

Four-Time Winner—Chapter of the Year Award

MPI

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CURRENT

Meeting Professionals International

April 1999

Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

MPI D/FW Names

1999-2000 Officers

MPI D/FW officers and directors for the 1999-00 administrative year were announced at last month's chapter meeting.

Steven Foster, CMP (Circle R Ranch) will serve as president. Steve Kemble (Steve Kemble Event Design) was named president-elect.

Those named to vice presidential posts are: VP Administration Lynn Lewis, CMP (Ernst & Young LLP); VP Education Tony Cummins (Adam's Mark Hotel Dallas); VP Finance Cheryl Beasley, CMP (SABRE); VP Membership Tim Wade, CMP (Lennox Industries); VP Programs O.D. O'Donnell (Nightlife Talent & Management); and VP Public Relations/Marketing Stephanie Schroeder (Starwood Hotels & Resorts).

Representing suppliers on the Board of Directors are Betty Garrett, CMP (Garrett Speakers International); Bruce Wolpert, CMP (Hilton Hotels & Resorts); Eric Newcomb (Promus Hotel Corporation); and Peg Wolschon, CTP (Coach USA/Gray Line).

Representing planners on the board are Beverly O'Laughlin, CMP (Compucom Systems); Bitsy Burns, CMP (HD Vest Financial Services); Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions); and LeeAnn Harle (Renaissance Meetings & Incentives).

Colleen Rickenbacher, CMP (Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau) will serve as immediate past president.

Officers will be installed at the June Awards Gala.

Can't remember names?

Don't Miss 'The Magic of a Mighty Memory' April 22



Marguerite Ham—"The Memory Master" and author of *How to Remember Anything in 60 Minutes or Less*—will share tips on how to access a hibernating memory at the April 22 chapter meeting at Crowne Plaza North Dallas.



The MPI Kids Charity Ball
Produced by Meeting Professionals International
Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

May 15

The Fairmont Hotel
"A Festival of Music"

Enjoy Dancing To
The music of The
Lakewood Park's . . .
and swing dancing lessons
by The Smiley Lindy Hoppers.

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CURRENT MPI

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Meeting Professionals International is the pivotal force in positioning meetings as a primary communication vehicle and a critical component of an organization's success. Meeting Professionals International leads the meetings industry by serving the diverse needs of all people with a direct interest in the outcome of meetings, educating and preparing members for both their changing roles and validating relevant knowledge and skills, as well as demonstrating a commitment to excellence in meetings.

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Upcoming Chapter Meetings

April 22, Thursday
"Magic of a Mighty Memory"
Crowne Plaza North Dallas/Addison
11:30 a.m.

May 27, Thursday
Texas Motor Speedway
6:30 p.m.

June 24, Thursday
"Annual Awards Gala"
Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center
6:30 p.m.

MPI

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ISSUE

May
inserts due May 10

June
inserts due June 7

DEADLINE

April 16, Friday

May 14, Friday

E-mail copy (Microsoft Word 7/Windows attachment) to
gracie@eaze.net

CURRENT Deadlines



Programs VP Explains New Registration Guidelines Regarding 'Walk-ins'

The good news: MPI D/FW is setting new attendance records at "almost every" monthly chapter meeting.



Betty Garrett, CMP
Garrett Speakers
International
D/FW VP/Membership

The bad news: Increased attendance means more walk-in registrants, and "we're running out of room!"

That's the word from VP/Programs Betty Garrett, CMP (Garrett Speakers International).

"The Program Committee is pleased with this terrific response to monthly programs," said Garrett, "but it emphasizes the need for on-time registration."

Fax registration *must* be completed by

Tuesday noon before the Thursday meeting.

Highlights of the updated registration guidelines (effective April 1) are:

- Walk-in registration will be on a "first come, first served" basis.
- Pre-registered and pre-paid participants will be seated first. Walk-ins will be seated, as space is available, 15 minutes after the start of the meeting.

- Registration fees will be collected at registration and will not be refunded if space is not available. However, the late registrant is encouraged to participate in the reception.
- Walk-in fees are: \$40, lunch, \$45, dinner.

See the back of the fax registration form for a complete listing of the new guidelines.

President's Message

Frequent Traveler Offers Packing and Safety Tips

Colleen Rickenbacher, CMP, who travels frequently in her job as vice president/event planning for the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau, offers favorite tips on packing and safety.

Packing

Wool, cotton or polyester blends do not wrinkle as much as pure wool or 100% cotton. Knits are wonderful but don't even think of taking linen. There are numerous ways to pack to prevent wrinkles and the best I can suggest is to pack clothes in plastic bags from the dry cleaners. It allows your clothes to move and you arrive with few wrinkles.

The other method is the bundle. Basically you start with your larger items (jackets, shirts, etc.) and lay them opened in the suitcase. Once all the clothes are open and stacked in the suitcase, use a core item to wrap them all around creating a bundle. None of the clothes are folded but just wrapped around this core item. The core item can be a bag containing your toiletries, a plastic bag containing your hair brush, curling iron, etc.



Colleen Rickenbacher,
CMP
Dallas CVB
D/FW Chapter President

Both work but always remember that the hotel has irons and ironing boards, and you can always shop if you forgot something or it is entirely too wrinkled to wear.

