



GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONAL

SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT MEETING
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CONGRATULATIONS to the SGMP 2002 Award Winners!

This year at the National Education Conference in Norfolk, Virginia, SGMP was proud to recognize some of our finest members. Congratulations to the following award winners whose involvement and dedication have helped to further our organization.

Sam Gilmer Awards

- ✓ Harriet Edmunds, Planner (Old Dominion Chapter)
- ✓ Charles Sadler, CHSP, Supplier (Old Dominion Chapter)

National President's Award

- ✓ Melody Kebé, CMP (NATCAP Chapter)

Outstanding Service Award

- ✓ Carolyn Bentsel, Membership Manager (SGMP Headquarters)

Newsletter of the Year

- ✓ 1st Place: NATCAP Chapter
- ✓ 2nd Place: Atlanta Chapter
- ✓ 3rd Place: Texas Lone Star Chapter
- ✓ Honorable Article Mentions: Old Dominion; Atlanta; Great Lakes

Program of the Year

- ✓ 1st Place: Old Dominion Chapter
- ✓ 2nd Place: Rocky Mountain Chapter
- ✓ 3rd Place: Northern Lights Chapter

Membership Awards

- ✓ Great Lakes State Chapter
- ✓ NATCAP Chapter
- ✓ Buckeye Chapter

Look for upcoming details about the award winners in the Fall Issue of *Government Meetings Advantage*.

A Message from the President: The Leader in All of Us

By Donna Carey

These past few weeks, I have read books on the topic of leadership, specifically the characteristics required to become a great leader. This came about from an incredible invitation that I received to represent SGMP on an executive panel for *Lessons in Leadership*. This is a worldwide teleconference on *Values-Based Leadership: Restoring Character and Confidence in the Workplace* that will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio on November 12, 2002. This conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. William J. Bennett, former Secretary of Education; Dr. Thom Morris; Dr. John Izzo; and Dr. Ron Archer. Dr. Ray Reily and Ms. Lynn Brewer will join me on the executive panel. Please visit our Web site for further information (www.sgmp.org). This is a very special honor!

In my research, I discovered that leadership is how you communicate with others. Surprisingly, most leaders are not the “A” student or the most popular individual, but in fact, they are actually the “C” student who was inspired by someone in their lives that gave them the confidence to step up and start leading. There are so many definitions of leadership; however, generally to be a leader, one must have charisma, make good decisions, and inspire others to reach a common goal.

Many leaders live and express themselves in a positive environment, where they have positive thoughts and a positive attitude. They are the ones who believe in everyone’s abilities. They are inspirational and most often you will find that they thrive on challenges. Leaders have a vision; they enjoy sharing their vision with others because that is how they build their confidence. Do they always have confidence? Not necessarily; however, because they *are* positive, they talk themselves into that confidence. Negativity is not a word in their vocabulary.

As I think about our vast organization, I can recall all of those before me who were leaders – brought those qualities of leadership, initiative, and creativity that certainly inspired me. Every member possesses some form of leadership. Some may not think they have what it takes to becoming a leader; perhaps, they just have not met that person who will bring out their qualities and confidence. I would surmise that they have. Could they be waiting for an opportunity? Could that be you?

SGMP Makes an Impression on First Time Attendee

By Barbara Guest, Rocky Mountain Chapter

As a *first-timer* at the National SGMP Educational Conference, I want to say, “I can’t wait to attend the next one!” What a wonderful experience, for me, as a meeting planner!

While at the trade show, I was able to gain some new supplier contacts in the DC and Phoenix areas. I was able to meet face-to-face with a sales person I had been dealing with over the phone. The trade-show was a great networking opportunity.

The city of Norfolk and many of the neighboring hotels, CVBs, and other venues put out a wonderful welcome mat for all of the attendees. The Sheraton

Waterside Hotel had a beautiful Wednesday afternoon and evening reception for its guests. The Marriott Hotel and Conference Center was a magnificent place for our workshops and meals. The educational sessions were very interesting and replete with applicable information.

