

President's Message Being Informed Leads to Productive Service



Gregory Pynes
Hand & Associates
Communications
D/FW Chapter President

Involvement through Service means staying informed.

I continue to be amazed at the energy surrounding the MPI D/FW Chapter—whether it be the record breaking attendance at the August program (309),

or the commitment of a single member to encourage increased attendance from chapter members in Fort Worth, Arlington and the Mid-Cities.

Melanie Arguello (Fort Worth CVB) is a chapter member who makes things continued on page 3

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Gemelli Committee Evolves into WDP

Worldwide Development Program to Provide 'Link' to Other Chapters

The D/FW Chapter of MPI recently embarked on a new era when the Board of Directors approved the mission of the Worldwide Development Program (WDP).

Formerly known as the Gemelli Committee, the program has been restructured to include providing assistance to other MPI chapters in the domestic marketplace, as well as internationally.

"WDP is an avenue to continue our strong association and assistance with such international markets as the Italia chapter, while expanding into domestic markets," said Bobby Bulger (Bobby Bulger Travel Concepts, Inc.), chairperson for the Worldwide Development Program.

A key area of the program is to develop long-term strategy and promote

awareness and education of both the international and domestic marketplaces, she said.

"While the assistance and joint sessions with the Italia chapter has been successful in the past, we wanted to look closer to home and see where we could 'link up' with a domestic chapter to provide assistance in their development as well," said Bulger.

Dorrit Turner (Yellow Rose Touring & Special Events) will head up the International Link section of the program while Tim Wade (Lennox Industries) will be liaison of the Domestic Link.

Lisa South, CMP (CLR/Fast-Tax) cochairs the program with Bulger and will serve as interface with MPI's international office.

continued on page 3



CURRENT MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL®

Committed to Educational Leadership

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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

The CURRENT is published 12 times yearly for the D/FW Chapter of Meeting Professionals International, the industry's leading educational and networking resource in meetings management. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of individual writers and do not imply collective opinion of the officers or members of MPI.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

October 23, Thursday
Monthly Chapter Meeting
Grapevine Convention Center
"Self-Directed Leadership" +
Tribute to MPI D/FW Chapter Member
Bill Boyd, CMP,
MPI International Supplier of the Year
11:30 a.m.

November 20, Thursday Monthly Chapter Meeting Arlington Marriott "Mediation & Arbitration" 11:30 a.m. December 18, Thursday Monthly Chapter Meeting Omni Mandalay Holiday Party w/NACE & HSMAI 6:30 p.m.

January 22, Thursday Monthly Chapter Meeting Wyndham Anatole "Government Affairs" 11:30 a.m.

CURRENT Deadlines

ISSUE

DEADLINE

November inserts due Nov. 5

Oct. 17, Friday

December inserts due Dec. 3

Nov. 14, Friday

January
inserts due Jan. 7

Dec. 14, Friday



MPI

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MPI International Headquarters 4455 LBJ Freeway • Suite 1200 Dallas, Texas 75244-5903 972-702-3000 FAX: 972-702-3070 http://www.mpiweb.org

Chapter Meeting Reservation & Attendance Policy

Registration fees will be collected at the door; advance payments are not accepted. If paying by check, please have check completed before approaching registration table. Reservations must be made by RSVP deadline for advance registration fee to apply. Late reservations and walk-ins will be accepted on a SPACE AVAILABLE basis. Cancellations must be made by the RSVP deadline. Noshows will be billed. Members are responsible for "no-show" charges for their guests. Guests are limited to attending three meetings per year (spouses are an exception).

Alcohol Policy MPI D/FW Chapter

The D/FW Chapter of MPI recognizes and supports the many legitimate uses of alcoholic beverages in the process of conducting our business and social activities. As a chapter, we also recognize that the use and consumption of alcohol at our functions carries with it the requirement to consume those beverages responsibly and in keeping with our professional code of ethics and conduct. We strongly oppose the abuse and misuse of alcohol. We further support those efforts that seek to inform our members of the issues concerning alcohol use and in offering assistance to any members seeking further information and/or assistance either personally or professionally.

President's Message

continued from page 1

happen. Thanks to her influence, and special help from Katy Brimson (Dipert Coaches), 16 people from the area traveled together across the river to north Dallas for a chapter meeting at The Grand Kempinski last month, using that travel time to network all the way.

Thank you for this outstanding example of *Involvement through Service*!