Clothes such as t-shirts and other casual wear can be rolled to avoid wrinkling.

Remember to pack a sewing kit, flashlight (to keep by your bed), eye glasses, prescription drugs, contact lens solutions, pocket knife and toiletries. Some of these items should always be packed and ready to go. Keep a check list. There is nothing worse than to forget an item you thought you had packed. If traveling internationally, be sure to have all necessary adapters and documents.

Safety

Be smart. Be alert. Be aware of your environment. If you park your car at the airport, park near lights or in an open area close to the entrance. Lock all items you are not taking with you in the trunk. Do not leave your parking ticket visible. Most stolen cars used the owners' parking ticket to get out of the airport. Don't make it easy for a burglar. If taking a taxi, watch your luggage going into the trunk and especially watch when it is time to come out. Don't be in such a hurry that something is left behind.

Take time to watch your luggage come in with you when checking into a hotel. When traveling alone, women should sign in with last name and first initial only.

Ask for a room on the 2nd to 6th floor. This will keep you away from intruders but not too high in case of fire for ladders. When registering, never say your room number aloud. When the bellman asks for your room number, just show him the key or folder. If he repeats the number aloud, get another room. If you lose your room key, change rooms; don't just get another key. Have your room key in hand before you get to your room so you can always enter quickly.

When in your room be aware of your surroundings. How far are you from the floor exit? If the fire alarm does go off, follow instructions. If asked to leave, take your key, flashlight and glasses (that you have placed on the nightstand) and know exactly the route necessary. If trapped, stay low. If you cannot leave your room due to smoke, fill the bathtub with water, soak towels and put at the door. Help firefighters locate you by opening or removing the drapes from your window and write HELP on the glass by using shaving cream, soap, lipstick or whatever is available. Remember to breathe through a moistened washcloth.

Never put the "Maid Please" sign on your door if traveling alone. Instead, call housekeeping. For safety when in your room or while you are gone, hang the "Do Not Disturb" sign and leave the TV on.

Probably the best advice: When you travel, are out in the evening for meetings or even grocery shopping, driving by yourself, walking by yourself or even in your own home—be aware of your surroundings constantly and always be alert.

MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL®
Committed to Educational Leadership

Meeting Professionals International is the world's largest association of meetings professionals with more than 14,500 members in 51 countries and 58 chapters and three clubs. MPI serves as the pivotal force in positioning meetings as a primary communication vehicle and a critical component of an organization's success. MPI leads the meeting industry by serving the diverse needs of members and nonmembers alike through its commitment to quality education, continuous improvement and excellence in meetings while upholding high ethical standards.

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STARS
of the Month—March

"Star of the Month" is a recognition program honoring chapter members for involvement in committees and special programs. All Stars of the Month are eligible for a special drawing for two educational scholarship awards to attend the MPI International Conference or other MPI educational opportunities.




Diane Smith, CMP (Alcon Laboratories), a long time member of MPI, is a past president and has also held numerous other official posts within the organization including vice president/ membership; vice president/administration and a member of the Board of Directors. Recent projects include the Mentor Program and the Gemelli Program as well as a plethora of committees.

Dirk Thomas, CMP (Radisson Plaza Fort Worth) is a long-time member of MPI D/FW and an active chapter participant. Last year he achieved perfect attendance at monthly chapter meetings. This year Thomas served on the Nominating Committee, has participated in the Community Service Committee and has assisted in the recruitment of members from Fort Worth.



To nominate a Star of the Month,
send a fax to Ann Stetson (Le Meridien Hotel), 214-855-1735.



Ham Presents 'The Magic of a Mighty Memory'

By Anna Squire
Hackberry Creek Country Club

Do you frequently forget a name immediately after being introduced?

Be sure to attend the April 22 MPI D/FW luncheon meeting at Crowne Plaza North Hotel to learn about your "Mighty Memory."

Guided by guest speaker Marguerite Ham — "The Memory Master"—we'll learn how to "focus in" when meeting clients, recall names more efficiently, and discover our hidden "photographic memory!"

Ham, a corporate trainer and author of the book, *How to Remember Anything in 60 Minutes or Less*, will share tips on how to access a hibernating memory! The founder of MEMOREASE, Ham makes more than 150 presentations a year to groups including Fortune 500 companies nationwide.

A popular keynote presenter, Ham provides private in-house corporate training and public seminars. She is a member of the National Speakers Association, the Colorado Speakers Association and past president of the DTC Business and Professional Women's Association.

The April Meeting will feature a group of chapter dignitaries: Past Presidents of MPI D/FW. Join the Board of Directors and Program Committee in a special tribute to these individuals who have helped shape and develop the D/FW Chapter.

Special guests will be students from five area DISD High Schools. These talented young people will attend the Travel, Meetings and Exposition Management Program at Richland College in the fall, thanks to scholarships funded by The MPI Kids Charity Ball.

The Puerto Rico Convention and Visitors Bureau will sponsor the April meeting. Be sure to visit the Puerto Rico hoteliers and their representatives during the reception.

Don't forget to also bring your spare change to feed the bears! TMKCB bear banks will be back as handy receptacles for funds for childrens' charities.