What about the fun evenings we had?! Wednesday, we visited Nauticus and strolled on the main deck of the USS Wisconsin. After wandering through the nautical center and enjoying all of that good food and drink, we rocked to a one-hour concert by none other than the *original* Village People

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(who taught us the correct way to spell Y-M-C-A). Thursday night was spent at Duck Inn on Virginia Beach. Looking across the Chesapeake Bay, you could see the Bay Bridge and watch a beautiful sunset. Of course, there was more food, drink, and a live band for dancing. Friday night was the big banquet and yearly awards. Everyone was dressed to the nines and, after the banquet, there was dancing for all. Saturday night some of the attendees went to Busch Gardens. Others of us decided to hang

back at the Marriott and watch our beloved Avalanche hockey team (unfortunately they were beaten). I have to admit that it was back to yogurt for lunches the next week after all of the fabulous food we had ingested in Norfolk.

Being a member of SGMP has given me the opportunity to meet many wonderful new people, planners, and suppliers, and to learn many new things through our great speakers. See you in Orlando!

Successful Survivor Program at Crossroads of America Chapter

By Mary Lou Eckstrand, CMP

You are a government planner and you have a signed contract for a meeting to be held next week. The contract calls for 40 overnight rooms. Your boss informs you that the meeting has been downsized to eight overnight rooms. What do you tell the hotel?

This is a sample scenario presented by Charles Sadler, CHSP, during the *Survivor* program.

On Tuesday, June 26, 2002, Mr. Sadler, second vice president on the National SGMP Board, installed the 2002-2004 Crossroads of America Chapter Board members at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. Then, he got down to the business of hosting the *Survivor* program.

Tables segregated the planners and the suppliers. Each table chose an island name and the competition was underway.

Mr. Sadler challenged the suppliers first. A scenario was given and then each supplier island presented their strategy for resolving the problem.

Then it was time to vote off the weakest island of suppliers. Next, the planners received their scenario and decided how to solve the situation. Again, ballots were counted and the weakest planner island was voted off.

This program provided each member an opportunity to be a part of the solution. When the program was over, many members continued their discussions on possible remedies for the scenarios.

This is one of the most dynamic programs available. The Crossroads of America Chapter requested a grant from SGMP's Rance R. Willis Educational Foundation to cover Mr. Sadler's travel expenses. If your chapter has not taken advantage of the Educational Foundation, you are missing a great opportunity to bring in phenomenal speakers. If you have not utilized the *Survivor* program, you are also missing a great interactive program guaranteed to educate your membership.

Atlanta Chapter Success: Huntsville Membership Drive – How SGMP Can Benefit You!

This program was developed and executed by the Atlanta Chapter to acquaint prospective members from the Huntsville, Alabama area with the benefits of membership in SGMP. Connie Elliott, Anderson County Tourism Council and past SGMP national treasurer, was the keynote speaker, giving an inspirational speech on the benefits of SGMP and how the society can benefit one's personal and professional growth. Other speakers included Marie Arighi, Von Braun Center; Jo Seay, Hilton Huntsville; and Sharon Snell, Huntsville/Madison County

CVB. All speakers provided the impetus, the energy, and the strength of the project.

On the first day, the *Spirit of Huntsville* transported the Atlanta membership to Huntsville and provided boxed lunches. Earlyworks Museum, a hands-on museum highlighting Alabama's early history, hosted a welcome reception sponsored by nine Huntsville area hotels and meeting facilities.

Day two began with breakfast at the Hilton Huntsville and continued with an extensive tour of

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Editor's Note: Reflecting on a Year of Change

By Carl C. Thompson, Executive Director

One year has passed, and I don't want to use the word anniversary, but instead remembrance of the tragic occurrence of September 11, 2001. To me, the word anniversary brings thoughts of celebration, and that is far from the truth in this case. We all need to remember our fellow Americans who lost their lives during the cowardly acts of terrorists; to pay homage to the brave fire fighter and policeman who untiringly stuck with the desperate search for survivors; and to thank god that you are an American, living in a country that is free.

In one year, SGMP has had, as all professional associations do, some changes and growing pains. The national president of SGMP, Ms. Cheryl Thompson, CMP, retired from the federal government, and stepped down from her position on the Board. Ms. Donna Carey, who, during her term on the National Board as first vice president, stepped up to the plate and accepted the open position as national president. These changes all took place during the 20th Annual Conference of SGMP, which was held in Norfolk, Virginia. Ms. Ruth Harris, CMP, was moved from the National Board position of director to the vacant position of first vice president, and Ms. Linda Rogers was appointed by the Board to fill the position of national director. It may be a little hard to follow, but it all fits beautifully. All of the people are highly qualified, and have made commitments to work in the best interest of all SGMP members.

