter of the Year Competition?

By Kit Gonzales

If your chapter wants to be the winner of \$300, or \$200, or \$100, then do not miss the January 31, 2002 deadline for entering the SGMP Newsletter of the Year Competition. Winners will be announced at the Educational Conference in Norfolk, Virginia.

The awesome committee for 2002 has been formed! Anxious to read and score the entries are volunteers Susan Lennick from the Arizona Chapter, Keri Spencer from the Texas Lone Star Chapter, Kay Bothrell from the Rocky Mountain Chapter, Natalie Apel from the Florida Capitol, Jane Wren from the Old Dominion Chapter, and Ann Litt from the Pacific Northwest Chapter. We challenge **all** chapters to enter this competition. You have nothing to lose, and plenty to gain by taking our

challenge! In addition to this written reminder, committee members will be contacting each chapter personally to encourage participation in this fun event.

SGMP newsletters should provide good, consistent communication to keep our members in tune with the growth and current events of their chapters and the national organization. Take this opportunity to show off the quality of information your chapter shares with its members, and earn recognition for your hardworking newsletter staff.

Entries, postmarked no later than January 31, 2002, should be mailed to: Kit Gonzales; State Mining and Geology Board; 801 K Street, MS 24-05; Sacramento, CA 95814.

SGMP Program of the Year Competition: Enter Your Chapter Today

By Carolyn Barrett

Has your chapter sat during the awards program at the SGMP National Convention and wished it was your president going up to accept an award?

Imagine hearing your chapter's name announced as the "best of the best" in SGMP programs.

The first step is to decide which program your chapter presented this year that was educational, exciting, and would benefit the rest of the SGMP. Was there a particular meeting that left you talking for days afterward? Then get to work and send in your submission by January 31, 2002.

Entries must be postmarked by this date – January 31st – to be eligible for the competition, no exceptions! Please mail your entry to Carolyn Bar-

rett, Holiday Inn Westport, 1973 Craigshire St. Louis, MO 63146. I look forward to seeing you in the spotlight on the award stage!

Attention All Chapter Presidents!

We will need information regarding the history of your chapter. Start getting it together! This information will be featured in our commemorative publication. Thank you in advance for your timely effort.

SGMP's Annual Education Conference 2002 Highlights

Who should attend?

- Meeting managers and meeting professionals in government, all facets and experience levels!
- Hoteliers, car rental companies, airlines, convention bureaus, anyone who provides services and supplies to the government meeting industry should plan to be there.

What goes on?

- Three full days of educational opportunities.
- Personal development, customer service, contracts, meeting management – over 30 workshops covering topics important to us in our professional and personal lives.

When?

- May 15 – 18, 2002.
- The conference will conclude with a marvelous event on Saturday, May 18th; so schedule your departure for Sunday.

Where?

- Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel, 235 E. Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510
- Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510
- Room Rates: Planner \$99 plus tax; Supplier \$129 plus tax

Why?

- SGMP is committed to its members, their education, their networking, their personal and professional growth, and your organization!

Conference Fees, Early/Regular Registration Cost

- Government Planner Member: \$285/\$335
- Government Planner Non-Member: \$360/410
- Contract Planner Member: \$525/\$575
- Supplier Member Non-Exhibiting: \$575/\$625
- Supplier Non-Member: \$1,050/\$1,050
- Guest: \$315/\$365
- Banquet: \$75/\$75

As with all SGMP events, we feel that our suppliers are our partners in the success of every event and our organization. With the tragic events in September and the nick in our economy, our Board decided to assist our partners while we can. All returning exhibitors will receive a \$100 discount on their exhibit fees. There is an additional line for our returning partners. We want to show our appreciation for your past support and make it possible for everyone to enjoy SGMP's 2002 Conference: At the Helm of Education to be held in Norfolk, VA.

We want to see you in pictures!

SGMP members who have quality photos of the past 20 years of our association, we need your help!

There will be a commemorative publication handed out at the Annual Conference as a keepsake for all of our members and we want to include a pictorial history of SGMP.

Please send in your photo contribution with your name and address labeled on the back of each picture (so we can return your treasures) to: SGMP; 908 King Street, Lower Level; Alexandria, VA 22314. Please don't hesitate; send your photos today!

