



FEBRUARY 1980

METROPLEX CHAPTER CURRENT

TABLE TOPICS: SET FOR FEB. MEETING

Another excellent educational session has been planned by our Program Chairman, Harmon Hodge. Immediately after dessert, we will gather around five different tables in the dining room for an open discussion of five subjects. Each table will be chaired by one of our members who will later report the conclusions reached at their table to everyone present. In this way, you will be able to actively participate in a discussion that particularly appeals to you, but at the same time — will be able to get the consensus of opinion of expert planners and suppliers on all five subjects. Sounds good!

See Details on Announcements — Page 4 this issue

METROPLEX CHAPTER BEGINS 1980 W/INTERFACE

The first MPI Metroplex Chapter meeting for 1980 was held on January 24 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This also marked the date for our first Metroplex interface.

The Interface Chairperson was Charlotte St. Martin, Metroplex Chapter President and Sales Director of Loews Anatole Hotel. Charlotte was assisted by Debbie Shackman of Combined American Insurance Company and Tony DiRaimondo of the Fairmont Hotel. Thirteen conference planners were present meeting with twenty-three suppliers. Those in attendance agreed that it was a most productive program as it gave planners and suppliers alike an opportunity to discuss future meeting activities, which is often difficult to exchange at our regular educational programs.

Our thanks to all who participated in this most successful Interface. We truly hope the metroplex interface will become an annual event.

Additional thanks go to Scott Walker, Director of Sales and Nita Sisul, Sales manager of the Hyatt Regency for their cooperation and the use of their facilities. A round of applause goes to Michael Darst, Catering Manager at the Hyatt for the most creative and enjoyable italian Buffet that followed the Interface.

PREPARED BY: Michael A. Stajdel, Fairmont Hotel.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My hat's off to Tony DiRaimondo, Sales Manager at the Fairmont Hotel. The first Metroplex Interface went off like a charm and if it had not

been for Tony's help, I fear we would have had many more duplicated appointments. Fortunately, he is a numbers wiz and between the two of us we were able to get the program fairly organized. From all the comments I heard, it was an extremely beneficial program.

If you know of any members who are considering joining, please urge them to do so NOW. The reason is that all supplier members will have to be a member of MPI for months prior to attending the Annual Conference. This makes the deadline February 25, 1980 for all supplier members!

Thanks to Harmon Hodge, the year is not winding down . . . it is winding up. Our last programs will prove to be at least as beneficial, if not more so, than the ones we have already had. Upcoming we have Jimmy Jones, a former president of Meeting Planners International; Dave Countin, a current director of MPI on "Taming the Cost Monster" and some exciting surprises. Please mark your calendars now so as not to miss any upcoming meetings.

It is certainly not too late to participate in any committees and if you are interested in getting involved, please give me a call. Obviously, future committee chairman, officers and directors are picked from those who are most involved. We will be nominating your next slate of officers and directors in April and May, so I strongly suggest you indicate your interest now.

Finally, we do need more participation by all members rather than the same percentage who always participate and I, therefore, urge you to get involved.

Charlotte St. Martin



TAMING THE COST MONSTERS

The program develops the ground work, and site selection process as well as looks at negotiating labor contracts or food services. There are often hidden costs which must be taken into consideration and the program looks at these hidden costs.

This presentation is designed to help both the new and seasoned meeting planner reduce and control costs without losing quality or lowering organizational image.

A BACKGROUND ON OUR SPEAKER DAVE COUNTIN.



DAVE'S EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:

Seven years as director of training and public relations for the 285 Kentucky credit unions. Other experiences include three years in positions funded by federal grants, 1½ years teaching in junior high school and junior college, and one year internship at the University of North Carolina under State Director of Parks and Recreation Department.

EDUCATION

B.S. University of Kentucky — June 1966
(Minor in Sociology)

M.A. in Gerontology — August 1969
University of North Carolina

PUBLICATIONS

"Planning Your Meeting"
"Gerontology Training Programs Retrospect Book,"
Working with Senior Citizens Manual.

Member of:

Meeting Planners International
American Society for Training and Development
Association of Co-op Educators
Advisory Committee member — Community Senior Aides Project
Advisory Board — Kentucky parks & Recreation Society
Kentucky Gerontological Society, Lexington, Kentucky
Gerontological Society, Washington, D.C.

