



CURRENT

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

September 2007

Chapter of the Year
1989 ★ 1990 ★ 1994
1996 ★ 2001

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**For Up-to-date
Chapter Information
& Calendar of Events**

**Log on to
www.mpidfw.org**

Vision Statement

To be the pivotal force in positioning meetings and events as key strategic components of an organization's success.

Mission Statement

To be recognized as the leading global membership community to shaping and defining the meeting and event industry.

MPI International Going Green MPI and Sustainability

by Lee Lancaster, *MPI International*

MPI is embracing the triple bottom line of people, planet and profit and is passionate about being sustainable in our meetings and socially responsible citizens of the world. Recycling, reducing paper waste and forging environmentally-conscious business partnerships are just a few steps we're taking down a "greener" path. We're committed to this cause and will continue to update our eco-responsible efforts on mpiweb.org. Here's what we did at World Education Congress à la Montréal to be responsible partners of the Montréal community:

Reducing Paper Waste

Opening and Closing Reception: No paper products used

Digital Signage: Meter boards outside session rooms replaced with digital signage

Audience Response Technology: Paper session evaluation forms replaced with electronic evaluations

CD of Session Handouts: Session materials available on CD, eliminating printed handouts. Handouts are also available through our online Itinerary Planner tool before, during and after conference

Recycled Paper: All congress materials printed on recycled paper

Limited Bag Inserts: Fewer printed/paper materials in delegate registration bags

Exhibitor Booth Signs: Booth identification signs were made only upon request

Exhibitor Service Kit: Available online only

Helping Improve Air Quality

Bus Passes: All attendees received bus passes to encourage mass transit and help reduce emissions of pollutants

Tree Planting: MPI's tree-planting community service activity contributed immediately to air quality and a greener tomorrow for Montréal

Vegetable-Based Ink: All congress materials printed with vegetable-based inks, minimizing atmospheric release of Volatile Organic Compounds from inks

Recycling and Conservation at Palais des congrès de Montréal

Reusable Water Bottles: Water coolers available throughout convention centre for filling reusable water bottles


Recycling Stations: Recycling stations throughout conference level, exhibition aisles and food areas for paper, plastic and aluminum items

Recycling of Handouts: Palais cleaning personnel collected any printed handouts left in session rooms and transferred to Recycling Stations

Electricity Conservation: Lighting used only as necessary and reduced during set-up and dismantle whenever possible

Earth-Friendly Products:

- Conference centre used non-toxic and environmentally-friendly housekeeping products
- Conference apparel for on-site MPI staff made from eco-friendly bamboo

Food Service Methods: To reduce waste in food service methods, the conference centre used porcelain dishes during functions and in concessions; served milk, creamer, sugar, etc. in bulk instead of individual packets; gave leftover food to local food banks; and composted garbage. 



President

Nancey Hernandez, CMP
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President's Message

Building your support system!



Nancey Hernandez, CMP
2007-2008 President

A friend of mine recently reminded me to "remember where you came from in order to get where you're going." Think about how the relationships you've fostered over the years have made you into the person you are today. ...And the relationships you make today will shape the person you become in the future.

Lately, I've seen a lot of faces from my past. There were SO many old friends at the MPI D/FW Chapter 30th Anniversary Gala in June! Then I got to see even MORE friends at the MPI World Education Congress in Montreal in July. At each monthly meeting for our chapter, there is always someone in attendance that I've not seen in a long time and I'm always thrilled to catch up - even if for a brief moment! Returning from Montreal, I started thinking about all the people who've influenced me through the years. I thought about how time passes; but even when months (sometimes years!) pass before we see someone, a special connection remains intact.

I've stayed in touch with my core group of college friends, even though we are spread out from the U.S., Mexico, France, Spain and the United Kingdom! We don't talk every day, or even every month... but when we do connect, however briefly, we always MAKE IT COUNT.

