

MPI CURRENT

Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of Meeting Planners International

June 1985

Thoughts From The President

by Ellen Beckert

Membership in Meeting Planners International is currently divided into two main categories - the Planner and the Supplier (with a special category for students). Although both types of members carry equal weight and have equal rights once they become a member, their initial qualification for membership differs. As you know, a prospective supplier member must bring in a new planner member in order to join - the intent of this requirement is to keep our membership balanced between suppliers and planners.

This unique system has worked fairly well; however, there has been a growing concern from both planners and suppliers that the definition of a "planner" needs to be clarified and, in fact, a third main category of membership for the independent meeting planner may need to be developed. With the growing number of meeting consultant firms, travel agency meeting departments, and other independent meeting planning organizations entering our industry, their status is not clearly defined under the current structure.

This is not a new issue; in fact, that is why I am focusing this article on the subject. MPI has been aware of this problem for over three years and, as of yet, there has been no clear solution presented. The New York chapter recently sent a letter to our new president requesting that this issue be revived and resolved, and your DFW board also sent the same request for action. There may be no perfect solution, but hopefully an improvement can be developed that will better serve the needs of all our members.

If you have thoughts on this subject, please contact one of your local International Directors - Sally Gibbons or Jerry Swiggart. As they say, keep those cards and letters coming... we appreciate hearing from you.



At left: Greg Elam receives his award as Planner of the Year from Pat Smith. At right: Pat presents the Supplier of the Year award to Sally Gibbons.



Dallas Fort Worth Chapter Names First Planner And Supplier Of The Year

Although this chapter has previously nominated members for the International awards, the D/FW chapter has never locally recognized its own outstanding members. At the May 14 meeting, Greg Elam of Great American Reserve Insurance Company was named Planner of the Year and Sally Gibbons of the Loews Anatole Hotel was named Supplier of the Year.

Both nominations will be forwarded to International and the International award winners were to be announced at the June Annual Conference (June 6-9) in Chicago.

Greg has been a meeting planner since 1956 and currently plans regional and national sales meetings, seminars and workshops, as well as national and international sales and incentive meetings for

50 to 850 people. His involvement with MPI includes service as an International Board Member, a member of 3 International committees, and speaker at several MPI meetings, as well as D/FW Chapter President, VP of Administration and Editor of the newsletter.

Sally first became a hotel sales manager in 1974 and has been with the Anatole since 1983 where she was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Sales. Her membership in MPI began in 1978 and she has since taken on a number of responsibilities including serving as an International Board Director and member of the International Membership Committee, as well as D/FW Chapter VP of Membership and D/FW Chapter President.

June Meeting To Feature "Passing Of The Reins"

by Latrelle Smart

In the past few years the annual installation of officers has taken place in the month of July. After reviewing the By-laws the Board realized installation should take place in June. Since the Program Committee was already working with Circle R Ranch for the June meeting, we decided what better place to do the official "passing of the reins" so to speak.

Alan Powdermaker has put together an extra special evening complete with cocktails, dinner, entertainment, and dancing. It will also give you, the meeting planner, the opportunity to see his new Chisholm Center. Needless to say, the recommended attire is Western. If you happen to be a "city slicker" and you

don't have any western wear, casual attire is also acceptable.

Since Alan's place is "a few miles" out of town, we recommend your meeting us at the Summit Hotel at 2645 LBJ Freeway and allow us to be the "designated driver." We will have a bus departing the westend of the building at 6:00 PM sharp. The bus will depart Circle R for the return trip at 10:00 PM. Be sure to tell Della, when you R.S.V.P. for the meeting, to reserve a seat on the bus for you and your guest.

You won't want to miss this evening. It's going to be filled with surprises. See you at Circle R!

Chapter Shows Healthy Financial State

by Connie Gray

The following report was provided to the Board by Connie Gray, Vice President of Finance, at the April 1985 Board Meeting.

For the 1984/85 term, the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter has \$3,100 in assets with no outstanding liabilities.

