

# CURRENT

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Thanks for the memories

by Norb Dettmann



One of the first things a new president of an MPI chapter receives is a batch of newsletters from other chapters. A year ago I diligently read my first load. Almost every outgoing president wrote a column on the many accomplishments of the past year. That, I said, I would not do. It seemed self-serving.

But here I am - Thanking you for the memories. Memories not so much of accomplishments of activities, but rather memories of people pulling together in a sincere desire to make meeting planning a better profession and in turn, to make more professional meeting planners of themselves.

A Board of Directors who gave of their valuable time to help us grow. Committee chairs and members who volunteered for a genuine purpose. The editor of the Current who spent sleepless nights worrying about deadlines and who gave up weekend after weekend to keep the news flowing so that we could grow together as a community of meeting planners. What memories!

The monthly meetings flowed so smoothly you almost thought that they were planned - perhaps even by a meeting planner. Over 125 people every month spent a lot of money to join in the network, to strengthen ties with one another, to make new members feel welcome and to enjoy one another. I'm glad this memory will be mine for months to come.

Rather than the "final curtain" of Frank Sinatra, I see these days only as great memories and fantastic expectations. Bill Boyd and his team will keep the ball rolling in the greatest style.

So, thanks to everyone of you for great memories. I hope you have a huge stack of them too!

## D/FW Chapter celebrates year end

by Suzie Oliver

The July meeting of the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter will be held in downtown Dallas at the beautiful Adolphus Hotel. This special evening will be in celebration of a highly successful and outstanding year for the chapter.

Guests of honor will include this year's

president, Norb Dettmann, and the outgoing officers and board members. In addition, the incoming president, Bill Boyd, the new officers and the Board will be installed for the 1988-89 term by Greg Elam. Greg is a long-time member of MPI, a past

•see YEAR END on page 6.



"Changing of the guard". Norb Dettmann outgoing President and Bill Boyd 1988/1989 President

### July Chapter Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, July 28, 1988  
**Place:** Adolphus Hotel  
 1321 Commerce Street  
 Dallas, TX  
**Time:** 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Registration & Reception  
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dinner  
 8:00 PM - Program & Installation

**Meeting Cost:** Advance Reservations: \$22.00  
 Late Reservations & Walk-ins: \$27.00  
 (Space Available Only)

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 12 NOON ON TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1988.

For Phone Reservations Call: Comel Tiller  
 Between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 (214) 630-4902

Valet Parking is complimentary for all MPI members. Have your ticket validated at the registration area.

# D/FW Chapter Planner and Supplier of the Year

by Phyllis Firebaugh



From left to right Suzie Oliver, Norb Dettmann, Mary Coward

Mary Coward, Meeting Consultant, was recently recognized as the top meeting planner of the year. Suzie Oliver, Director of Marketing for Eddie Barker, Associates was selected as top supplier of the year for the D/FW Chapter.

Mary is currently Vice President of Finance for the D/FW Chapter and will remain at this post for the upcoming 1988-89 term. She was appointed to this position while serving on the Board of Directors during the 1986-87 year. Her previous service includes the Membership Committee. Mary joined MPI in 1984.

Mary has been active in the community and professional organizations, contributing articles in trade publications and speaking for a professional affiliate. She received the highest professional awards from UCCEL and has been a meeting specialist in Dallas for 11 years.

Suzie has spent the last two years as Vice

President of Programming. Her highlight was winning the International Award of Excellence for Education in 1988 at the MPI Conference. She will serve as Vice President of Membership for the 1988-89 term. An active member since 1977, she has served as Vice President of Administration for two terms, and served on other committees for program, membership, and outstanding member.

Formerly with the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau for 10 years, Suzie has received several outstanding member awards from professional affiliates including TSAE and HSMA, being active in such organizations since 1975. She has also contributed professionally as a writer and a speaker, and has been active in the community.

Our local chapter thrives because of supporters such as these and many others, who make the selections very difficult.

## MPI SPOTLIGHT

by Lisa South



Michele Green

Michele Green has been a member of MPI for the past three years. As an active member of the DFW Chapter, Michele joined the Program Committee soon after becoming involved in MPI. For the past two years, Michele has chaired the Prospective Member subcommittee of the Membership Committee, hosting the new member receptions.

Michele grew up in Lonoke, Arkansas. She graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a degree in Marketing. Michele has lived in the Dallas area for the past three years. She currently resides in Las Colinas. Michele has been employed as Hotel Sales Manager with Bauer Audio Video for three years.

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT MPI:** The professionalism, the networking and the friends she has made.

**BEST HOUR OF THE DAY:** Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. with a cup of coffee and a newspaper.

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT DFW:** The shopping, restaurants, and great basketball! Plus, you can never run out of things to do.