Involvement through Service can also mean service through leadership as an officer or director of the MPI D/FW Chapter.

Even though the 1997-98 chapter year is only several months old, the Board of Directors is already looking toward leadership for 1998-99.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP (Sterling Hotels & Resorts), immediate past president and chair of the Nominating

Committee, encourages you to attend the MPI D/FW Chapter Leadership Forum (CLF).

First, be informed. Read about the elections process in the "Policies and Procedures" section of the new Chapter Directory.

Then plan to attend the CLF November 11 at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel to learn more about this important opportunity to exhibit *Involvement through Service*.

Read more about the CLF on page 16.
To be involved, we need to be able to communicate with one another easily. So you'll be happy to know that a new resource notebook—including the updated Chapter Directory—will be available at the October meeting.

An *informed* membership is *productive* and *involved*!

Worldwide Development Program continued from page 1

With the formation of any committee, obtaining enthusiastic and committed vol-

unteers is the first priority of the new group, Wade said.



Bobby Bulger Bobby Bulger Travel Concepts, Inc.

"This new direction provides an opportunity to join at the ground level and really make an impact on providing goodwill in the area of another chapter's development while learning

about a new market, be it domestic or international," said Tim Wade.

The "Link" groups will work closely with MPI International in identifying chapter(s) that may need assistance.

"Our approach is going to be a slow and methodical search for those chapters and/or clubs which will be a good fit with what we can provide," said Wade.

Look for more news on the Worldwide Development Program in future issues of the *CURRENT*. In the meantime, don't be surprised if you receive a call from Turner or Wade about joining this newly revamped committee.

Better yet, don't wait for their call. "Link up" with MPI D/FW WDP by calling Tim Wade (972) 497-5039 or Dorrit Turner (214) 637-0046 today!

New job? address? phone number? e-mail address?

Report those changes to the MPI D/FW Chapter office 972-233-9107 x1674 and the MPI International Headquarters 972-702-3000



Keep your records up to date!

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.

D/FW Chapter President

Gregory Pynes
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Alainna Webb, CMP Excel Communications 214.863.8926





"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.



Phil Crouse Petroleum Institute

Phil Crouse (Petroleum Institute) has attended the last three Meetings Industry Legislative Action Days as a member of the Texas delegation in Washington D.C. He has served on the International Affairs Committee for MPI and served as the Chair Emeriti for the Texas Travel, Tourism and Meetings Industry Legislative Action Day in Austin. He has helped to set up a web site to address industry advocacy and has worked on the industry advocacy Buddy Program.

Fellow MPI members report that because Crouse has worked tirelessly "behind the scenes," he is a big part of the success of industry advocacy in governmental affairs.



To nominate a Star of the Month, fax Marcy Roitman (Grapevine CVB), 817-488-1048





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Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter



Fold telephone messages in half so thieves can't pick up the room number of a carefree or careless attendee; this is important especially when you post messages.

> —submitted by Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions)

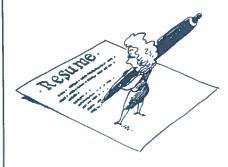
D/FW Meetings & Hospitality Industry

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To volunteer for the Job Bank Committee, call Patti O'Neil (Conference Planning, Inc.) 972-608-0444 fax 972-608-0533

October Meeting Highlights

Motivational Speaker Exposes Grand Illusions

By Sally Bresnahan
American Airlines
Training & Conference Center

Billy Riggs (Visions & Ventures Bureau of Speaking Services), powerful motivational speaker and world-class illusionist, will present a spectacular educational and entertaining program at the October 23 luncheon meeting at the Grapevine Convention Center.

MPI D/FW Chapter member William J. Boyd, CMP (Sunbelt Motivation and Travel, Inc.), 1997 MPI International Supplier of the Year, will be honored in a special tribute.

For Riggs, the art of illusion is more than a hobby; it is setting his audiences free from the illusions many have carried around since childhood.

Through "Grand Illusions," Riggs will show audiences how to become self-directed leaders—by exposing the illusory thinking that inhibits growth.

Illusions of the mind—faulty beliefs about the marketplace, other people and, especially, ourselves—often wreak havoc with what otherwise could be a fulfilling, productive, happy adult life, Riggs maintains.

Stripping away these illusions, he says, is an essential ingredient to a content, successful life.