April Program Committee members



MPI
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April MPI D/FW Chapter Meeting

"The Magic of a Mighty Memory"

—featuring Marguerite Ham—

Sponsored by Puerto Rico Convention and Visitors Bureau

Thursday, April 22

Crowne Plaza North Dallas
14315 Midway Road, Addison, TX 75001
972-980-8877

11:00 a.m. Chapter Orientation in Red Oak on 2nd Floor
11:30 a.m. Registration in Trinity Ballroom Foyer on 2nd Floor
12:00 p.m. Lunch and Program in Trinity Ballroom on 2nd Floor

—Complimentary Self Parking—

R.S.V.P. to Randie
by noon, Tuesday, April 20
Reservations rec'd after the deadline
will be placed on waiting list.
•FAX 972-506-7485 (see fax insert)
•rcharnes@msn.com

Advance Registration \$24
Guest Registration \$30
Late Registration \$40

include Gregory Pynes (Hand and Associates Marketing Communications), Anna Squire (Hackberry Creek Country Club), Patty Stern (Carey International), Delin-

da Dudley (Fun Factory Decorations and Special Events), Esther Wigley (Appointments) and Cynthia Cathcart (Today's Gourmet).

April Host Facility

Crowne Plaza North Dallas/Addison

The Crowne Plaza North Dallas/Addison is the perfect destination for business and leisure travelers alike. The hotel features 429 handsomely appointed guest rooms, including 22 multi-use suites; more than 28,000 square feet of event space to accommodate up to 1,000 guests; and the versatility of two dining options — McArthur's Restaurant, offering continental fare, and Scoops, serving casual meals in a fun, diner-style atmosphere.

Two airline counters (American and Delta) are in the lobby. A full Business Center, swimming pool, whirlpool spa, fitness center plus numerous other conveniences and amenities make this hotel a premier lodging choice in North Dallas.

The Crowne Plaza North Dallas/Addison is situated one mile north of LBJ Freeway (I-635) on Midway Road. The hotel is within walking distance of Restaurant Row, which offers more than 100 restaurants and entertainment venues. The world renowned Galleria Shopping Mall is only two miles away and the hotel provides complimentary transportation for guests.



Educational Opportunities & Upcoming Industry Meetings at a glance

April 5 - May 10

CMP Study Group Sessions
Mondays, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 PM
Harvey Hotel DFW Airport
4545 W. John Carpenter Freeway (Hwy 114)
Fee: \$125, members
Contact: Dana Nickerson, CMP, 214-343-8067
or Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP, 214-346-1886

April 11-17 & 18-20

Gemelli 1999 Seminar & PEC Europe
Milan, Italy
Contact: Bobby Bulger, 214-341-5876

April 13

PO⁴Ds 1 & 3
"Effective Pre-Con Meetings"
DoubleTree Lincoln Centre
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
Fee: \$15 members, SMART card
Contact: Patti Palacios, 972-306-7659
or Carol Benavidez, 940-320-0130

April 13

Walk-a-While
"Pre-Con Meeting/Audio Visual and Registration"
Wyndham Anatole Hotel
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
\$15, members; \$20 non-members—or,
use the SMART Card!
Contact: Patty Stern, 214-638-4828
or Elizabeth Baryshev, 972-417-3255

April 17

Richland College
8 a.m.-12 noon "Internet" – Industry sites
1 p.m.-5 p.m. "PlanSoft" – Site selection/RFP
Bonhan Hall, Room 014
Free to MPI volunteers
No experience with programs necessary
Contact: M.T. Hickman, 972-238-6097

April 19

"The Anatomy of Incentive Travel"
SITE Texas Chapter
Call 214.761.7830 for more info

April 20

PO⁴Ds 4, 9 & 10
Guest Speaker – TBD
Diamond Club at The Ballpark in Arlington
5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
MPI Members are invited to join the Diamond
Club Hospitality Soiree at 6:30 PM
Fee: \$15 members—or,
use the SMART Card!
Contact: Tamra Fairbrother, 817-795-9006
or Dirk Thomas, 817-870-2100

May 8

Richland College
8:00 a.m.-12 noon "Ajenis"
1:00 p.m.-5 p.m. "Meeting Trak"
Bonhan Hall, Room 014
Free to MPI volunteers
No experience with programs necessary
Contact: M.T. Hickman, 972-238-6097

May 11

Walk-a-While
"Scripting/Logistics/Scheduling"
Wyndham Anatole Hotel
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
\$15, members; \$20, non-members—or,
use the SMART Card!
Contact: Patty Stern, 214-638-4828
or Elizabeth Baryshev, 972-417-3255

May 13

PO⁴Ds 5 & 8
Program Subject – TBD
Dallas Zoo
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Box Lunch provided
Fee: \$15, members—or,
use the SMART Card!
Contact: Elizabeth Chandler, 214-826-9431
Fax: 214-824-0642, ehandler@mfi.org

May 22 & 23

CMP University
"Boot Camp" before the exam
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
and

Monday, June 21

New "CMP Exam Dress Rehearsal"
Monday, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Place: Harvey Hotel DFW Airport
4545 W. John Carpenter Frwy (Hwy 114)
Fee: \$125, members, for all three sessions
Contact: Dana Nickerson, CMP,
214-343-8067
or Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP
214-346-1886

For more information
about any of these educational
opportunities call
Marti Fox, CTC
(BTI Americas) 214-905-8550



'Meetings and Automation' Subject of PO⁴Ds Program

Jeff W. Rasco, CMP, an independent planner and consultant specializing in meetings technology, recently discussed "Streamlining the Meeting Process through Automation" for members of PO⁴Ds 4, 9 and 10.