**FAVORITE POSSESSION:** The necklace her great aunt left her.

**TOUGHEST ASSIGNMENT:** Working on one of Bauer's largest shows at McCormick Place in Chicago with the union!

**FAVORITE VACATION:** Touring Japan and Hong Kong.

**ULTIMATE BANQUET:** A seafood/pasta dish with Caesar Salad on the side!

**FAVORITE RELAXATION:** Soft music, a good book, and a glass of white wine.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT MOST PROUD OF:** She is proud of all of her accounts!

**FAVORITE COLOR:** Razorback Red!

**IF I COULD CHOOSE ANOTHER JOB:** An international buyer for Neiman Marcus.

**TIPS OF THE TRADE:** A positive attitude and persistence pays off.

### NEW MEMBER RECRUITERS

by Michele Sanseverino

As of May 31, 1988 the following members have sponsored two or more new members since August 1, 1987. At the July 28th chapter meeting, the top recruiter will receive a one week trip to a Grand Kempinski Hotel in Germany with airfare on Lufthansa Airlines. Additional prizes will be received by runner-ups which are all in close contention.

Norb Dettmann .....	18	Brenda O'Quin .....	3
Suzie Oliver .....	8	Michele Green .....	2
Michele Sanseverino .	7	Colleen Haggard .....	2
Laura Yarbrough .....	5	LaTrelle Smart .....	2

### DOLLARS & CENTS

by Mary Coward

#### May Financial Statement:

Previous Balance	\$19,186.98
Income	3,001.52
Disbursement	1,821.81
End of Balance	20,366.69

Financial statements run one month behind. June's statement will not appear in the July issue.



# International Planner/Supplier of the Year

by Phyllis Firebaugh

The D/FW Chapter proudly announces Rosemary Hall and Ellen Beckert as nominees for the International Planner and Supplier of the Year at the 1988 Annual Conference.

Rosemary served last term as an International Director and on the International Member Relations Committee. She has been a local Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Administration, Board Member, and has been on several committees since joining MPI in 1980. She will be Vice President of Administration in the 1988-89 term.

Formerly a meeting planner with Zale Companies, Rosemary has also worked in that capacity for five years with Mary Kay Cosmetics, and has the awesome task of planning for over 25,000 attendees at the Annual Seminar in August in Dallas.

Ellen has been on the supplier side for 14 years, as Director of Corporate Planning for The Freeman Companies. Serving last term as an International Director for MPI, she has also been re-elected for another term. She has served often as an officer for our local MPI chapter and was named Supplier of the Year in 1986.

Ellen is also very active in many other professional affiliates. She has written for trade publications and spoken for many of these organizations.

To be nominated for this prestigious position requires a well-rounded individual with outstanding professional contributions. Rosemary and Ellen represented us



From left to right Ellen Beckert, Phyllis Firebaugh, Rosemary Hall.

well in Seattle, and we would not be surprised to see these names again in future years as outstanding local representatives at the international level.

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THE WESTIN HOTEL  
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# That special event and how to plan one

by Nancy Kirk

The secrets of planning a special event were shared with the attendees of the June meeting of the MPI D/FW Chapter. Circle R Ranch provided a perfect site to learn from three very qualified speakers: Patty Watson-Covert of Magic, Maurine Allen of Kaleidoscope, and Kaye Burkhardt of Dallas Fan Fares.

Patty addressed the special event in a hotel, with tips on the important things to look for when considering a site. Some of these included the access to the space--



Charlotte Ponder and guest



Speakers: Kaye Burkhardt, Maurine Allen and Patty Watson-Covert



Left to right, Marilyn McGuire, Marcel Trammell, Ron Trammell, Susie Carr and Rosemary Hall.



Patty Watson-Covert and Craig Thibodeau

plenty of time for set-up and tear-down; ceiling heights, wall surfaces (what can you put on the walls); acoustics; lighting; electrical outlets, dock area and prep area. Also, don't forget about freight elevators (Where are they? Can you use them? Do they work?), and if the hotel has lifts that work. Another important factor is the attitude of the property staff, and how willing they are to work with you and be creative.

Maurine followed with the off-premise special event, and advised us to plan the function around the facility. It is important when planning an event at a particular site, to consider the time of the year. Always check out the facility very carefully and ask a lot of questions to know as much as possible about what the facility can and cannot do. A good idea is not to establish your budget until you know what the facility has available, but be sure to leave a little extra in the budget for the unforeseen. Always get everything in writing and make sure your alternative plans are workable.