With a spellbinding combination of classic magic, humor and life-changing education, Riggs shows audiences how to eliminate a "lifetime of confusion" by stripping aways those illusions.

Grapevine hosts—eager to showcase all that Grapevine has to offer for meetings professionals—include Marcy Roitman (Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau), Tom Wayne (Grapevine Convention Center), Sophia Staecker (Hyatt Regency DFW), Kara Volmer (Grapevine Mills Mall) and Dale Boyd (B-4 Parties Plus).

October committee members are Chair Sally Bresnahan (American Airlines Training & Conference Center), Marcy Roitman (Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau), and Anna Squire (HackBerry Creek Country Club).

MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL®

Committed to Educational Leadership

October D/FW Chapter Meeting

"Grand Illusions: Self-Directed Leadership" plus Special Recognition:

—William J. Boyd, CMP MPI International Supplier of the Year —

Thursday, October 23

Grapevine Convention Center 1209 South Main Grapevine, Texas 76051 817.481.0459

11:00 a.m. Member Orientation—Room TBD
11:30 a.m. Registration—Main Lobby
Reception—Lobby II
12:00 p.m. Luncheon and Program—Concord Room

-Complimentary Parking-

R.S.V.P. to Joe by noon, Tuesday, Sept. 23 •phone 972-233-9107 x1674 •FAX 972-490-4219 (see fax insert) •74742.1725@compuserve.com

Advance Registration \$24
Late Registration \$32
Guest Registration \$27

IGLOO

Illusionist

Grapevine Convention Center

Luncheon

October 23

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Outstanding New OCA Membership Directory

1997-98 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Pick up your copy at the Oct. 23 meeting.

Oct. 23
Special Presentation Honoring
William J. Boyd, CMP
MPI International
Supplier of the Year

October Host Facility Grapevine Convention Center

Unparalleled location and unmatched amenities and attractions — all are available at the Grapevine Convention Center. Whether the Center is hosting a meeting with several key executives, an event with hundreds of associates, or a meal function, this superior 23,500 square foot facility can be "custom tailored" to your specifications.

The Convention Center has generous pre-function areas, finely appointed and just right for registration or entertaining prior to any event. Grapevine Convention Center has been designed to accommodate a great variety of meetings and functions.

Educational Opportunities at a glance



October 15, Wednesday
CMP Study Course/Dallas
Embassy Suites Park Central
6-8 p.m.
(consecutive Wednesdays through Nov. 12)
\$35 for members

October 13, Monday
CMP Study Course/Arlington
Arlington CVB
6-8 p.m.
(continuing Mondays through Nov. 10)
\$35 for members

November 11
'Walk a While"
Hosts: The Ranch & Five Star Limousines
5-7 p.m.
Denise Howieson 214.819.3150

November 11 PO⁴D Chair Meeting Taco Bell Corp 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Sherry Richardson 972-258-2221

> November 19 PO⁴Ds #5 & #8 Taco Bell Corp. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10 per person

December 17
PO⁴Ds #1, #3, #4, & #6
Speakers Showcase
Nickki S. Jorski, CMP 972.385.9091
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
\$10 per person

November 15, Saturday
CMP University
DFW Lakes Hilton
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Brenda Miller, CMP 214.343.2000
\$50 for members

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

MPI D/FW, Malibu Speed Zone, Southwest Airlines 'Racing Toward Teamwork' Theme of

Fall Super Session November 13

Imagine your hands behind the wheel of a race car. You are speeding down the racetrack, your is heart pounding, wind blowing through your hair and your team is cheering you toward the finish line.

This is not a fantasy; it is the 1997 Fall Super Session, "Racing Toward Teamwork," November 13, 5:30-9:15 p.m.

A joint project of MPI D/FW, Malibu Speed Zone and Southwest Airlines, the Fall Super Session offers education, fun, and ideas you can use in planning your next event.

Featured will be an interactive super session facilitated by Joey Connelly, a Southwest Airlines "University for People" learning facilitator.

The Fall Super Session is designed to help participants understand the meaning and implementation of teamwork. Teams will participate in The Grand Prix Indy Races, the Turbo Track, and Video Racecar Simulators.

Rewards will be given to winning team members. The top player of each team will compete in the Top Eliminator Dragsters, which go 0-70 mph in three seconds.

Get your engines running by registering today for the 1997 Fall Super Session at Malibu Speed Zone. Space is limited; register early!