I have the same experience with my MPI Family. I'm delighted when I reconnect (usually by accident) with my MPI buddies from years ago. When I was just out of school, my first job in the industry was at the Radisson Hotel in Austin, Texas (now the Omni Downtown). I developed several friendships during my time in Austin and since then, all of us who worked together then have diverged to different places professionally and geographically. But, the special bond amongst all of us in our "early days" is still electric. This is the cluster of people who introduced me to MPI. Nearly 20 years later, we keep in touch and it is always "old home week" when we have the chance to get together. These are the folks who influenced and helped shape who I am today. They are the people who initially encouraged me to learn and to grow.

Then I moved to Dallas in 1998. I didn't know anyone. I was intimidated by the largesse of the D/FW Chapter. But, I dove in and devoted the necessary time to develop new relationships by joining and then getting involved within the MPI D/FW Chapter at the Committee level. As I worked on different projects, I was able to casually develop the friendships and a new circle of influence; people that would always tell me the truth. These relationships are ONGOING and I'm amazed by the family I have here:

- Cecilia Daddio, CMP: Gave me fearlessness
- Patty Markley, CMP: Encouraged me to think outside the box
- Betty Garrett, CMP: from the beginning, so warm and welcoming ...my "other" Mom.
- Steven Foster, CMP: Taught me about leadership
- O.D. O'Donnell: Wouldn't let me quit
- Tamra Hughston, CMP, CMM: Convinced me that I could indeed take on more than I thought I could handle
- Colleen Rickenbacher, CMP, CSEP, CPC: Gave me confidence to speak in front of a group (we're still working on it!)
- Marti Fox, CMP, CTC, CMM: Helped me get the 3 initials after my name
- Randie Charnes: Has always been there to answer my crazy questions and has more information than I know what to do with!
- Carol Benavidez, CMP: Her boundless enthusiasm has kept my spirit in check - even when I feel overwhelmed
- Sally Goldesberry, CMP, CMM: Has provided guidance in so many areas
- Melissa Mihelich: As a new member, reached out to me to find out how to connect herself and I admire her desire to be an "apt pupil"
- Sandy Galloway: always supportive, year after year!
- Camille Gilmore: One of my first friends in Dallas

These are just a few... the list is very long!

I add new family members every week and know intrinsically that it's now my turn to be one of the people who nurtures and helps our newer members develop their own circle of influence.

When you're at the next monthly meeting or MPI D/FW Chapter event and you see a person standing alone, looking shy or intimidated, remember your own early days in the industry and bravely walk over to that person to welcome them into our family; connect them to other members who can help shape their growth.

And for those of you who've been in our business a long time? Stop for a bit to reflect on those relationships that shaped you. Take the time to pick up the phone, send a handwritten note or even a quick "I'm thinking about you" email to let those special people know how important they are to you.

MPI to Sign the United Nations Compact on Corporate Social Responsibility

by Kathryn Goldstein, *MPI International*

In a bold leadership statement, Meeting Professionals International (MPI) announced on Saturday, July 28, that it will sign the United Nations (UN) Global Compact on Corporate Social Responsibility. The MPI Board of Directors gave the unanimous approval during the World Education Congress à la Montréal.


The United Nations Global Compact on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the world's largest corporate responsibility initiative with more than 3,700 participants and stakeholders from more than 100 countries. It provides an unprecedented and powerful platform for participating organizations with respect to advancing their commitment to sustainability and global citizenship. It consists of more than 50 national networks in developed and emerging economies and provides an opportunity for signatories to further their corporate social responsibility objectives.

"This is the first step in making a commitment to this growing global focus," said Angie Pfeifer, CMM, chairwoman of the MPI board of directors. "By supporting the UN Compact, MPI continues to position itself as an industry leader and elevates the conversation for our members by informing them about Corporate Social Responsibility and the role that meetings and events professionals can play in supporting those principles for employers and clients. As more and more successful organizations focus on CSR, it is the right thing to do at the right time." There are 10 principles in the UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labor, environmental sustainability and anti-corruption. The Compact asks companies to support and enact, within their sphere of influence, these principles as core values.

The global compact is a voluntary initiative to promote good corporate citizenship, a set of values based on universally accepted principles, and a forum for learning and an exchange of experiences.