Kaye closed the program with tips for sports events and sports theme parties. Sports activities such as Super Sports can



Alan Powdermaker and Anne Fratella

serve as an ice breaker as well as put people in the spirit for teamwork. She advised that you make an agenda, hour by hour, for who does what and when, and have a photographer on hand to capture what is happening. You will also need to have a backup plan for bad weather. For meetings at or during a sports event, arrange the meeting theme and agenda around the sports event.

Our thanks to Donna Nigohosian and Walt Nixon for putting together this very informative program, and special thanks to Alan and David Powdermaker and the staff of the Circle R Ranch for a great evening.



Program Committee



Rollin', rollin', rollin' . . .

# Texas pride was showin'

by Tobi Conley

In our own impeccable style, Texans certainly left their "brand" on Seattle and the Meeting Planners International organization during the annual conference held in June. For those of you who have never attended MPI's annual meeting, mark your calendars for next year in Orlando, Florida. This is one event you don't want to miss.

and Excellence in Education. In addition, the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter was also ranked as one of the top five chapters in the country for the coveted "Chapter of the Year" award.

I would be remiss if I did not comment on Supersports. The skills needed in these purely social and team-building exercises are not generally considered requirements



Above, Charlotte St. Martin accepting the Industry award. To her left is Marta Hayden and to her right is Doug Heath.

At left, Bill Boyd accepting special recognition awards for excellence in Membership and Education from Marta Hayden and Michael Hausman.

Below, Super Sports – with David Powdermaker and Ron Trammell in front

In the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter, we come together monthly as separate entities, even competitors in the meeting planning industry. However, during the four day conference, the emphasis shifted from "individual" interests to collective "chapter" goals. Backed by a sense of pride, **Team Texas** united together forming a solid comradery, that made Seattle an unforgettable experience.

Texans came to the forefront early as three of our own were billed as headline speakers at conference sessions. As noted experts in their fields, Charlotte St. Martin, of the Dallas Convention and Visitor's Bureau; Judith Mathews, of Meeting Tech, and Robert Walker, of AVW Audio Visual, shared their experience with conference attendees.

We proved our reputation as "hard-core" professionals to be fact, as fourteen Texans completed a grueling study course enabling them to sit for the CMP exam given in Seattle prior to each annual conference.

Speaking of reputations, Texas' own Charlotte St. Martin was honored with the Industry Award given for excellence in the Meeting Planning industry.

As icing on the cake, our Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter was recognized and awarded in two areas never before acknowledged: Excellence in Membership



for success in our industry. . . apple bobbing, blindfolded obstacle course maneuvering, water balloon juggling, etc. . . However, sometimes successful, sometimes regretful, the results of the competition speak for themselves. Led by David Powdermaker and Ron Trammell, **Team Texas**, clad in orange shorts, and longhorn T-shirts, atop stick horses, came away with second place in spirit and fifth place in total points.

In summary, there were forty-four of us who returned from Seattle with a new vigor for our industry, pride in our colleagues, and a true awareness of the professionalism in the field of Meeting Planning.

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## YEAR END

•from page 1.

president of the D/FW Chapter and last year's International Planner of the Year.

The Suzi Fiveash Award for Mem-



Greg Elam

bership will be presented, and committee members and supplier companies who have contributed to the chapter's success this year will be recognized also.

The evening will begin with registration and reception at 6:30 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.; and the program and installation will follow at 8:00 p.m. after the program, J & S Audio Visual will host a coffee and cordial bar. Entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Jeanette Brantley Quartet. Ms. Brantley is renowned for her "energized" style of blending jazz, blues and gospel music. The Brantley Quartet is appearing compliments of O.D. O'Donnell and Nightlife Talent.

An enjoyable evening has been planned, and you are encouraged to join your fellow chapter members and friends for the last meeting of the year!

Parking is complimentary for guests. Please bring your valet ticket for validation to the registration area.

# Southwest Regional Education Conference & Tradeshow

Houston Area Meeting Planners International, (HAMPI), is sponsoring the Southwest Regional Education Conference & Tradeshow, August 4-6, 1988 at the Stouffer Greenway Plaza Hotel in Houston, Texas.

"Catch the Wave: Leadership in the '90's" is the theme of the conference. "The comprehensive educational programs reflect a design for leadership in the '90's for the advanced planner, the planner seeking

basic knowledge of the industry, suppliers, and those wishing to increase their computer literacy. The tradeshow will highlight trends that will take us into the next decade."

For more information regarding the conference and registration forms, contact Bill Boyd at (214) 258-0210.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this educational conference.

## HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

by Donna Nigohosian

Lisa South, formerly of Associates Translo has recently joined the folks at E.D.S. as a Corporate Meeting Planner. She is working with Debbie Barnes and Laura Yarbrough, Lisa says she is GLAD to be there!!! Congrats to you Lisa and send some business!!! Lisa's new number is 490-2986.