For more information call Jill Heyerdahl (JH Travel Incentives, Inc.) 972.293.1509.

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MPI D/FW Chapter



Hands-On

TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

The Hands-on Technology Institute is a series of all-day (Saturday) intensive courses geared toward the meeting professional. And the price is right! Comparable courses cost more than twice as much—for fewer hours of instruction! Courses are open to all professionals and co-workers.

MS Access 7.0 for Windows 95 (Event Management Software)

Focus on to expand your use of Access with enhanced query, tables and form and report design. Using Form Wizards to create, modify and enhance a form. Learn how to use the power of Report Wizards to generate summary report.

October 18, Saturday

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m Intermediate Tools & Techniques

October 25, Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m Advanced Tools & Techniques

> Classes are \$59 each. Special price: \$99 for both ACCESS classes (new registrants only).

Classes meet at SABRE Training Center 4200 American Blvd. Fort Worth, TX

For more information or to register for classes: O.D. O'Donnell (Nightlife Talent & Management Agency) 972-789-9340

MS Powerpoint on Windows 95

Create presentations using wizards, add and format text, insert clip art, create graphics, change color schemes and templates, modify master pages and answer questions with help. Learn how to import data from other applications to create a presentation quickly. Organize text and print presentation outline, copy slices and information from one presentation to another to save time, customize a color palette to improve presentations, create an original design template for a uniform presentation, modify graphs to illustrate and specify data, and produce an animated slide show.

> November 8, Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m Intermediate

November 15, Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m Advanced

Classes are \$59 each.
Special price: \$99
for both POWERPOINT classes
(new registrants only).

Classes meet at SABRE Training Center 4200 American Blvd. Fort Worth, TX

For more information or to register for classes: O.D. O'Donnell (Nightlife Talent & Management Agency) 972-789-9340

Internet Basics

Learn to browse the Travel and Meeting Sites of the Internet. Learn how to build a homepage for the travel professional... And much more!

Classes limited to 20 participants.

October 25, Saturday 8:45 a.m.-12 noon

November 1, Saturday 8:45 a.m.-12 noon

Classes are \$59 each. Special price: \$99 for both POWERPOINT classes (new registrants only).

> Classes meet at Richland College 12800 Abrams Drive, Dallas, TX Del Rio Hall Room 224

To register for classes send name, company, address, phone, fax and e-mail information plus check to:
Sherri Cook, CMP
(Sherri Cook & Associates)
1805 Keats
Plano, TX 75093
972-732-9396
no shows will be billed

News from MPI D/FW's Educational Program Series

PO⁴Ds Notebook

The "Unplanned" Meeting

Can you imagine 17 MPI members attending an "unplanned" meeting? That is exactly what happened at DFW Lakes Hilton last month.

PO⁴Ds #9 & #10, led by Joel Hueske (Meeting Planners Guide) and Debbie Rubin (Worthington Hotel), organized a program with an Open Forum format, allowing attendees to ask questions and speak their minds on any topic.

Topics included: •hotels' challenge to utilize room and meeting space Sunday night through Wednesday; •the best way to prepare for the CMP; •utilizing technology; and •ideas for bringing fun to meetings.

Participants agreed that the Open Forum stimulated some great ideas; provided the opportunity for everyone to participate; and allowed attendees to get to know each other better.

Special thanks go to Bill Gilchrist and the DFW Lakes Hilton for providing the meeting space and a tasty lunch.

True Colors

PODs #1, #3, #4 & #6 met last month to learn their "true colors." Seventeen attendees enjoyed a brown bag lunch at the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas during the "True Colors" presentation by Elaine Sullivan.

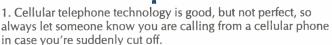
"True Colors is a program designed to "make you aware of what colors say about you and others, provides information you can use to improve your personal communication skills," say the organizers.

The program was informative and fun—an excellent program idea for a monthly meeting, said participants.

Help PO⁴Ds Help You!

Do you need certain credits in order to renew your CMP? Volunteer to present a program at one of the PO⁴D meetings. This is a good opportunity for you and a worthwhile program for our members. Contact Bill Matyastik (Business Interiors) or any of the PO⁴D chairs to learn more about this opportunity.