MPI has retained Wallace and Partners to assist them in developing emerging educational and marketplace opportunities related to Corporate Social Responsibility for MPI's global community. They also have been tasked with accelerating MPI's commitment to environmental sustainability at its events, including the introduction of a number of new practices at its World Education Congress currently under way in Montréal.

"One of our four strategic imperatives is to elevate the conversation and experience for our members," said Bruce MacMillan, CA, MPI president and CEO. "Committing to the principles of the UN Compact is a first step in educating our members about a growing global initiative that will impact their professional world. It is also meant to inspire them to take action and make them more strategic to organizations and clients who have or would like to make a similar commitment."

For more information on the UN Compact go to <http://www.unglobalcompact.org> 



MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1972, Meeting Professionals International, with nearly 20,000 members in 60 countries and four chapters in formation, is the leading global community committed to shaping and defining the future of the meeting and event industry. For more information, visit www.mpiweb.org.

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CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Jesh Batra for having perfect attendance during the 2006 - 2007 MPI D/FW Chapter year of monthly programs!



BOARD BULLETS

Submitted by Carol Benavidez, CMP
MPI D/FW 2007-2008 President-Elect

Your opinion matters!

At each monthly meeting, the new 'gold' evaluation forms will have a different question each month. A survey of the July program attendees indicated that members do not want to have educational programs on a Saturday. We appreciate your feedback!

We have answers to your questions!

If you need assistance, please call Randie Charnes, Chapter Administrator for information: Phone: 972-869-3836

You are appreciated!

The D/FW MPI Chapter is 918 total members strong; 424 Planners, 465 Suppliers and 29 Students/Faculty Members

Thank you to Jennifer Cude and the Hilton Park Cities for hosting the August Board meeting.

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Chapter Meeting • Thursday, September 27, 2007 • 11:00 a.m.

Green Meetings

Are you interested in learning more about what you as a supplier or planner can do to be more environmentally conscious?

How can your next meeting be more Green?

What are the financial ramifications or cost savings of having a Green Meeting?

What are some small steps you can easily implement that save energy, water, materials, and ultimately, money?

To get the answers for these and other questions about Green Meetings, mark your schedule to attend the September monthly luncheon and hear both planner and supplier perspectives about what's required to "go green" and be socially responsible.



Bridget Sypolt

Doug Brecht

Our panelists are Bridget Sypolt, Meeting Planner for MPI International and Doug Brecht, Director of Marketing for the Doubletree Portland Lloyd Center. Bridget will relate the rewarding challenges of planning and implementing a "Green" meeting for the World Education Conference held in Montreal in late July. Doug comes to us from the first hotel in Oregon to receive the Green Seal certification at the 476 room Doubletree in beautiful Portland, Oregon. He will share insights learned throughout this journey to transform the hotel into a Green hotel and the benefits they now experience when working with socially responsible planners.

Both Doug and Bridget will leave time to take questions from the audience about how to make your future meetings more friendly to the environment and to the bottom line of both social and fiscal responsibility.

Host Facility

Radisson Hotel Dallas North - Richardson

The award winning Radisson Dallas North at Richardson Hotel offers over 13,000 square feet of flexible conference space. In June the hotel added an additional Jr. Ballroom which features a private entrance and state of the art audio visual. The hotel features 12 meeting rooms including the Texas Star Ballroom which is divisible into 5 sections offering 6,853 square feet.

Offering a prime location and Texas hospitality the Radisson Dallas North at Richardson has 294 oversize guest rooms featuring Sleep Number Beds by Select Comfort, in-room safes, and complimentary high-speed internet in all guest rooms and public space. The hotel offers 3 executive level floors which have private key access, Plaza lounge, Starbucks Coffee, turn-down service daily. We also have two parlor suites. While staying at the hotel all guest get complimentary passes to Bally Fitness Center located across the street.

Come join us for southwest cuisine in The Connected Cactus restaurant which features regional cuisine utilizing local ingredients. Our Cyber Lounge offers complimentary wireless high-speed internet access and happy hour specials weekly.