As we enter into the fall and winter months, let us keep in mind how lucky we are to be Americans and how much we all love SGMP. Commitment, respect, professionalism, and volunteerism are what make SGMP the success story we all love to share when someone asks, "What is SGMP?"

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the city's major attractions, such as the Huntsville Museum of Art, Botanical Garden, Alabama State University's Black Archives, Constitution Village, and Harrison Brothers Museum. A tour and lunch at the Holiday Inn Research Park were provided in the afternoon.

The Atlanta Chapter meeting at the Von Braun Center commenced the evening activities, and awards were presented to the Huntsville sponsors. The Exhibit Hall was the scene for the grand reception and trade show, which consisted of 26 supplier members from the State of Alabama.

Sunday's breakfast was held at the Huntsville Marriott, followed by a tour of the US Space and Rocket Center adjacent to the hotel. The *Spirit of Huntsville* then whisked our members back to Atlanta, with lunch provided.

Results included five new planner members from Huntsville, Alabama. Also, planners from Atlanta had an opportunity to see what Huntsville and the area suppliers could offer for future meetings.

Congratulations to the Atlanta Chapter for their success. Check out their Web site: www.sgmpatl.org.

General Services Administration Reports on Per Diem Rate Changes

In May, the General Service Administration's Travel Management Policy Division issued advice concerning the Fiscal Year 2003 per diem issues. They reported that the Fiscal Year 2002 per diem lodging rates for designated markets within the Continental United States, excluding Federal Preferred Lodging Program (FPLP) destinations, will remain the same through Fiscal Year 2003. The FPLP destinations per

diem lodging rate will change as contracts are awarded.

The GSA will review the Standard CONUS per diem rate of \$85 (\$55 for maximum lodging and \$35 for M&IE), and per diem lodging rates for specific destinations that the Federal community requests need review. If a rate change is warranted, it will be reflected in the Federal Register and on the

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GSA Web page in early September 2002, with an effective date of October 1, 2002.

For additional information and a current listing of FPLP destinations, check these Internet addresses:

- Domestic per diem rates—www.gsa.gov/perdiem; and
- Federal Premier Lodging Program—www.gsa.gov/fplp.

See the chart to the right for a listing of updated rates.

The new Federal Premier Lodging Program contract awarded hotel properties in each of these locations. To view this list you can go to www.gsa.gov/fplp. The list will also be on NAT-CAP's Web site in the near future, www.natcapsgmp.org.

ADJUSTED 2002 DOMESTIC PER DIEM RATES		
Location	Previous Rate	Current Rate
Montgomery, AL, Montgomery Co.	\$61 Lodging \$38 M&IE	\$57 Lodging \$38 M&IE
Memphis, TN, Shelby Co.	\$70 Lodging \$38 M&IE	\$75 Lodging \$38 M&IE
Baltimore, MD, Baltimore Co.	\$110 Lodging \$42 M&IE	\$137 Lodging \$42 M&IE
Lexington Park/ Leonardtown/Lusby, MD, St. Mary's and Calvert Cos.	\$66 Lodging \$34 M&IE	\$72 Lodging \$38 M&IE
Washington, DC	\$119 Lodging \$46 M&IE	\$150 Lodging \$46 M&IE

Take ADVANTAGE! SGMP Wants Your Stories in Our Magazine!

SGMP's *Government Meetings Advantage Magazine* has **two** unique opportunities for you to share a little bit of your life with the membership.

The **Hindsight** column will feature your personal supplier/planner situations. This is an opportunity to divulge what happened, how you handled it, and perhaps, how you could have managed it differently. Do not be shy (names may be withheld upon request). Besides entertaining, your story will give insight into the practical issues that planners and suppliers face. The goal of the column is to provide an avenue for members to learn from each other.

The **Travel** column wants your photographs and travel journal. If you have gone on a fabulous trip, SGMP wants to hear about it. Where did you go? What did you see? Near or far, your unique perspective will bring that location to life. If you are planning a trip, don't forget your camera and take notes!

SGMP's publications are only as good as the contributing authors. Everyone can tell a story; do not be intimidated. Send in your submissions to Lynnette Simpson at LynnetteLy@aol.com. Deadlines for upcoming issues of *Advantage* are as follows: Winter Issue October 15, 2002; Spring Issue January 15, 2003; Summer Issue April 15, 2003.