Our monthly meetings generate approximately 82 persons each meeting out of a 247 membership. We have a 9% no show factor. We do invoice our no shows and we maintain an 80% return rate.

We received our tax exempt status through the Texas State Tax Commission and are recognized in the State of Texas. We will save approximately \$800 this year by not paying state taxes.

We developed a working budget this year for our chapter by breaking it down into five categories representing each chapter manager's responsibility.

Two Board Actions Reported

Effective immediately, there will be a \$5.00 replacement charge for lost name badges. Badges that require replacement because of job changes will continue to be provided at no charge. Remember to turn in your badge to the registration desk at the close of each meeting.

Secondly, the Board voted at the same meeting to fund the mailing of the new Membership Directory to all current members and this will take place in mid-June.

Dallas Delegations Represented In Chicago

A large number of local D/FW Chapter members attended the MPI Annual Conference in Chicago June 6-9. Watch for a special report in next month's *Current* on how the Texans were represented in the Super Sports competition led by Patty Covert-Watson and Jeff Fuller.

All Prizes Remaining to be Awarded in June

Winners of prizes at the May meeting included Nora Weaver who won a weekend for two at the Amfac, and Leslie Meyer who won dinner for two at the Spinnaker Restaurant. Barbara Stone was the winner of the special drawing for all members and she won the trip for two to the San Diego Intercontinental Hotel.

Prizes and donors are:

- wine and cordial glasses from Air Canada
- complimentary golf for 2 at Bear Creek Golf Resort, courtesy of the Amfac
- albums & cassettes from BDR Entertainment
- "Canada, A Landscape Portrait" book from the Canadian Consulate General
- dinner and show for two in the Venetian Room, courtesy of the Fairmont
- dinner for 2 at Spinnaker Seafood Restaurant, courtesy of the Lincoln Hotel
- complimentary suite for 2 for 2 weekend nights at the Marriott Park Central
- dinner for 2 at the Cafe Royal, courtesy of the Plaza of the Americas
- glassware from Specialty Advertising Association
- a goodie basket from Special Arrangements, Inc.
- a copy of the new 4th edition of the "American Heart Association Cookbook".
- tote bags from the Society of Petroleum Engineers
- an evening for 4 at the Westfork Ranch
- Two nights at The Mansion
- a Sony Walkman from AVW and The Freeman Companies.

The grand prizes will be awarded in July. They include:

- Roundtrip coach fare to Phoenix, plus 3 nights at the Loews Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, courtesy of the Loews Hotels and Delta Airlines;
- Roundtrip coach fare to Tampa, plus 5 days and 4 nights of golf or tennis at Saddlebrook, courtesy of Eastern Airlines and the George Graves Group.

These two trips will be awarded by drawings from the hat which will include the names of all new members and their sponsors over the entire year.

- Roundtrip coach fare for 2 to Paris or Frankfurt, courtesy of American Airlines.

This prize will be awarded to the member who has recruited the most new members over the year.

Our appreciation goes to all of these sponsors for their support and contributions.

D/FW Chapter Still Growing

As of April 30, the D/FW Chapter has a total membership of 251. New Members who joined in March and April are:

- Patricia Butler
Bell Helicopter
- Mimi Hails
Kaleidoscope Presents Dallas, Inc.
- Mona Jones
Texas Woman's University
- Brenda McEachern
Gelco Travel Service
- Sallie S. Rawlings
American Airlines
- Jan Shelby
Associated Milk Producers
- Marycarol Stone
Travel w/Stone
- Kathryn Westbrook
MCI Planners
- Kaye Burkhardt
Dallas Fan Fares, Inc.
- Gary Clark
AVW Audio Visual, Inc.
- Sarah Daubendek
Wernli Group
- Jude Hettick
Hilton Hotel, Dallas
- Dennis Pendergast
Curtis Mathes
- James Quinn
Eastern Airlines
- Carolyn Smith
NEC America, Inc.
- Janelle Stewart
Society of Petroleum Engrs.
- Susan Thompson
Word of Faith World
Outreach Center