DIRECTIONS

Hotel is on the Southwest Corner of Hwy 75 (N. Central Expressway) and Campbell.

FROM LOVE FIELD AIRPORT

Take Mockingbird East to
North Dallas Tollway to East 635
Take Highway 635 East to 75 North
Exit #26 - Collins/Campbell Road

FROM DOWNTOWN DALLAS

Take 75 North pass 635
Exit #26 - Collins/Campbell Road

FROM PLANO

Take 75 South
Exit #26 - Collins/Campbell Road

FROM DFW AIRPORT

Take the North exit out of DFW Airport
Exit Highway 635 East (LBJ) to 75 North
Exit #26 - Collins/Campbell Road

Green Meetings

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Radisson Hotel Dallas North - Richardson
1981 N. Central Expwy. • Richardson, TX 75080
Phone: (972) 644-4000 • Fax: (972) 644-0135
www.radisson.com/richardsontx

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11:00 am - 12:00 pm Registration & Reception
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Luncheon and Program

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Advanced Member Price	\$38.00
Advanced Guest Price	\$42.00
Onsite Price	\$48.00

(Walk-ins will be placed on a wait list on-site. Seating is not guaranteed after the guarantee cut-off - Monday 2:00 p.m.)

R.S.V.P. ONLINE
by 2:00 p.m., Monday, September 24th

Go to the "Events" section at www.mpidfw.org

August Meeting Chapter Partners

Please salute the following companies and individuals for their contributions to the meeting.

Featured Program Participants

David Abadie
Paige Braun
Dvorah A. Evans, CMP
Lisa Flick
Marti K. Fox, CTC, CMP, CMM
Dr. Lawana Gladney, PhD
Bill Reeser, CMP, CTS
Stephanie Rich
Carrie D. Riney
Bob Walker
Jason Ware

Facility, Reception, Luncheon

Hotel Adolphus
Paula Fenner, CPCE

Strategic Sponsor

Galveston Island CVB
Vicky Corrington

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Dan Titchywy

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Stage Set - Creative Design and
Production
J&S Audio Visual
Gary Morgan

Photographer

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JPA, Evaluation & Sponsor Prizes

Hotel Adolphus
Galveston Island CVB

August Program Committee

Chair, Dvorah A. Evans, CMP
Lori Clark
Deborah Cohen
Michelle Corrales
Gloria Ford
Teresa Lovich
Melissa Mihelich
Nann Phillips
Bill Reeser, CMP, CTS



August Highlights

The Accident Zone - The 411 on the 911

by Melissa Mihelich, ZOOM.7 Inc.

Just how prepared are you? Have you ever asked yourself if you are prepared to handle accidents onsite at an event? Does your organization have an onsite medical emergency plan? Do you know how to handle emergency onsite accidents such as: broken bones, choking and labor?

At the August monthly program, we certainly got the 411 on the 911. The answer to these questions and more were presented through a series of skits imaginatively acted out by fellow MPI members. Each act staged what NOT to do in a fun and entertaining way, and then on a more serious side the correct way to handle the situations. The acts were narrated by Gloria Ford (Radisson Hotel, Dallas North/Richardson) along with emergency medical specialist David Diaz who provided the overview of valuable, life-saving information - the correct way to handle the accidental situations.

This monthly program was a reminder that accidents can happen and we should always be prepared to handle them!

Keeping with this year's theme and setting a shining example of Partnerships for a Lifetime, we extend a BIG thank you to both our host and sponsor for their support. The luxurious Adolphus Hotel's lively and professional staff welcomed attendees and provided fantastic fare. Our friendly not-too-distant neighboring program sponsor, Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, graciously provided several goodie bags and one amazing door prize.



August Program Participants:
Standing (l-r) David Diaz, Dallas Fire & Rescue; Stephan Rich, IMPROV Comedy Clubs; Bill Reeser, CMP, CTS, AV TELAV; Dr. Lawana Gladney, PhD, Emotional Wellness Inc.; David Abadie, North Dallas Martial Arts, LLC; Gloria Ford, Radisson Hotel-Dallas North @ Richardson; Seate (l-r), Carrie Riney, IPT-Inman Promotional Team; Deborah Cohen, Urban League of Greater Dallas; Marti Fox, CTC, CMP, CMM, Global Goals, Inc.; Paige Braun, Conventions Guides, Inc.