Rasco, MPI International Planner of the Year in 1996, presented new developments in online requests for proposals, options for online trade show manage-

ment and virtual trade shows, and how virtual site inspections and interactive floorplans can change the way meeting planners and suppliers work together.

Eighteen participants—nine planners and nine suppliers—met at a working lunch at Radisson Plaza Hotel in Fort Worth.

Rasco was invited to return to discuss "Power E-Mailing."

HAMPI to Host 'Spring Fling' Golf

The Houston Chapter of MPI (HAMPI) will host its annual Spring Fling Golf Tournament May 10 at Longwood Country Club, featuring fabulous prizes—including a raffle drawing for a six-night Norwegian Caribbean Cruise plus networking opportunities at the reception and awards banquet.

HAMPI will award scholarships for two students from the Conrad Hilton School of Hotel & Restaurant Management. For more information, contact Martin Wade, 713-850-2828; or Stephanie Reilly, 713-629-1200 x3102.

EDUCATION NEWS



MPI D/FW and Richland College—Partners in Education

By M.T. Hickman • Richland College

This is the first of a three-part series on the Richland College Travel, Exposition & Meeting Management program.

Looking for a place to enhance your skills? Start with Richland College. Richland College and Meeting Professionals International/Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter have a long history of meeting the needs of D/FW meeting and travel professionals.

In the December 1998 issue of *The Meeting Professional*, Edward D. Barlow Jr., president of Creating the Future, noted that within the next five to 10 years, 20% of one's hours related to the job will be "dedicated to learning, to enhance one's abilities."

In the mid 80s, long before Richland College established an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Travel, Exposition & Meeting Management, MPI members worked with Richland College to offer Continuing Education Classes.

"It all started with one meeting planning class," says Lisa South, CMP, Computer Language Research Institute. In the beginning one class on meeting planning was offered through the Educational Committee. This one class, taught by MPI members, became so popular that it grew and an advanced meeting planning and an international meeting planning class was added.

All the courses were taught at Richland College and the students enrolled at Richland College as continuing education students. Thus, students were able to receive CEUs for classes.

"MPI had the instructors and we had the facility," says Carolyn MacPhee, Associate Dean of Continuing Education, Richland College. "The travel program has always been one of our most successful programs."

With the success of the continuing education program, Richland sought to establish an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Travel, Exposition & Meeting Management. In 1994 Norb Dettmann, CMP, who at that time worked for Tarrant County Junior College, approached Bill Boyd, president of Sunbelt Motivation & Travel Inc., to form an advisory committee to create Richland's travel and tourism degree.

"Our goal was to take the program to the next level," says Boyd. To complete this task, more than 100 travel industry professionals and leaders from MPI, International Association for Exposition Managers and American Society of Travel Agents participated in the development of Richland's degree.

Brent Kesterson, Instructional Design, Richland College explained, "A new degree does not just appear; analysis to identify need must be done, interviews must be conducted with industry professionals and course content must be developed."

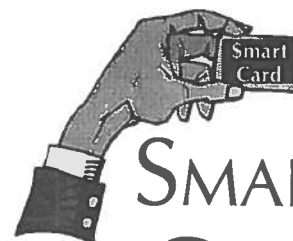
Based on industry research for Dallas/Fort Worth, a one-year Travel Management Certificate and a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree were created. The Associate of Applied Science Degree included three areas of industry emphasis: travel, exposition, & meeting management.

Richland began officially offering credited courses in travel, exposition & meeting management in the fall of 1994. The same instructors who taught continuing education classes were now teaching credited classes.

Next month this series will focus on how the MPI scholarship helps Richland College students and MPI reach educational goals.

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Tidbits from the Top News from MPI International

Institutes I & II return to Florida

Institutes I & II will be held October 24-29, 1999 at the Bay Point Resort Village Marriott Golf & Yacht Club in Panama City Beach, Florida.

These two customized, integrated certificate programs in meeting management are designed as four-day residential immersion courses.

The program will be offered only once in 1999. For more information, call 1.972.702.3067.

—Submitted by
Michelle Carter, CMP, CHSP
(Wyndham Anatole)
MPI D/FW International Marketing Liaison

March Meeting Highlights

Fort Worth Program: the 'Race to the Olympics—2012' plus Lesson in 'Meeting Planning Challenges'

The March meeting in Fort Worth, "MPI's Race to the Olympics," was everything the program committee hoped it would be—and then some!

However, there were two races the March program committee didn't plan on—change of venue at the last minute and the reception décor.

The First Race: Two days before the March newsletter printing deadline, the committee was advised that the hotel space they'd planned to use was needed for another group (a large corporation that is also an MPI member) and that there was no other space available in the hotel.