- 2. Never discuss sensitive or confidential information on your cellular phone. Eavesdropping technology is also advanced and easily available. (This includes cordless phones also.)
- 3. Be careful when using your telephone in the car. Pull over to the side of the road or into a parking lot to place or receive a call. If you must use your telephone in transit, don't dial while you're driving. If you use the telephone a lot in your car, consider investing in a speaker phone.
- 4. The receiver is billed for outgoing and incoming calls. Don't call someone on their cellular phone unless you have their permission to do so. It is similar to calling them collect.
- 5. Don't use your telephone in crowded areas. Be aware that you may be disturbing other around you. If you must keep your phone on in a crowded area to receive a call, immediately leave the room to talk. It's never good manners to broadcast your conversations.

-reprinted with permission from Barbara Pachter's Techno Etiquette



PO⁴Ds Vying for 'Top PO⁴D of the Year'

The PO⁴Ds are off and running for the "Top PO⁴D of the Year" honor. Help your PO⁴D in this endeavor with every MPI Monthly Meeting and every PO⁴D Program you attend. Points will be tracked each month in the CURRENT.

The Top PO⁴D of the Year (Sept. through June '98) will be recognized with a grand prize to be announced at a later date

After the first month of the race, the standings are as follows:

_	
PO ⁴ D #1 Lewisville/Coppell/Carrollton/ Addison/Flower Mound	Points 38
#2 Richardson/Plano	37
#3 Galleria	31
#4 Irving/Las Colinas	43
#5 Downtown & SE Dallas	28
#6 Inside LBJ (NW)	36
#7 LBJ (N & NE)	22
#8 Stemmons Frwy & SW Dallas (Duncanville/Desoto/Cedar Hill)	23
#9 Mid-Cities (Arlington/H.E.B./Grapevine/Sout	35 thlake)

#10 Fort Worth



115



Second Annual **Texas Education** Conference

"Oh boy! The date has been set for the 1998 TEC! Make your plans now to attend this important conference!"

MPI TFC November 7-8, 1998 Saint Luis Hotel • Galveston

MPI Hill Country • MPI Houston Area • MPI D/FW

Trying to figure out how to come up with the funds to attend an MPI conference or workshop?

Need

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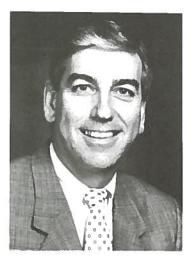


For details or to request PGA applications, call Patty Stern (Five Star Limousines), 972,234,5466.



The Certified Meeting Professional designation provides an almost instant recognition of knowledge and professionalism within the meetings industry. The CMP defines a common denominator of awareness that eases any "start off" working relationship between and among planners and suppliers.

Our company seeks out other CMPs with whom to work. The designation tells us "we speak the same language; they know our industry."



William J. Boyd, CMP President and CEO Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc. Meeting Professionals International International Supplier of the Year



MPI D/FW Chapter **TECHNOLOGY**

The Hands-on Technology Institute is a series of intensive courses geared toward the meeting professional. See page 7 for details about fall classes.

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- The Wild Mohicans Classic Rock, Trash Disco, Party Music, Fun!
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October Meeting Highlights

MPI D/FW Hits Record Breaking Attendance for Evening Meeting at Lone Star Park

How to Theme an Event

As the trumpets sounded the call to the post, MPI D/FW members and guests proceeded to Silks dining room, overlooking Lone Star Park. During dinner, attendees enjoyed horse races being simulcast from other race tracks.

Using a special MPI horse race as an example, MPI "jockies" (meeting professionals) on their "horses" (meeting/event components), provided helpful hints on bringing together the crucial elements in building a meeting around a theme.

Among the topics covered were •Site Selection, •Entertainment, •Venue, •Budget, •Transportation, •Objectives, •Keynote, •Decor, •Audio visual and •Giveaways. Helpful hints included:

1. Discuss with management or client an appropriate theme, well-defined objectives and a comprehensive, realistic budget.

2. Select a facility to enhance the theme (example: Lone Star Park for the "Racing to the Top" theme.

3. Utilize AV to reinforce the theme with graphics, big screens or smaller units as the JumboTron and in-house television system at Lone Star Park.

4. Engage a speaker or speakers who will support your theme (example: real jockies or a well-known jockey to speak on "Racing to the Top" or "Winning.")

5. When guests require transportation, show an appropriate video on the coaches.

6. Contract theme-related entertainment (example: trumpeters to herald guests to the first race). Use business theater (actors) in the presentation. Create appropriate tapes to play during program and breaks.