Chapter Presidents Roundtable: Comments from the CPR Chair

By Melody Kebe, CMP, Defense Information Systems Agency

My observation during the November CPR meeting was that the presidents wanted to leave feeling that they had accomplished something. They said what was on their minds, discussed common interests, and recommended solutions to ongoing concerns that affect all of the chapters. The fact that everyone participated in the two-day session proved to me that they were focused. I felt like we had accomplished quite a bit. We were there to listen and be heard. It was a healthy meeting for everyone

The CPR is the only forum that allows the presidents to meet face-to-face and have open and candid discussions. As leaders, we have an enormous task to lead and manage a multitude of different personalities and ideals. Certainly, we have a wide-variety of talented members within this organization who have yet to be tapped. Regardless of the size of the chapter, we all face the same challenges. We need to continue sharing our best practices with one another on what works and what doesn't work. I must commend my fellow presidents for their strength and tenacity for taking on such a huge task.

The National Board asked if we (CPR) could take on several goals for the coming year and the CPR agreed without hesitation. A closer working relationship with the National Board can only help us to have "one SGMP voice" for the good of the SGMP. The goals were divided among all of the presidents.

George Smith, president of the Atlanta Chapter says it this way, "By sharing the load and working together as teams, we involve more people, provide great learning experiences for our members, and prevent burnout...humility practically guarantees our success...without caring who gets the credit, we

will usually find better solutions, develop better programs, and be happier with our contribution." In other words, we're all in this together.

One of the most valuable resource tools that we have is the *Chapter Presidents Handbook*. The handbook is used as a guideline of policies and procedures to ensure we are operating on one accord across SGMP.

Another resource tool is communication. Keeping information to oneself is of no use to anyone if it cannot be shared. I am aware of the slogan "it's who you know not what you know." I believe, however, that we really don't know anything until we have communicated our ideas and talents with another who can grow and make improvements on the lessons learned.

Additionally, as leaders we must continue to educate ourselves to meet the dynamic and ever-growing challenges we face now and will face in the future. We need to stay abreast of the difference in leading versus managing. The CPR could benefit from various courses geared toward leadership training. I believe the format of the CPR must slightly change to include an awareness of one's strengths, weaknesses, and preferences. This could be one via the Myers Briggs Type-Indicator Test; the results would be interesting both on a personal and professional level.

The CPR and the National Board must come together to decide what is important and what is urgent in order to keep the organization in line with other meeting associations. The future of the CPR can only get better. Collectively, we can be recognized and widely known as the leading organization that does work together for managing and executing quality government meetings.



Attendees in Norfolk with banner that will be delivered to the White House.

An Editor's Note from Carl C. Thompson, Executive Director, SGMP

It seems hard to believe that we were all in a horrifying state of affairs less than three months ago. We all had some turbulent times to deal with, and

some of us are still trying to put things back together. The outpouring of support from our fellow SGMP'ers has been overwhelming. Concern, well

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

wishes, and prayers have brought everyone even closer.

As I have always stated, "SGMP is a family," and I am proud to say I am part of that family.

Our supplier family members have suffered the most economically during these past months. SGMP has rallied to the forefront in support. Our national SGMP president, Cheryl Thompson, CMP, immediately conveyed a written message to President Bush stating that we support what he is doing, and that SGMP agrees that we should "get back to the business of doing business." In early November, the National Board, the Chapter President's Roundtable, 2nd Vice Presidents Roundtable, and the Rance Willis Educational Foundation met in Norfolk, Virginia, to prove our commitment to meetings, and each attendee signed a banner that will be hand delivered to the White House with a message stating, "Government Meetings . . . We Mean Business!"

Last week I was asked by the Convention Industry Council (CIC) to make a statement as to how the government sector is dealing with the tragedy of

September 11, 2001. My statement read, "The good news of our industry's current status is that government meetings are important, stable and a steady booking source. Add to that the emergence of a critical need for government planning and training services, the yield is even more business from the government sector. The industry must look to the government market as the pillar in holding up the injured hospitality industry. The Society of Government Meeting Professionals has heeded the directive of President Bush: 'Let's get back to business...' Some government meetings scheduled for September and October were postponed, however, we are proud to report that most have been rescheduled for the calendar year 2002. SGMP has encouraged government agencies to book for the coming calendar year. The government market intends to be a major catalyst for re-establishing a strong industry."