The program committee and hotel representatives worked with the large corporation to move the chapter meeting to another venue – The Fort Worth Convention Center. The corporation was also holding space there, but agreed to release a portion of it for the monthly MPI meeting. Logistics, food & beverage, décor, everything, was revised and set on a new course within two days.

The Fort Worth Convention Center staff and representatives from Fine Host Corporation worked with committee members to plan an outstanding evening for D/FW Chapter members. Three chefs (one flown in from Albuquerque, NM) from Fine Host prepared a five-course menu fit for royalty. Décor was added to the meeting room (compliments of Freeman Decorating and Balloons To You) to give it an "olympic" flavor.

The stage was set, everything was ready ... set ... but wait!

The Second Race: While setting up the reception area, committee members were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the NASCAR, PACE CAR and a LEGEND CAR from Texas Motor Speedway, provided by the Texas Motor Speedway Club, official sponsor of the evening reception in General Worth Park.

Just two hours before the reception, committee members learned that all three cars had been involved in an accident on the way from the Speedway and, along with additional raceway décor, would not be available for the reception.

Committee members brainstormed and

decided that humor would carry them through. Two committee members' vehicles were positioned in General Worth Square and substituted as the "Radisson NASCAR" (Dirk Thomas' brand new truck) and The Legend Car (Charlotte Davis' red BMW). But, they needed a third—the Pace Car.

As fate would have it, a wreck had just occurred one block away from the Radisson and it was jokingly stated that maybe this car should be used as the third vehicle. Why not?

After speaking with police at the accident site and following their lead into a neighboring building, questioning the building security guard about the location of the driver (with no success), fate came through again. A passerby overheard the conversation with the security guard and indicated that the vehicle's owner actually worked on the second

floor of the building. That tip, and sheer perseverance, led to the owner of the wrecked vehicle.

It took some convincing, but driver/owner Robert Choate (now and forever known as "Robert the Good Sport") agreed to provide his classic (albeit somewhat dented) 1964 Lincoln as the third prop for the reception—now christened (for obvious reasons) the "Pace Car Wannabe"!

As attendees arrived at the reception, expecting the "official" cars from the Speedway, committee members were tempted to explain the switch by saying ... "Did you think the *real* cars would be here? Of course not, that's why everyone is getting free tickets to the Speedway on Friday, to see the real cars!"

And everyone should know by now that we would do or say anything to get you to Fort Worth!! As anticipated, ev-



March Program Committee members stand by the "Pace Car Wannabe" with owner and classic car collector **Robert Choate** (center).

everyone enjoyed the humorous substitutions.

Challenges aside, it was a great evening. Everyone in General Worth Square was "groovin'" to the rock 'n roll beat of the Finatics while attendees enjoyed beverages and hors d'oeuvres sponsored by The Speedway Club at Texas Motor Speedway.

During dinner, featured speaker Matt Wood shared insights on bringing the 2012 Summer Olympics to North Texas and how it would positively impact our

area.

The hospitality of the Fort Worth Convention Center and Radisson Plaza Fort Worth, combined with the exceptional dinner and great service provided by the Fine Host team, made for a memorable evening.

So, remember, next time you have a chance to attend the annual Fort Worth meeting, don't miss it. It's bound to be a "race worth running"!

—submitted by

Sherri Cook, CMP and Diane Smith, CMP



Guest speaker **Matt Wood** invites MPI D/FW to join the Dallas 2012 Bid Committee's kickoff celebration Thursday, May 6, 8:00 p.m. at Hall Of State at Fair Park. The event will feature appearances by Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, Fort Worth Mayor Kenn Barr, Arlington Mayor Elzie Odom, local Olympians and other North Texas leaders, plus a laser light show, video production, and fireworks. For more information call (214) 871-3029.



"A good time was had by all" at the pre-meeting reception.

Hall of Fame

Please salute the following companies and individuals for their contributions to the March meeting in Fort Worth.

Featured Speaker

Matthew C. Wood
Dallas 2012 Committee

Program Space

Kirk Slaughter
Fort Worth Convention Center

Dinner & Truffles

Marilyn Garrett
Fine Host Corporation

Reception, Décor & Speedway Tickets

Andrew (Andy) Osborn
The Speedway Club at Texas Motor Speedway

Audio-Visual & Sound

Mike de LaPaz
AVW

Olympics Décor

David Gisler
Freeman Decorating Company

Décor Co-Sponsor & Airline Tickets

Don Fitzgerald
American Airlines

Registration, Orientation and Parking

Kevin McMahon
The Radisson Plaza Hotel

Transportation & Soft Drinks

Peg A. Wolschon, CTP
Gray Lines & Kerrville Bus Lines

Entertainment Co-Sponsor

Melissa Spence
Sundance Square Marketing

Décor Co-Sponsor

Leo Bary
Balloons to You

March Program Committee

Diane Smith, CMP
Alcon Laboratories

Sherri Cook, CMP
Sherri Cook & Associates

Dirk Thomas, CMP, CHME
The Radisson Plaza Hotel

Charlotte Merrill-Davis, CMP
Event Source Professionals Inc.