7. Select appropriate decor (example: entrance unit like the Churchill Downs archway; stage backdrop like the racing horses; registration decor with horse names; costumes for speakers and waitstaff).

8. Provide a giveaway item such as a money clip or binoculars and loving cups as awards to tie in with the theme (example: theme prizes as "boxes of four" and complimentary passes with parking to Lone Star Park).

Photos by VISTA

RIGHT: Almost a dozen representatives of the Orlando/Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau were on hard to promote Orlando, site of the January 1998 MPI Professional Education Conference. The bureau sponsored the pre-meeting reception.



September Program Committee members were **Gerry Reid** (Gerry Reid Speaking), **Merriann Skinner** (Texas Instruments), **Sherri Cook, CMP** (Sherri Cook and Associates) and **Peg Wolschon** (Gray Line/Kerrville Bus/Coach USA).



From the wagering tise, from the race-Star Park, Grand Pr guests dined in the on the lower level house television sy







h to the call to the post, from the meeting planner's needs to the supplier's expervideo system, to the special MPI horse race—the September dinner meeting at Lone was an unusual and creative educational production. MPI D/FW members and Dining Room at Lone Star Park. The program was presented from a stage created facility. Guests faced the park and were able to tune in the program on the in-

Photos by VISTA

LEFT: Hosts at Lone Star Park included Mike McCoy, corporate sales manager; Karla Olson, account executive; Kim Dorn, assistant group sales coordinator; Staci Honnas-Krug, account executive; and Don Feneziani, catering and special events manager.



Gregory Pynes (Hand & Associates) and **Andrea Spivey** (Petroleum Information/ Dwights LLC) get ready for the races.



LEFT: Kenneth E. Riha D.D.S. (Dental Solutions), Jo Ann Riha, CMP (Marriott Hotels, Resorts, Suites) and Norman Burkhalter (Boy Scouts of America) enjoy the premeeting reception.

Hall of Fame

Please salute the following companies and individuals for their contributions to the September meeting at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie

Host Facility, A/V, Passes, Prizes, Announcer, Jockies, Jockey Attire Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie Corey Johnson, General Manager Mike McCoy, Corporate Sales Manger Don Fenezaini, Catering Manager Peter Clarac, Audio Visual Manager

Reception/Program Funds
Orlando/Orange County CVB

Joanna LaNeave Adams Mark Hotel - Gail McGlothin Buena Vista Palace - Jamie Cox Buena Vista Suites - Barbara Hydechuk Caribe Royale Resort Suites - Mary Polich Clarion Plaza Hotel - Vickie Hiatt Delta Orlando Resort - Linda Wiman Grenelefe Golf & Tennis Resort - Dick Shatto Hard Rock Cafe' - Piper Hood La Quinta - Sandi Muscari Marriott World Center - Mike Wainright Omni Rosen Hotel - Michael Hershfield Radisson Twin Towers - Linda Finley Renaissance Orlando Resort - Terri Strouse Sea World of Florida - Scott Crawford Sheraton Orlando North - Terri Harris The Peabody of Orlando - Sherry Kovensky WDW Attractions - Wendy Van Zee

T**ransportation** Gray Line/Kerrville Bus/Coach USA Peg Wolschon

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Night Life Talent and Management Agency
O.D. O'Donnell

Giveaways
Appointments Promotional Advantage
Esther Wigley, CAS

DecorFreeman Decorating
David Gisler

Staging/AV Support Intelecon Rob Keating

Costumes Magic, Etc., Derek Kennedy Costumes by Dusty, Louise Nielsen

Program Participants
AV: Peter Clarac
Moderator: Sherri Cook, CMP
Track Announcer: John Dooley
Speaker: Betty Garrett, CMP
Facility: Mike McCoy
Entertainment: O.D. O'Donnell
Decor: Terry Ellegood
CEO: Greg Pynes
Meeting Planner: Merriann Skinner
Award: Esther Wigley, CAS
Transportation: Peg Wolschon
Subconscious: Rob Keating

Sherri Cook, CMP
Sherri Cook and Associates
Gerry Reid
Gerry Reid Speaking
Merriann Skinner
Texas Instruments
Peg Wolshon
Gray Line/Kerrville Bus/Coach USA

Program Committee



Richland College 'Grapevine' Columnist

Heard it through the Grapevine!