The Adolphus Hotel Representatives: (l-r) Lionel Cooley, Associate Director of Sales; Jennifer Cohen, Catering Manager; Ruth Bilbo, National Account Manager; Tom Garcia, Managing Director; Loretta Allen, National Account Manager; Becky Milkie, Director of National Accounts; Jesh Batra, Associate Director of Sales; Ric Nicholson, Director of Sales & Marketing



August 2007 Program Committee: (l-r) Bill Reeser, CMP, CTS - AVW-TELAV; Deborah Cohen - Urban League of Greater Dallas; Chair; Dvorah A. Evans, CMP - Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce; Gloria Ford - Radisson Hotel-Dallas North @ Richardson; Melissa Mihelich - ZOOM.7



Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau Representatives: Nancey Hernandez, CMP, MPI D/F President, Dallas CVB; Vicky Corrington, Sr. National Sales Manager, Galveston Island CVB; Laurie Shaw, National Sales Manager, The San Luis Resort Properties; Allis Cooksley, National Association Sales Manager, Galveston Island CVB; Meg Winchester, CMP, Director of Sales Galveston Island CVB

Body Language Examples

Standing with hands on hips (palms down)

Readiness or aggression

Sitting with legs crossed, foot kicking slightly

Boredom

Arms crossed on chest

Defensiveness

Hand to cheek

Evaluation, thinking

Touching or Rubbing Nose

Rejection, doubt, lying

Rubbing hands

Anticipation

Steepling fingers

Authoritative

Tilted head

Interest

Stroking chin

Trying to make a decision

Open palm

Sincerity, openness

Pulling or tugging at ear

Indecision

Tapping or drumming fingers

Impatience

* Sources:

www.positive-way.com and
www.deltabravo.net

What Does That Mean? Pay Attention To Non-Verbal Cues

by David Gabri, *Associated Luxury Hotels*

We've all heard the expression that "it isn't what you say, but how you say it." But did you know that up to 93% of communication is non-verbal?

"Non-verbal" includes tone of voice, posture, eye contact, hand gestures, facial expressions, and eye movement.

Recognizing these cues by your clients, co-workers, boss, and subordinates, can be very helpful in identifying whether someone is in agreement with what you say, or whether you're facing resistance. Knowing these cues also can be helpful for you to monitor the signals that you're sending out to others.

David B. Givens, Ph.D., director of the Center for Nonverbal Studies, published an impressive book called "The Nonverbal Dictionary." This guide defines gestures, signs and body language cues as identified by anthropologists, archeologists, biologists, linguists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and others who have studied human communication.

While there are certainly too many entries in the book to cite all of them, here are some of the findings as they pertain to the American culture:

Facial Expressions - While many facial expressions convey obvious emotions, others can be subtler. These include: the "lip-purse," which conveys disagreement; "flashbulb eyes," which reflects surprise or excitement; "narrowed eyelids" show threat or disagreement; "gaze down," which tends to show submission, deception, guilt, or a defeated attitude; and eye movements to the right or left, which signal information processing, reflection and thought.


Body Alignment - Studies by Albert Mehrabian show that "our upper body unwittingly squares-up, addresses and 'aims' at those we like, admire and agree with, but angles away from disliked persons and people with whom we disagree." This is even evident in a meeting, where it is often possible to identify the most powerful person seated at a conference table by the greater number of torsos aimed in their direction.

Additional studies by Mehrabian show that **leaning forward** suggests friendliness or attentiveness, **leaning backward** expresses more of a negative pose, and "gross changes in body position, such as shifting in the chair, may show negative feelings toward the person one is talking to."

On this topic, Ken Delmar advises, "do not turn your upper body away from the prospect (or customer). It doesn't make you look casual; it makes you look afraid, uninterested, or even unfriendly."