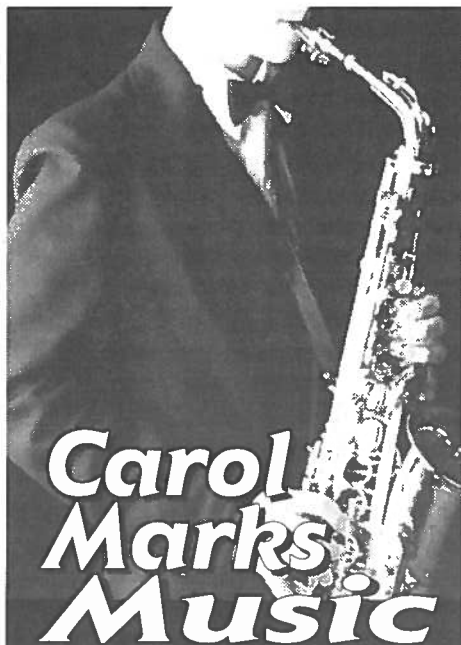
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MPI Hill Country
MPI Houston Area
MPI D/FW



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These individuals and companies support your involvement in Meeting Professionals International by donating their time, talent and services to MPI D/FW. Please remember to say "thank you" by patronizing their services. Their participation in the Chapter Partners Program is an investment in your professional growth as an MPI member.

Diamond Level Sponsors (\$10,000+)

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Renaissance Dallas Hotel North
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Balloon City USA	Nightlife Talent & Management Agency
BBJ Linen	Orlando/Orange County CVB
Buckskin Corp.	San Antonio CVB

Chapter Stars

Angela Morgan, Mansion on Turtle Creek	Ginny's Gifts
Bill Reed Decorations	Global Audio Visual
Bob Bishop	Gourmet Dallas
BRAVO! Entertainment	Ken Thornton, Fun Factory Decorations & Special Events
Abby Rents	Melanie Hill, Majesty Hospitality Staffing, Inc.
Carey International/Five Star Limousines	Millenium Events
Colleen Rickenbacher, CMP, Dallas CVB	Omni Hotel Dallas Park West
Continental Airlines	Robots 4 Fun
Dallas Business Committee for the Arts	Square One Productions
Designs Behind the Scene	Star S Productions
Dipert Coaches	Sterling/Summit/Golden Tulip Hotels & Resorts
Ducky Bob's/Cannonball	SuperShuttle/ExecuCar
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Freeman Decorating Co.	TRUE COLORS, Inc.
Fun Factory Decorations & Special Events	VIP Events, Inc.
Gale Sliger Productions	WaiterWear

If you have participated in an MPI-sponsored event with donated/discouned product or service, you need to be recognized in the MPI D/FW Chapter Partners Program.

MPI Chapter Partners are recognized in the *CURRENT*, the chapter newsletter; the Chapter Resource Directory; and are honored at the Annual Awards Gala in June. For information on the MPI D/FW Chapter Partners Program, contact Steven Foster (Circle R Ranch), 817 430-1561.

SPOTLIGHT: CHAPTER PARTNERS

"Spotlight: Chapter Partners" is a new feature recognizing various individuals whose companies support involvement in Meeting Professionals International by donating their time, talent and services to the D/FW Chapter.



Kristi K. Carter

J&S Audio Visual, Inc.
3373 Towerwood Drive
Dallas, TX. 75234-2316
972-241-5444 ext. 204
Fax: 972-247-2590
Toll Free: 800-852-8771
info@jsav.com

When J&S Audio Visual Director of Marketing Kristi Hollomon met husband Billy Carter (Super Shuttle), during the 1995 International Professional Education Conference in Dallas, she demonstrated one of the many benefits of membership in Meeting Professionals International—the opportunity to build lasting relationships through a mutual industry association!

Carter, a chapter member for five years, has served on several committees and currently works on the Public Relations & Marketing Committee. A former member of the MPI D/FW Board of Directors, she also is managing editor of the chapter newsletter, the *CURRENT*, making her perhaps the most-knowledgeable member on a wide variety of subjects concerning chapter-related matters.

J&S Audio Visual demands much of her time and talent. The company offers equipment sales, permanent system design and installation, equipment rental, and in-house facility operations including business centers and event production services. Its newest venture, J&S Show Services, specializes in high end audio, theatrical lighting, staging, projection, and video production.

"Our people make us successful, and we are very proud of our accomplishments," says Carter. "J&S has never aimed for being the largest audio-visual company. While expanding operations over the years, J&S has done so in a controlled manner that allowed us to maintain and actually improve our level of service."

You've got to envy a guy like Eddie Heyland.

The owner of Balloon City and an MPI member since March of 1992, Heyland spends his day brightening up the lives of others. His rise to the top of the local balloon decoration market certainly is the result of hard work over many years, but that success also is based in the creativity and enthusiasm which are Heyland's trademark.

In an industry saturated with imitators, Heyland is a unique personality. His balloon designs are helium-filled works of art which almost seem to be alive. Many of his clients can't decide which they enjoy more—working with Heyland or watching him make magic with rubber and air.

So what's the secret to his success?

"I get to do the work I love surrounded by great friends," says Heyland, "and I owe a lot of my success to the members of MPI. They are a great support."