Mitchell Cathey Old San Francisco Steak House 'Grapevine' Columnist



Mike Hamilton, owner, Mystery Dinner Playhouse, announces its new location at SEASONS Restaurant in The Dallas Medallion Hotel.

Judy Benaroche, CMP, director of meetings and marketing, E. Harden & Associates, married Michael Johnson September 28.



Congratulations to the MPI D/FW members who were part of the team recently honored at the International



Sheri Hobbs, a Richland College graduate, is the new program manager at Yellow Rose Tour & Special Events Co. Hobbs is coordinating the opening of Texana's (Yellow Rose's speciality store) new exhibit at the Texas State Fair.

Sonya Odell, meeting planner, Central and Southwest, was selected to participate in the Leadership Arts Program with the **Dallas Business** Committee for the Arts.



M.T. Gnadt is the new teaching administrator for Richland College. She will coordinate Richland's Meeting Planning and Exposition Management Program.

Special Event Convention. The Hong Kong USA Gala produced by Steve Kemble, Steve Kemble Event Design (pictured above) in Dallas, won an Esprit Award for the Top Ten Events in the World. Kemble accepted the award on behalf of his entire team including; Debbie Meyers, BRAVO! Entertainment; Jay Cooper, Cannonball-Ducky-Bob's Party and Tent Rentals; Ken and Linda Thornton, Fun Factory Decorations and Special Events; Scott Thompson and Denise Howieson, IGNITION! Creative Group (pictured above); Sandra Dingler, Party Service; Ric Ricci and Alan Sims, recently of The Fairmont Hotel.



Lori Farris, owner, Pomodoro-Arcodoro, had a baby girl on August 26.

Tiffiny Vinyard, recently joined SEI Ltd. Incentives as costing analyst.



Dorrit Turner. president, Yellow Rose Tour & Special Events Co., announces the company's move from the Infomart to 1331 Regal Row.

Dana Grant-Loge, Trail Dust Steak House, and her staff recently hosted a gala benefit featuring LeAnn Rimes. The event raised more than \$150,000, which was donated to the Dallas Bryan's House.

Lisa Flick, sales manager, Hard Rock Cafe, is expecting her second child sometime this fall.

Keep up with personal news about fellow MPI chapter members—job changes, promotions, awards or special recognitions, weddings, or births—through "Heard it through the Grapevine." Please contact Mary-Therese Gnadt (A Bunch of Grapes) or Mitchell Cathey (Old San Francisco Steak House) about items of interest for this column.

Gnadt can be reached at 972-866-8640; fax 972-613-4523, or gnadt@airmail.net. Cathey can be reached at 214-357-0484; fax 214-357-6592. Please submit photo ("head shot") with your news item.

Seeking the Input of Newsletter Readers!

We'd like to hear from you!

- If you or someone you know has information or insight to share, consider writing an article for publication in the CURRENT! We seek brief educational articles and tips for meeting planners.
- What do you like best about the newsletter? What do you like least?
- Comments regarding content? Ideas for articles? Suggestions for "Opinion, Please!"



CURRENT Managing Editor Kristi Carter J & S Audio Visual 972.241.5444 x204 • FAX 972.247.2590 KRISTIC@aol.com

MPI D/FW Activities

Table Host and Chapter Information Booth Help 'Get the Word Out'

With the myriad service and educational projects and opportunities available through the MPI D/FW Chapter, the Table Host Program and Chapter Information Booth are important communications vehicles for "getting the word out."

Table Host Program

Serving as a Table Host is one of the most important responsibilities at each chapter meeting.

The table host is the "official" greeter, welcoming members and guests, and often suggests personal introductions during the business card exchange.

At every meeting, a packet of information, including the meeting evaluation, is placed at each table. The table host distributes copies of any flyers or brochures about upcoming programs.

The Table Host program is the chapter's way of keeping members upto-date on educational programs and

other projects, without inundating everyone with piles of paper. And it's a great way to network and meet people!

For more information about this program, contact V.P. Programs Steven G. Foster (Circle R Ranch), 817-430-1561.

Chapter Information Booth

Working on an MPI project you want to tell the entire membership about? Utilize the Chapter Information Booth, provided each month by Brenda Miller, CMP (The Trade Group).

Prominently displayed at each chapter meeting, the Chapter Information Booth is the ideal vehicle to promote your involvement opportunity, upcoming chapter event or special interest function.