Awards and Induction: The Stars Shine Bright in the Rocky Mountains

By Claudette M. Ferris, CPS, Immediate Past President, Rocky Mountain Chapter

The Rocky Mountain Chapter celebrated its 13th annual awards banquet on Tuesday, June 25, 2002, at the Wellshire Inn in Denver, Colorado. We honored our finest in 2002; our special guest of honor was Colorado Representative Debbie Stafford.

The evening started with a cocktail reception, followed by a welcome from Claudette Ferris and a spectacular dinner.

Our program commenced with the recognition of the chapter's committee chairmen and committee

members for their superb efforts throughout the year. These individuals give of their time to make our chapter successful. Certificates were awarded to all volunteers.

Next came the moment that everyone had long been anticipating: the announcement of the *out-standing* members. Nominees were judged based on their involvement in SGMP. Our two judges, Patty Farmer, with Denver and Beyond, and Ilene Kamsler, with Colorado Hotel and Lodging Asso-

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ciation, carefully reviewed all nominations and biographies. Representative Stafford presented the Outstanding Awards to: Amy Rezvani, CHSP; Claudette Ferris, CPS; Christine Huffington, CHSP; Keystone Resort; and Adam's Mark Hotel Denver Downtown. Recipients received diamond-shaped acrylic plaques to mark their achievements.

The 2002 recipient of the President's Award was our own chapter treasurer of two years, Sydney Hoskins. We almost had Sydney in tears!

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone on your remarkable feats!

President Ferris paid special recognition to Pen-nye McFarland and Sonja Hernandez with Catalyst Meetings and Conferences, the chapter's management company, to let them know how much their efforts are appreciated by all in the Rocky Mountain Chapter. They have helped the chapter grow to new levels of professionalism, and we would truly be lost without them.

Out with the *old...* President Ferris presented acrylic desk plaques and personal gifts to each of the 2001/2002 Board members and thanked them for all their hard work and support this past year:

Stephanie Samano; Shannon DeBus; Kay Bothwell, CMP; Sydney Hoskins; Crystal Carter; Christine Huffington, CHSP; and Kelly Wilson.

In with the *new...* The Rocky Mountain Chapter was very fortunate to have Representative Stafford give the official oath of office to the 2002/2003 Board of Directors: Kay Bothwell, CMP, president; Linda Schmitt, first vice president; Philip Levy, CMP, second vice president; Joann Kanost, secretary; Colleen Banks, treasurer; Paula Robinson, CMP, director; Christine Huffington, CHSP, director; Sydney Hoskins, director; and Claudette Ferris, CPS, immediate past president.

President Ferris reviewed the chapter's successes and her personal accomplishments during her two years in office. She concluded the evening by thanking everyone again for their support and kindness.

Special recognition and appreciation for the splendid efforts of our Awards Banquet Committee chairmen, Amy Rezvani, CHSP, and Susan Cecere-Fisher, CHME. Many thanks to all who attended, especially our guest of honor Representative Debbie Stafford.

News In Brief

🔊 New SGMP Wild West Chapter on a Roll

Congratulations to Wild West Chapter for completing three issues of their newsletter!

Hard at work include newsletter committee members: Talisa Samuel, Sandra Berry, and Dee Anne Holcomb.

🔊 SAVE THESE DATES for Upcoming National Educational Conferences

- Orlando, Florida: May 21 – 25, 2003
- Nashville, Tennessee: May 26 – 30, 2004

🔊 Chapter Presidents and Members Submit to SGMP's On-line Newsletter

Communicate what is going on in your chapter by submitting your articles and calendar events to SGMP via Lynnette Simpson at [LynnetteLy@ aol.com](mailto:LynnetteLy@aol.com). Deadlines are the first of every-other month: October 1, December 1, February 1, April 1, etc.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ANDY!

There is one of our members who, without their assistance and expertise, our video and audio visual productions during the Annual Conference held in Norfolk would have been nonexistent.

Andy Silver, from the Great Lakes Chapter was there to manage our power point production of the conference from early morning to late at night. Even though he was able to join us for a little time at our social functions, Andy spent most of his time preparing for the next day of events of the conference.

Andy, your dedication to SGMP is truly appreciated and valued. Its members like you who have made SGMP what it is today!

CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS CALENDAR

Atlanta Chapter

- Aug. 21: Stone Mountain Inn
- Sept. 18: Directors Panel, Hyatt Regency

Buckeye Chapter

- Sept. 16: Presentation by Mills/James Production

Chicago Chapter

- Aug. 11: Board Retreat Luncheon
- Sept. 18: Luncheon, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place

Crossroads of America Chapter

- Aug. 13: Board Meeting, Holiday Inn North
- Aug. 27: Ethics, Federal/State, Holiday Inn North
- Sept. 10: Board Meeting, Adams Mark Hotel
- Sept. 24: Diversity, Adams Mark Hotel

Florida Capital Chapter

- Aug. 8-11: Educational Conference, The Plaza Resort & Spa
- Sept. 16: Board Meeting, Quality Inn & Suites
- Sept. 17: Membership Meeting, Radisson Hotel

Missouri State Capital Chapter

- Aug. 8: Ins and Outs of a Pre-Con, Capitol Plaza Hotel
- Sept. 18: Business Edict, Governor's Mansion

NATCAP Chapter

- Aug. 8-10: Summer Outing, Holiday Inn Richmond
- Sept. 10: Board Meeting, Holiday Inn Georgetown
- Sept. 18: Meeting, Hilton Crystal City

Northern Lights Chapter

- Aug. 15: Breakfast Meeting, Four Points Sheraton
- Sept. 19: Crowne Plaza Northstar Hotel

Old Dominion Chapter

- Aug. 15: Supplier Appreciation Cookout

Pacific Northwest Chapter

- Aug. 14: Supplier Appreciation Night
- Sept. 11: Industry Forum, Sheraton Seattle

Rocky Mountain Chapter

- Aug. 27: State of the Chapter, Doubletree Denver
- Sept. 24: Tradeshow Etiquette, Holiday Inn Lakewood

St. Louis Gateway Chapter

- Aug. 28: Marriott West
- Sept. 25: Radisson Suites Downtown

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

- Aug. 17-18: Annual Retreat, Inn Marin Novato
- Aug. 22: Supplier Appreciation
- Sept. 19: Silent Auction, Holiday Inn

Texas Lone Star Capital Chapter

- Aug. 8: Hands on Food & Beverage
- Sept. 6-8: Customer Service, Hotel Galvez

Wild West Chapter

- Aug. 8: Crisis Management, Doubletree Hotel
- Sept. 12: Enhance Professional Perception, NCED Marriott

Chapter Presidents		
<p>Arizona Judy Winder, CMP 602-543-7706</p> <p>Atlanta Carmen Walker-Momon 770-488-8054</p> <p>Buckeye Jackie McNeary 614-466-1629</p> <p>Central Florida (Gainesville) Stephanie West 395-395-8081</p> <p>Chicago Jan Stinson 312-353-6790</p> <p>Rocky Mountain (Colorado) Kay Bothwell, CMP 303-318-8763</p> <p>Crossroads of America (Indiana) Mary Lou Eckstrand, CMP 317-549-1738</p> <p>Dallas Fannie Smith 214-767-4550</p>	<p>Florida Capital Patti J. Spain 850-245-4455</p> <p>Great Lakes State Shannon Pavwoski, CMP 517-373-2492</p> <p>Greater Oregon Nancy Ahlbin 503-378-2497</p> <p>Heart of America (Kansas City) Velerie Eddleman, CMP 816-926-7449</p> <p>Heart of Illinois Tammy Miner 217-524-6423</p> <p>Missouri State Capitol Terry R. Boldt, CMP 573-751-9064</p> <p>National Capital Lois Morgan 202-708-0614 x3167</p> <p>Northern Lights Timothy S. Perry 651-215-3849</p> <p>Old Dominion Gloria Colvin 804-786-8225</p>	<p>Pacific Northwest Jody Bales 360-705-6781</p> <p>Sacramento Wendi Williamson 916-323-8768</p> <p>St. Louis Gateway Gayle French 314-263-4122</p> <p>San Diego Darlene McKinney 619-400-5411</p> <p>San Francisco Bay Area Robin Wilson, CMP 650-329-4403</p> <p>SGMP North Carolina Bridgette Harris 919-733-3484</p> <p>Texas Lone Star Capital Heather Hidalgo 512-347-9927</p> <p>Wild West Chapter Crystal Mappes 405-271-5288</p>

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