Hands Behind Head - Many studies have shown that in the United States, leaning back and placing both hands behind the neck in the "head clamp" posture is often a sign of dominance or frustration. "This display reveals that someone feels no need to show eagerness or attention," according to Desmond Morris.

Adam's-Apple-Jump - An up-and-down motion of the Adam's Apple (i.e. the throat visibly moving while gulping or swallowing) "is an unconscious sign of emotional anxiety, embarrassment, or stress. At a business meeting a listener's Adam's Apple may inadvertently jump should he or she dislike or strongly disagree with a speaker's suggestion, perspective or point of view," according to Givens.

Have you noticed a few of these non-verbal cues with your conversations? Paying attention to the cues that you receive from others may prove insightful in identifying when your message is being favorably received, or whether you need to change your strategy in order to achieve a more favorable result. But be cognizant that these cues may not necessarily be true in other cultures in our global society. Learning the cues of the global cultures with which you work could prove to be as important as knowing the language. 

David Gabri is president and CEO of Associated Luxury Hotels International, which has the national sales responsibilities to the meetings industry for its membership of over 100 premier Four- and Five-Diamond/ Star quality hotels and resorts worldwide. For information, contact your nearest ALHI National Sales Office, call the



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Matthew Massengale, DMCP

Building Partnerships for a Lifetime Become a Strategic Partner with MPI D/FW

by Matthew W. Massengale, DMCP, EDS


Invest in the power of a Strategic Partnership and increase exposure for you and your organization and the opportunity to network with meeting professionals who utilize organizations like yours. Connect with meeting professionals in the Dallas/Fort Worth hospitality industry and provide them with knowledge about the products and services you provide by sponsoring a MPI D/FW event. Another opportunity for exposure and to reach out to the members is by advertising within MPI-D/FW publications and on the website.

Whether you sponsor a program solely or invite partners to join you and share the cost, there are many partnership opportunities. If you are coming in from outside of the D/FW area, you can pre-plan your trip and map sales calls on the front and back end of your designated date or host a networking reception at a local venue for meeting planners in the area.

Monthly Programs Strategic Partnership opportunities available:

November 15, 2007	March 27, 2008
December 20, 2007	April 24, 2008
January 24, 2008	June 26, 2008

The MPI-D/FW Strategic Partnership program will help you maximize your involvement and Return on Investment (ROI). You are greatly valued as a Strategic Partner and we look forward to building a "Partnership for a Lifetime."

For more information and to secure your Strategic Partnership, please contact Matthew Massengale, DCMP either via phone (972.605.6418) or e-mail (matthew.massengale@eds.com) 



Carrie Elder, CMP

It's Dine Around Time!

by Carrie Elder, CMP,
VP of Membership

The fabulous restaurants of the West End are showcasing some of the best restaurants in the city. Join us for a fun filled evening at the MPI D/FW Chapter Dine Around as we explore the best that West End has to offer.

Start the evening off by arriving at Wild Bill's Western Wear (located at the corner of Market and Ross) to receive your West End Passport. Simply take your Passport to the restaurants listed below and get it stamped at each location. Each location will have scrumptious Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails awaiting upon your arrival. After you receive stamps from all of the sponsoring restaurants, return your West End Passport to Wild Bill's to be entered into a drawing for a fantastic prize.

The MPI D/FW Chapter would like to extend a big thank you to the following venues for generously sponsoring this exclusive MPI Dine Around: Hoffbrau Steaks, Landry's Seafood House, R.J.'s Fine Mexican Cuisine, Sea Dogs, Springhill Suites West End, The Butcher Shop, The Palm - Dallas, West End Pub, YO Ranch Steakhouse and Wild Bill's Western Wear.

For more information or questions, contact Carrie Elder, CMP 972-687-2663 or email celder@tscpa.net

Date: September 19, 2007

Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Register: www.mpidfw.org
(registration closes at 2:00pm on September 14)

Price: Complimentary

Parking: \$5 Valet Parking

September Chapter Charities

Protecting and caring for the planet can mean a number of things, but going green brings two words to mind: reuse and recycle. Our daily choices affect the environment and our chapter has a great opportunity to play a small part in caring for the planet with our two September charities: Austin Street Centre and the SPCA.