Will we ever see the world as it once was? I doubt it! Will we make the best of what has been handed to us? You bet! We hit a bump in the road, not a pothole that cannot be repaired. I wish my SGMP family the happiest of holidays and a wonderful, prosperous New Year!

Crossroads Community Service Project: Caring to Give our Very Best

By Teresa Campbell

Caring to Give our Very Best is a community service project sponsored by the SGMP Crossroads Indiana Chapter. This project will provide a wonderful Christmas to a needy family.

This year the Board will sponsor the Hughes Family. This is a family of seven: Deneika, Tanisha, Michael, Christopher, Kevin, James, and Ms. Linda Hughes. The family has very little income. Our chapter would like to subsidize the local charitable organizations that are trying to help families such as the Hughes. Since the September 11 trag-

edy, money has been allocated to the relief effort, which has hurt the financial status of some charities that assist people year round.

The Hughes family needs our support. On December 11, at our SGMP luncheon sponsored at the Westin Hotel, members will be assisting with monetary gifts and canned goods to help in the effort. The title of this project says it all, we are proud of our members who care enough to give of themselves.

'Tis the season.

Arizona Chapter Shines with Community Service Projects

By Holly Ethier

The Arizona Chapter has established year-long community service projects designed to benefit those in our area. In September and October, we collected teenage clothing and suitcases. Our September meeting was one week after the tragic

attacks and we sent out an emergency call for blankets to help the relief efforts in New York. Everyone was very generous! In December, we will be collecting toys for Christmas donations; in January and February, blankets and adult clothing for the

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

homeless; and in March and April, children's furniture, clothing, and bedding.

Each month in our chapter newsletter we list 10 new ways to volunteer and help those in need, including mentoring, clerical work, cleaning parks, helping out in food banks, assisting with fund raisers and charitable events, and generally having fun. Families and friends are also included in these invitations.

One hour of work by one volunteer saves an organization \$15.39. Our goal this year is to try for one hour per member per year to volunteer for some organization in any capacity. We know after doing it once, everyone will certainly want to continue. It is a great feeling to help someone in need whether with time or donations; our chapter is proud to do our part.

CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS CALENDAR

Arizona Chapter

- December 19, 2001: Holiday Luncheon, Mesa Hilton
- January 16, 2002: Preparing Meeting Specifications, Days Inn

Atlanta Chapter

- December 14, 2001: Silent Auction & Banquet, Hilton
- January 16, 2002: Cheryl Thompson, CMP, Renaissance Concourse

Buckeye Chapter

- January 28, 2002: Financial Planning, Concourse Hotel

Dallas Chapter

- December 14, 2001: Holiday Silent Auction, Holiday Inn Love Field

Florida Capital Chapter

- December 11, 2001: Holiday Social & Community Service Project, Adam's Mark
- December 9, 2001: Holiday Party and Silent Auction, Sheraton West

Minnesota Northern Lights Chapter

- December 11, 2001: Holiday Celebration, Hyatt Regency

NATCAP Chapter

- December 11, 2001: Holiday Celebration, Hyatt Regency
- January 29, 2002: Winter Meeting & Tradeshow, Marriott Wardman Park

Old Dominion Chapter

- December 5, 2001: Holiday Party & Silent Auction, Sheraton West

Pacific Northwest Chapter

- December 7, 2001: Holiday Party & Silent Auction, Crowne Plaza Seattle

Rocky Mountain Chapter

- December 11, 2001: Judge Julian—A case if Cancellation, Marriott Denver West
- January 22, 2002: Hilton Denver Tech Center

Sacramento Chapter

- December 5, 2001: Marriott Community Support & Holiday Meeting
- January 3, 2002: RFPs, Sacramento Hilton

St. Louis Gateway Chapter

- December 19, 2001: Holiday Cheer and Community Service Committee Speaker, Crown Plaza

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

- December 13, 2001: Time is NOT Money, Federal Building
- January 17, 2002: Topic and Location TBA

Texas Lone Star Capital Chapter

- December 6, 2001: Awards, Holiday Party, Volunteer Appreciation, Doubletree Hotel
- January 10, 2002: Chapter Meeting, Red Lion Hotel