Members of the D/FW Chapter Board hosted some of the MPI staff and officers at the Anatole in April. Pictured around the luncheon table at left are (counter clockwise, beginning at the lower left) Dwight Loken, MPI President Elect; Marta Hayden, MPI Treasurer Elect; Sally Gibbons D/FW International Director; Doug Heath, MPI Executive Vice President; an MPI Staff Member; Joe Bow, MPI President; Ellen Beckert, D/FW President. Standing are (left to right) Dwight Loken, MPI President Elect; Charlotte St. Martin, MPI Treasurer; Dawn Block, MPI Vice President Internal; Steve Powell, MPI Immediate Past President; Joe Bow, MPI President, Mike Dimond; MPI Vice President External.

Full Agenda At May Meeting

by Betty Thomas

Greg Elam & Sally Gibbons won "top billing" at the grand Amfac Hotel for Planner and Supplier of the Year respectively, May 14th at M.P.I.'s monthly meeting. (See story on page 1.) They were awarded lovely Howard Miller quartz clocks with the appropriate inscriptions.

Following the awards presentations, Don Vaughan, Vice President of Freeman Companies stated his views and ideas on the certification of meeting planners. He described the Convention Liaison Council as an umbrella committee which encompasses 14 different societies into one framework. In fact the first Hall of Leaders banquet developed by the CLC to honor 12 outstanding men and women will be held June 10th in Washington, D.C.

Since research is the basis of

today's communication, Don quoted theories that say our strongest economic growth from 1980-1990 will be in telecommunications, biotechnology, and fiber optics. It was also stated that three to four million jobs are being created every year with approximately one-third of all new businesses are being started by women.

Don encouraged all MPI members to apply for the C.L.C. application kit and to take the certified meeting planner exam in order to upgrade our profession to a much higher level within the management world.

The election of new officers was also held and the slate of nominees was elected by acclamation. The following members were elected new members of the board: Linda Hill, Norb Doetman, Betty Thomas (as planners), Jeff Fuller (as a supplier).

July Meeting To Be Held "Behind The Scenes" With SNAG

by Kathy Holmes

When you've done a good job and the meeting's run smoothly, and your attendees are unaware of any snags you have encountered in the planning - that's because so much of what we do takes place within the walls of hotels and board rooms.

Join us on July 25 when the MPI Longhorn Players presents its interpretation of what goes on "Behind the Scenes of the Society of North American Gardeners (SNAG)." This special chapter meeting will be held at the Fairmont Hotel. More details will be available in the July Current.

MPI Fall Institutes Scheduled

MPI's Institute I and II will be conducted September 8-13 at the Xerox Corporation International Center for Training and Management Development in Leesburg, VA. Attendance is limited to 35 persons for each institute, and registrations are currently being received. Any MPI member interested in attending should immediately contact MPI at (513) 424-6827.

Institute I covers meeting management fundamentals, including site selection, negotiations, food and beverage, interpersonal communication and other elements of basic meeting management.

Institute II stresses the management aspects of meetings management. Topics include budgeting, developing goals and objectives, the legal aspects of meetings, the use of computers in meetings management, and many other advanced topics.

the Chisholm Center
at the Circle R Ranch

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CALENDAR UPDATE

June 6-9, 1985 Annual Conference Chicago	December 8-11, 1985 Professional Education Conference Phoenix
June 27, 1985 Installation D/FW Chapter Meeting Circle R Ranch	June 15-18, 1986 Annual Conference Boston
July 25, 1985 Dinner D/FW Chapter Meeting Fairmont Hotel	December 7-10, 1986 Professional Education Conference San Diego
August 8-11, 1985 Texas Chapters of MPI Retreat Hersey Hotel Corpus Christi	June 7-10, 1987 Annual Conference Winnipeg, Manitoba
September 26, 1985 Luncheon D/FW Chapter Meeting Anatole Hotel	December 6-9, 1987 Professional Education Conference Miami
October 24, 1985 Evening D/FW Chapter Meeting Fort Worth	June 19-22, 1988 Annual Conference Seattle
	December 4-7, 1988 Professional Education Conference Nashville

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