OF THINGS TO COME

MARCH 27, 1980, MEETING

"Taming the Cost Monster" with David Countin of MPI
Location: Sheraton Hotel
Time: 11:30 — Cocktails
12:00 — Lunch
12:45 — Program

APRIL 24, 1980, MEETING

Election of officers for the next year
Location: Loews Anatole

MAY 22, 1980, MEETING

Meeting Management: A Professional Approach
Speaker: James E. Jones
Location: Northpark Inn
Time: 11:30 — Cocktails
12:00 — Lunch
12:45 — Program

JUNE 26, 1980, MEETING

No Details As Yet.

JULY 24, 1980, MEETING

Installation of new Officers!
"The Mystery of Wines" by George Gallagher
Location: Anatole Hotel
Time: Evening

TIPS FROM THE BERG

Gatherings From other Chapter Newsletters.

Here are some tips for the Meeting Planner from Don Sentell, president, Corporate Travel International.

TYPICAL AT NIGHT

A long, seated prime rib awards banquet (coat and tie) lasting too long while guests would like to be enjoying the sights

7:00 pm before dinner cocktail party — then everyone goes to dinner on their own

A DIFFERENT SLANT IN THE MORNING

Breakfast banquet — lively wake up music, Bloody Marys or Champagne with Delux Breakfast Menu

- Reduced Costs
- Free Nights
- Something Different

Reconvene group for an after dinner party in hotel (10 pm-12 midnight)

- Irish Coffee
- Desserts
- Open Bar
- Music

A HOTEL IS A PLACE

where if you don't have an identification badge that tells your name and the name of your company you feel left out.



MEMBERS WANTED!

By Marilyn McGuire

The cornerstone of any organization is the membership. Once a continual growth in membership is sustained, participation of an association's membership becomes the backbone of the organization.

MPI Metroplex has, during 1979, experienced a strong growth in numbers, as well as an increasing interest of suppliers and other meeting planners. Many have said they will be joining MPI this year. So MPI Metroplex can look forward to a continual growth during 1980.

What the Metroplex Chapter of MPI needs more now than anything else is PARTICIPATION. An educational society needs the participation of all its members. After all, one of the best ways to learn new ideas and new methods is through the interaction of your peers. Without question, MPI offers the best way to meet other meeting planners and learn about services that various suppliers have to offer. Every member should make every attempt to attend the monthly meetings. Help support MPI and also help yourself by attending the monthly meetings. These meetings offer that opportunity to learn from your peers and also from a guest expert speaker.

For those members who were not active in MPI during 1979, I hope you become more active in 1980. To continue the growth pattern, the Metroplex Chapter of MPI needs your feedback and help. Most of all it's your PARTICIPATION that is needed.

CURRENT

"CURRENT", a publication of the Metroplex Chapter of Meeting Planners International. Publication mailing address: P.O. Box 25104, Dallas, Texas 75225

FEBRUARY METROPLEX CHAPTER MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1980

LOCATION: The Summit Hotel, 2645 LBJ Freeway
(take Josey Lane/Webbs Chapel exits)

TIMES: 5:30 - 6:30 Cocktails in the Parke
(compliments of Summit Hotel)

6:30 - 7:30 Dinner

7:30 - 8:30 "TABLE TOPICS"

COST: \$12.00 per person



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The topics and chairpersons include:

- "How to Cope with Emergencies" — Bruce Jaster, UCC
- "Discounts, Considerations & Gratuities" — Tony DiRaimondo, Fairmont Hotel
- "Pre and Post Convention Staff Meetings between Hotel, other Suppliers and Meeting Planners" — Bill Boyd, Taylor International of Texas
- "Should Children be Invited to Our Meetings?" — Marilyn McGuire, Texas Credit Union
- "Exhibit Planning" — Evelyn Flores, Greyhound Exposition Services

MPI Metroplex Chapter
P. O. Box 25104
Dallas, Texas 75225

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING RESERVATIONS: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th.

You may call your reservation in to Teri (369-2354) by Tuesday morning

Please make__ Reservations for the February Metroplex Chapter Dinner. The following will attend:

Name _____

Company _____

Name _____

Company _____

The cost for dinner is \$12.00 per person and may be paid at the door. If you prefer, you can pre-pay by sending your check in the proper amount payable to MPI Metroplex Chapter along with this reservation blank.