Heyland, a regular contributor to The MPI Kids Charity Ball with his colorful creations, hasn't been able to attend as many chapter meetings as he would like recently. A new account with Southwest Airlines keeps him flying across the country, and he recently finished an event in the Middle East in the United Arab Emirates.

Eddie didn't know where United Arab Emirates was either, but it just goes to show you how far and how high talent will take you.



Eddie Heyland

Balloon City USA
110 Exposition
Dallas, TX. 75226
214-821-6482
Fax: 214-821-6489
balloon@cyberramp.net

Attention D/FW
CMPs and CMMs!

Attend the
First Annual
CMP, CMM
Recognition Event
—the Breakfast of
Champions!—
June 18



CMM

June 18

Breakfast of Champions!

Wyndham Anatole Hotel

At the Breakfast of Champions, CMPs and CMMs will be lauded for their distinguished certification within the Meetings Industry.

Network with colleagues and celebrate your professional endeavors!

For more information:

- Patty Stern, 214-638-4828
- Dana Nickerson, CMP, 214-343-8067
- Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP, 214-346-1886

Familiar Faces!

Two MPI D/FW members posed for creative photo illustrations in the March issue of *The Meeting Professional*. Bill Boyd, CMP (Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc. was on the cover; inside was Steven Foster (Circle R Ranch. They, along with a "devil" and an "angel," helped demonstrate the temptations meeting professionals sometimes face in the magazine's cover story on "Everyday Ethics at Work."

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***MPI D/FW
Community Services***

Please bring clothing and blankets to the April 22 chapter meeting



In conjunction with NACE, MPI D/FW is sponsoring a "Clothing & Blanket Drive" to benefit the Austin Street Shelter for the homeless. Bring extra clothing, jackets and blankets to the April 22 meeting at Crowne Plaza North Dallas/Addison. When you drop your articles in the box, meet the Community Services Chair from NACE.

**Gifts will benefit
Austin Street Shelter**

For more information: Stephanie Schroeder (Starwood Hotels & Resorts), 972-238-1008 or Delinda Dudley (Fun Factory Decorations & Special Events), 972-271-7444.

In Memory...

Peter Chantilis

MPI D/FW Chapter member Peter Chantilis died in February.

A successful Dallas attorney and nationally known "peacemaker," Chantilis served as master mediator of thousands of disputes.



Through presentations such as "The Art of Gentle Persuasion," his message was clear: "You will be successful in avoiding conflict when you are non-judgmental, show respect, listen to understand, and deal with anger. You can be assertive without being abrasive, abusive or aggressive. Civility is a sign of strength, not weakness."

Chantilis provided legal advice to MPI D/FW, using his preference for mediation as a tool for resolving issues.

A graduate of SMU, Chantilis received the Justinian Award for long standing dedication to volunteer service.



M.T. Hickman
Richland College
'Grapevine' Columnist

Heard it through the Grapevine!



Mitchell Cathey
'Grapevine' Columnist

Lane Aaberg left the Wyndham Anatole Hotel to help her husband, Everett, promote his health and fitness books. The couple is expecting their first child in October.

Connie Allen was named director of catering, *OccasionZ Catering and Events*. Her former position was catering manager, Hotel Adolphus.

Dawn Ballard was named sales manager, *Malibu SpeedZone*. Her former position was sales manager for Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament.

April Cooper, *Le Meriden Hotel New Orleans*, had a baby boy in December.

Scott Hebert accepted the position of director of transient sales, *Fairmont Hotel*. His former position was in sales at the Hotel Adolphus.

Katherine Hines returned to *The Melrose Hotel* as senior sales manager. Her former position was group sales manger, Omni Park West.

Billy Carter has relocated to Austin to be general manager for *SuperShuttle's* new Austin operation. Billy's wife, **Kristi Carter**, *J&S Audio Visual*, will be relocating to Austin as well.

Dana Nickerson, CMP, *Square One Productions*, married Lee Rhoden Feb. 14. (See related story, page 14.)

Speaking of weddings, how did we miss this one last year?! **Phares Corder**, owner, *Phares Corder Entertainment*, married Melinda Gorman July 26, 1998.

Terry Ellegood was promoted from account executive, *Freeman Decorating Co.*, to director of sales administration, *AVW Corporate*, a division of *Freeman Decorating Co.* Terry is still working on *Freeman Decorating* accounts and will still produce the MPI International shows.

Kerri McKewin accepted the position of sales manager for *Star Canyon, AquaKnox* and the *Samba Room* restaurants in Dallas; all of which are owned by *Carlson Restaurants Worldwide*. She was formerly the event coordinator at *VarTec Telecom*.

Ashley Enloe, corporate sales manager, *Hotel Inter-Continental Hotels & Resorts*, and her husband, **Chad**, associate director of sales, *Hyatt Regency Downtown Dallas*, are expecting their first child in September.

Alex Infeld has moved to New York City to pursue new career interests. She was formerly with *Lulu's Bait Shack*, which closed last month.

Eric Newcomb has left *Le Meriden Hotel* to accept the director of national accounts position with *Promus Properties*.

Kimberly Matteson, corporate sales manager, *Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau*, and her husband are expecting a baby boy in April.