Chapter Presidents

Arizona
Judy Winder, CMP
 602-543-7706

Atlanta
George F. Smith
 770-928-9286

Buckeye
Jackie McNeary
 614-466-5332

Central Florida (Gainesville)
Elmer "Ole" Nelson, CMP
 352-392-1701 x244

Chicago
Jan Stinson
 312-353-6790

Rocky Mountain (Colorado)
Claudette Ferris, CPS
 303-692-3380

**Crossroads of America
(Indiana)**
Teresa Campbell
 317-232-5517

Dallas
Loretta M. Terry
 214-767-4578

Florida Capital
Patti J. Spain
 850-245-4455

Great Lakes State
Sue Micensky
 906-475-4248

Greater Los Angeles
Nedra Cooper
 562-940-2813

Greater Oregon
Nancy Ahlbin
 503-378-2497

**Heart of America
(Kansas City)**
Velerie Eddleman, CMP
 816-926-7449

Heart of Illinois
Tammy Miner
 217-524-2663

Missouri State Capitol
Terry R. Boldt, CMP
 573-751-9064

National Capital
Melody Kebe, CMP
 703-681-1255

Northern Lights
Timothy S. Perry
 651-215-3849

Old Dominion
Gloria Colvin
 804-786-8225

**Pacific
Northwest**
Trish McFadden, CMP
 360-586-2348

Sacramento
Wendi Williamson
 916-323-8768

**St. Louis
Gateway**
Gayle French
 314-263-4122

San Diego
David Aguirre
 619-556-8035

**San Francisco
Bay Area**
Delia Peng
 415-522-2841

**SGMP
North Carolina**
Bridgette Harris
 919-733-3484

Tennessee
Norma Cardwell
 615-574-5979

**Texas Lone
Star Capital**
Heather Hidalgo
 512-347-9927

Education Foundation

- **Chair:** Johnna Meyer, CMP (Phone: 916-322-0788)
- **Vice Chair, Fund Raising:** Robin Wilson, CMP (Phone: 650-329-4403)
- **Vice Chair, CMP Certification & Professional Development:** Pamala Corona, CMP (Phone: 916-654-7940)
- **Vice Chair, Leadership Development/Chapter Assistance:** Karla Starkweather (Phone: 512-206-4742)

Announcing Future Annual Conferences:

- May 15 – 19, 2002: Norfolk, Virginia
 May 21 – 25, 2003: Orlando, Florida
 May 26 – 30, 2004: Nashville, Tennessee

SGMP National Board**President: Cheryl Thompson, CMP**

U.S. Postal Service, Retail Workforce Strategies, 1735 N. Lynn Street, Suite 5032 Arlington, VA 22209-6056; 703-292-4105; *CThomps4@email.usps.gov*

First Vice President: Donna E. Carey

General Services Administration, Office of Fleet Administration, 802 Q Street Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-327-2068; *donna.carey@dgs.ca.gov*

Second Vice President: Charles Sadler, CHSP

Holiday Inn Central/Richmond, 3207 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23230-4225; 804-359-9441; *charlessadler@aol.com*

Secretary: Roger Schlatter

IL Depart. of Public Health, Health Regulations, 525 West Jefferson, Springfield, IL 62761; 217-785-5550; *rschlatt@idph.state.il.us*

Treasurer: Kristi Griffith

Performance Hospitality Management 10221, Brantley Bend; Austin, TX 78748; 512-292-6155; *kgriffith@wyndham.com*

Director: Ruth Harris, CMP, CTAS

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway, NE; Mail Stop K36; Atlanta, GA 30341-3724; 770-488-2522; *reh6@cdc.gov*

Director: Stacy Janecka, CMP

Office of Attorney General of Texas, P.O. Box 12548, Austin, TX 78711-2548; 512-475-4600; *srj2@oag.state.tx.us*

Director: Perry Tarleton

Renaissance Concourse Hotel/Atlanta Airport, One Hartsfield Centre Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30354; 404-305-2374; *www.ptarleton_1999@yahoo.com*

Immediate Past President: Lynette Schick, CMP

Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Envir., 4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South, Denver, CO 80246-1530; 303-692-2101; *Lynette.Schick@state.co.us*

Executive Director: Carl C. Thompson

SGMP Headquarters, 908 King Street, Lower Level, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-549-0892; *sgmpinfo@worldnet.att.net*