AUSTIN STREET CENTRE

WHAT THEY DO: Austin Street Centre exists to provide emergency shelter and related services to the homeless person in a compassionate community, and to provide "whole person" therapeutic programs so that the person in need might be better able to make responsible choices, positive changes and have economic self sufficiency.

WHAT THEY NEED: Gently used bath towels, hand towels, and washcloths.

SPCA OF TEXAS

WHAT THEY DO: The SPCA of Texas is dedicated to providing every animal exceptional care and a loving home and serves as an active resource center providing an array of programs and services that bring people and animals together to enrich each others' lives.

WHAT THEY NEED: Paper for "shredding" for their doggy pens. (Newspaper is great!)

So gather those towels and/or collect that paper and bring to the September meeting. You have just played a role in making our environment "greener" by reusing and recycling!

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Cheryl Hopkins at 972-252-7476 or via e-mail @ chopkins@irvingtexas.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Carole May, CTC, CMP

Get Involved. Make Your Membership Count


by Carole May, CTC, CMP

Don't make the mistake of joining MPI and not taking advantage of committee involvement. Yes, we are all very busy, but if you do not join a committee and get to know a few of your professional peers, one of the most valuable benefits of your membership will be lost.

For my first three years of membership, I felt I was too busy and it was all I could do to make the monthly programs. My opinion of MPI was that it was an OK organization. I studied and earned my CMP, attended a few programs and met a handful of people. On the fourth year I just decided to make a commitment and joined a monthly program committee. Since then I have never looked back. The number of amazing people I have met and got to know is enormous. I now have a large support group professionally and personally. My only regret is the three years I wasted not getting involved.

There are many steps to planning our monthly programs, developing educational content, planning special events and chapter fundraisers, as well as communicating with members and assisting in chapter charities. Some of these volunteer positions take a bit of time commitment but many are very minimal and you will reap so much more than you sow.

Of course as Director of Special Events, I would love for you to join my committee and help with one of our great events. The annual Golf Tournament, Supplier Showcase, June Gala or December Gala. Each of these events are fun and mean a lot to our chapter and members. If you would like to know more about this committee, call or email me for more details. Most important, find an area you are interested in and get involved!

Make the Commitment and Reap the Benefits! 



April Marchand

What My Membership Means to Me


by April D. Marchand

For those of you who spend most of your day at a desk, staring at a screen and cranking out the daily workload, you can relate to what I am about to say.

In my position with the Fort Worth Convention & Visitor's Bureau, I provide a complimentary service of sending the Meeting Planner's event details out to my hotel partners and special events venues, in a format where the hotels can quickly and easily check for availability and send a quick bid response to the client. Because I handle the smaller meetings market, for all industries, I rarely travel to trade shows or conduct sales missions. This hinders my ability to meet planners face-to-face, interact and show them that I care about their business, their objectives and their time.

To be a member of an organization that promotes networking between suppliers and planners, in a fun environment (with such a large membership) I know that regardless of time constraints, I have a huge opportunity to find meeting planners whom I can serve. Furthermore, the resources I have gained through my membership, will be incredibly valuable to me in the next year along the path to earning my CMP.

Although I have had limited chances to get out and about for D/FW Chapter events, I plan to increase my exposure within MPI in the coming year, including involvement in committees. With my two professional aims being 1) servant-hood to my fellow meeting planners; and 2) loyalty to my community (The Lovely City of Fort Worth, Texas) I welcome the chance to meet you all.

Having goals is one thing. I know that my MPI membership will make the mark! 



Timothy Arnold

Education Committee Meetings

We have had several education committee meetings over the past few months. Usually held the third Tuesday of each month, the Education committee meets to discuss the education direction of the chapter. Topics have included future program ideas, seminars, and sharing of great speakers who might work for our chapter. I invite anyone to attend, as we truly value all opinions and insights. If you would like to help shape the direction and content of future educational topics, please come to our meetings. Watch your email for the location and exact dates of future meetings.