Teri Stover has left Kaleidoscope to join AVW as Sales Manager, Hotel Services . . . we wish you the best of luck Teri, and we know you'll enjoy working with Lindsey!!

Audre Hoffman has joined Patty Watson-Covert at Magic as Director of Marketing . . . way to go Audre . . . are you seeing stars yet????

More AVW news . . . Ms. Christine Weinmann has been promoted, and effective August 1, 1988, she will move to Austin to handle sales and marketing at the Austin Branch. Congrats, Christine and stay away from 6th Street!!!!

Barbara Dacus is now at the Westin in catering . . . best of luck to you!!

The Plaza of the Americas has a NEW General Manager . . . Mr. Gean Paul Horst. He replaces Wolfgang Von Bombach. Welcome to downtown Dallas and we look

forward to working with you.

Mr. Hans Strohmer has left the Ramada Renaissance as General Manager to move over to Ft. Worth as General Manager of the Hyatt. Good luck, Mr. Strohmer and hope you enjoy "COWTOWN" . . .

Mr. G. Kruczek, Managing Director of the Anatole Hotel is leaving to join Princess Hotels. Dallas won't be the same without you, but we wish you the best of luck!!!

Last but not least, the Dallas Hilton will become the Dallas Park Inn Plaza effective August 1, 1988. Along with the name change, there will be some extensive renovations which should be complete within 6-8 months!!! Watch out!!!!

Last month, I reported that Rebecca Lundsford was in search of the perfect job . . . her phone number was printed incorrectly . . . she can be reached at 817-498-5160 . . . if you hear of anything, just give Becky a call!!!!

That's it for this month, I hope everyone who attended the June MPI meeting at Circle R Ranch enjoyed themselves . . . they did a great job!

P.S. Congrats to David Powdermaker and his new bride!!!!

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS ?

If you have changed your address in the past year or your address is incorrectly typed on the label of your newsletter, please complete the information below and return this coupon to:

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## "NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK"

by Michele Sanseverino

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**Carol E. Brice-Fulton**  
Marketing Coordinator  
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**Kimberly S. Warren**  
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## PRIZES, PRIZES, PRIZES

by Michele Sanseverino

Listed below are prizes to be awarded at the July chapter meeting. Some have been reserved for runner-ups in the membership contest and the team attendance committee contest. The remainder will be given as door prizes to those members present at the meeting.

**Harvey Hotel - Plano**  
Suite Romance Package  
(including dinner)

**Hyatt Regency Dallas**  
Weekend (including brunch)

**Stouffer Dallas Hotel**  
Weekend Package

**Dallas Marriott Quorum**  
"Suite Weekend"

**Sheraton Dallas Hotel & Towers**  
Weekend Suite

**Hotel Crescent Court**  
Weekend Room

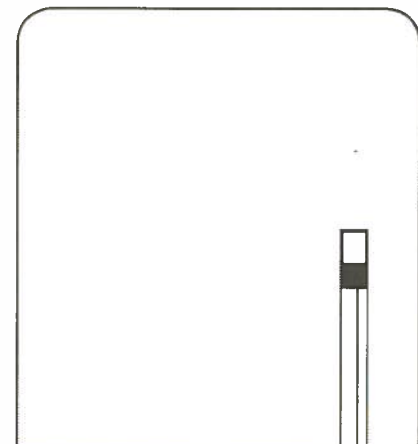
**Plaza of the Americas**  
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**Westin Hotel**  
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**Grand Kempinski Dallas**  
Deluxe Weekend

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1988

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## CALENDAR UPDATE

**July 28, 1988, Thursday**  
D/FW Chapter Meeting  
The Adolphus Hotel  
Dinner

**December 4-7, 1988**  
Professional Education Conference  
Nashville, Tennessee

**December 10-13, 1989**  
Professional Education Conference  
Long Beach, California

**DATES TBA, 1989**  
Annual Conference  
Orlando, Florida

## MEETING RESERVATION AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

### NOTE:

Money will be collected at the door. Advance payments are no longer being accepted. We would appreciate your cooperation.

Advance reservations must be received by cut-off date; late reservations and walk-ins will be accepted on a SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS ONLY.

CANCELLATIONS must also be received by the cut-off date - NO SHOWS WILL BE BILLED!

Guests are limited to attending two meetings per chapter year before membership is required to attend future meetings. (Spouses not included).

In case of overflow seating, member not present 15 minutes after the meal is served will have their reserved seats sold.

Members are responsible for paying "no show" charges for their guests.

## OFFICERS

**President**  
Norb Dettmann ..... 214/747-0555

**Vice President Membership**  
Michele Sanseverino ..... 214/717-2415

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