Mark Wilder was named national sales manager, *Omni Richardson Hotel*. His former position was corporate sales manager, *Harvey Hotel Plano*.

Princess Cruises District Sales Manager, **Patricia Tripp, CMP, CTC**, has moved to California where she will work as DSM for the greater Los Angeles area. Tripp, who has been with *Princess Cruises* for 16 years, previously served as DSM for Dallas, Northeast Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Chad Smith left *Adams Mark Hotels* to accept the position of sales manger, *Wyndham Anatole Hotel*.

Alainna Ryan, manager, corporate events, *Excel Communications Inc.*, and Peter Palmer plan to marry the second weekend in October.

To submit items for this column contact M.T. Hickman (Richland College) 972-238-6097; fax 972-238-6333, or mthickman@dccc.edu; or Mitchell Cathey, 214-520-3901.



of the Month—February

"Star of the Month" is a recognition program honoring chapter members for involvement in committees and special programs. All Stars of the Month are eligible for a special drawing for two educational scholarship awards to attend the MPI International Conference or other MPI educational opportunities.



Gracie Hilton
The Write Stuff

Gracie Hilton (The Write Stuff) has served as editor of the *CURRENT*, the chapter newsletter, since 1992. Her volunteerism affects every individual in MPI D/FW and impacts the chapter as a collective unit. In order to provide "proper coverage and recognition" to all chapter programs and projects, she attends all monthly meetings and supports all MPI events. Each year she works with a new slate of officers and committee chairs. When she finally has them "trained" regarding submitting articles by deadline, it's time to start over! **As she sets up the template for the 83rd newsletter issue bearing her name as editor, she welcomes anyone who enjoys writing, editing and desktop publishing to join her in this effort!**





Swimming with the Dolphins

Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions) and her husband, Lee Rhoden, swim with the dolphins while enjoying their honeymoon at the Hilton Waikoloa Hotel, Big Island Hawaii. They married on Valentine's Day while enjoying their raffle prize from the TMKCB 1998.

Volunteer's TMKCB Raffle Win Evolves into Wedding in Hawaii!

"Plan to attend The MPI Kids Charity Ball May 15 at the Fairmont Hotel. —you never know how it could change your life!" is the advice of MPI D/FW member Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions).

As a member of the 1997-98 MPI D/FW Board of Directors, Nickerson took on the task of selling raffle tickets for TMKCB.

To support the project, she bought "a big bunch" of tickets for her boyfriend, Lee Rhoden, president of Seabrook Computers.

One of those tickets bore the winning

number for the gala's grand raffle prize—a week's stay in Hawaii.

Delta Air Lines provided round-trip airline tickets; Hilton Hotels provided three nights at Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu and inter-island air to The Big Island, where they were married Valentine's Day—on the beach at the Hilton Waikoloa Hotel.

"This was our first trip where I did not have to do any site inspections or check out meeting space—and we enjoyed a real vacation for the first time in a long time," said Nickerson, who has been a volunteer for TMKCB for six years.

Give a Gift of Time to TMKCB!

By Gina Bollinger • Wholesale Distributors Assoc. • 1999 TMKCB Volunteer Chair

Most of us wake up in the morning going "90 to nothing"—wondering how we're going to fit everything we have to do into one day. We're also hoping no one infringes on that time by asking us to do one more thing!

Time is a precious commodity. We all have jobs, families, children to take care of—and endless "little things" that creep into our daily lives, stealing more of that "precious time."

What if you had an opportunity to change the life of just one person by giving a couple hours of your time? Would you do it?

You have the opportunity to change the life of a child by giving the gift of time. This time will be spent preparing for *The MPI Kids Charity Ball*, a potentially life-changing event for children through several designated beneficiaries.

These gifts of time can make a world of difference to the children who may see the cure they've been hoping for; the security of a safe home; the comfort of a family member close by; an education that may not have otherwise been possible.

If you will give a gift of time, I encourage you to fill out the enclosed volunteer application or call TMKCB hotline, 972-699-5757. Your time can make a difference!



The MPI Kids Charity Ball
Produced by Meeting Professionals International
Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

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For more information about Corporate Sponsorships, call Gregory Pynes (Hand & Associates Marketing Communications), 214-770-1609

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April 12 (Monday)
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Stanley Korshak
500 Crescent Court

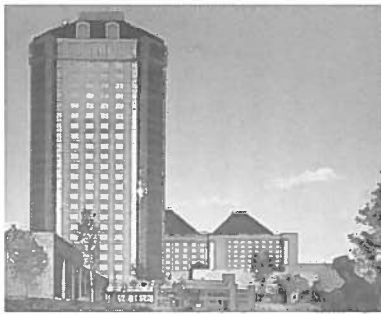
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RSVP 972.699.5757

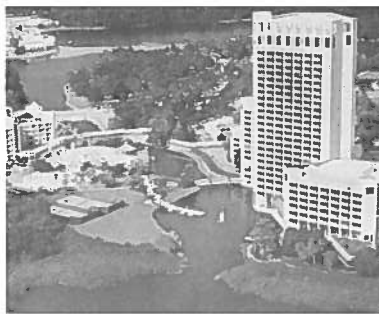
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