Holiday Gala

Now accepting Silent Auction items! Our annual Holiday Gala is right around the corner and we'll have a silent auction included during the event.

We invite your company to participate in the December 20th event by donating products, hotel stays, dining certificates and more.

Please contact Carole May, CMP, CTC, Director of Special Events, at 817-732-1704 for additional information

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Leah Belasco
'Grapevine' Columnist

Heard it through the Grapevine

Kimy Piland and **Chantelle Murat** are National Sales Managers with the new 605-room *Omni Fort Worth Hotel*, scheduled to open November 2008. Kimy, formerly with *Omni Austin*, was active in the MPI Hill Country Chapter. Chantelle, formerly with *Omni Shoreham Washington, D.C.*, was active in that chapter.

Sandie Fouke has joined *La Reve Consultants* as Catering and Special Events Manager for *Trece, The Club and Villa O*. Sandie previously was with the *Mansion on Turtle Creek*.

Kim Hentges, CMP, has joined *Fusion Performance Marketing* as Project Analyst. Kim previously was with *Acquent/TL*.

Andree Taylor, formerly with *Sheraton Suites Market Center*, is now Assistant Director of Sales at *American Airlines Training & Conference Center*.

Allison Daniel is Sales Manager at *Westin Stonebriar Resort*. Allison previously was with *Hyatt Regency DFW*.

The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas, opened August 15 with 218 guest rooms and 14,000 square feet of meeting space (including a ballroom just under 9,500 square feet). As a member of our chapter, **Noeha Coutry**, Director of Sales and Marketing, announces these management positions: Roberto van Geenen, General Manager, Kelly Steward, Executive Assistant Manager, Rooms, Elizabeth Ng, Director of Meetings & Special Events, Dana Cooper, Director of Group Sales, Bill Arcuri, Director of Sales-Business and Leisure Travel, Heather Severtson, Senior Manager, Catering Sales, John Coleman, Executive Chef, John Sullivan, Assistant F&B Director and Bonnie Crail, Director of Public Relations.

Our heartfelt condolences go to **Marti Fox, CTC, CMP, CMM** on the recent loss of her mother. Marti, you are in our hearts as you go through this difficult time.

Tragically, on August 4, long-time member **Anna Squire** and her husband, Patrick, lost their 6-year old son Spencer after he was rushed to the hospital. Our prayers are with Anna, Patrick and son Ryan.

To submit member news and information, please contact: Leah Belasco • 214-441-3309

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BENCHMARK HOSPITALITY INTERNATIONAL

New Kids on the Block Welcome to Our Newest Members!

We are delighted to welcome our newest chapter members. We invite you all to attend our monthly chapter meetings in an effort to help further your desire for education and networking. For more information on chapter events, please visit our website at www.mpidfw.org.

Dana L. Adams.....JPMorgan Chase
Barbara Jane Bouman.....Gilleys Dallas
Michelle G. Bradley.....
Karen M. Coughlin, CMP...Hilton Bella Harbor-Rockwall
Dina Evans.....A&H AwardPro
Missy Fain.....Carey International
Madeline Hernandez.....
Ben L. Johnson.....W Fort Lauderdale
Deana or Eugene Krasny.....Christopher
Kelly Massey.....VWV USA
Joyce Nissen...DoubleTree Club Dallas-Farmers Branch
Mark Shrayber.....360Limo, Inc
Andrea C. Sorensen.....Westin Galleria, Dallas
Teresa Threlkeld.....



MPI

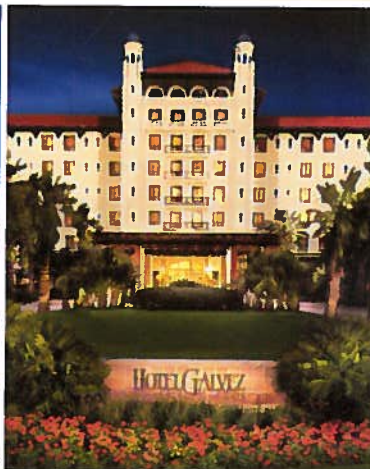
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PMB 259

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