Contact Betty Garrett, CMP (Garrett Speakers International), 972-513-0054/ fax: 972-513-0540 to request promotional space at the Chapter Information Booth.



NEW MEMBER HAPPY HOUR

Lulu's Bait Shop 2621 McKinney Ave.

> November 6 5:30-7:30 p.m.

all members welcome!

Come "meet some new faces" and enjoy complimentary appetizers and beverages.

Would you like to host the New Member Happy Hour next month?

> Call Lynn Lewis (Ernst & Young) 214-665-5785.

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October 1997

MPI D/FW Welcomes 24 'New Kids on the Block'

Linda E. Anders
Special Events Administrator
NEC America, Inc.
3512 Sweet Wood Street
Bedford, TX 76021
972/518-4408
972/518-4982 (fax)
landers@cng.dl.nec.com
Planner

Aaron A. Appleby Student 1313 Autumn Chase Bedford, TX 76022 409/569-1606 Student

Leslie G. Baker
Consultant
Thiebaud McCreery & Associates
1950 Stemmons Freeway
Suite 5001
Dallas, TX 75207
214/800-8861
214/800-8862 (fax)
Planner

Trudy J. Bonifas Convention Manager Alcon Laboratories, Inc. 6201 South Freeway Fort Worth, TX 76140 817/551-4618 817/568-7237 (fax) Planner Charlotte A. Bostwick
Event Specialist
Special Arrangements, Inc.
2000 E. Randol Mill Road, Ste. 605
Arlington, TX 76011
817/926-8148
817/265-7052 (fax)
bostwick@fwst.net
Planner

Sandra R. Cavallo Special Sales Coordinator Dallas Theater Center 1123 Cloudcrest Court Fort Worth, TX 76107 214/526-8210 214/521-4423 (fax) Supplier

Peter S. Chantilis
President
Peter S. Chantilis Presentations
200 Crescent Court, Suite 1070
Dallas, TX 75201
214/871-5100
214/871-5101 (fax)
Supplier

Cynthia A. Cogdell
Account Manager
Event Pro of Texas
6311 North O'Connor, Suite N21
Irving, TX 75039
972/869-7632
972/869-7634 (fax)
Planner

Guillerminia F. Cowan-Conference Coordinator The Energy Council 122 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Suite 525 Irving, TX 75039 972/717-8105 972/717-6107 (fax) energycouncil@cyser.com Planner

Kimberly C. Fox
Manager Program Operations
BTI Americas Mtg. & Incentive Mgt.
8585 N. Stemmons Fwy, Suite 325N
Dallas, TX 75247
214/905-8557
214/905-4459 (fax)
Planner

Jeanne M. Frosch Sales Manager Richardson CVB 411 Belle Grove Drive Richardson, TX 75080 972/234-4141 972/680-9103 Supplier

Teresa Hodan
Food & Beverage Director
La Cima Club
5215 N. O'Connor Blvd, Suite 2600
Irving, TX 75248
972/869-2266
972/869-4590 (fax)
Planner

Debbie Holman Administrator Vista 4505 Ratliff Dallas, TX 75248 972/380-0985 318/267-9758 (fax) Supplier

Jeorgia D. Hopgood Administrative Secretary Annuity Board of the SBC 2401 Cedar Springs Dallas, TX 75201 214/750-0511 214/720-4792 (fax) Planner

Kristine E. Houston
Sales Manager
Hotel Crescent Court/
The Mansion on Turtle Creek
400 Crescent Court
Dallas, TX 75201
214/871-3200
214/871-3245 (fax)
Supplier

Alexandra W. Infeld Marketing Manager Lulu's Bait Shack 2621 McKinney Avenue Dallas, TX 75204 214/969-1927 214/969-9466 (fax) Supplier Brenda M. Martin
Marketing Comm Coordinator
DAC Vision
1501 Reisen
Garland, TX 75042
972/494-4555
972/272-8724 (fax)
Planner

Michelle D. Nunn
Special Events Coordinator
Nortel
2221 Lakeside Blvd., MS #C1221
Richardson, TX 75082
972/684-5984
972/684-3797 (fax)
E-mail: nunn,@nt.com
Planner

Donald A. Offill Regional Account Manager American Golf Corp. 2000 E. Shady Grove Rd Irving, TX 75060 972/579-5584 972/438-1044 (fax) Supplier

Claire E. Patterson Sales Manager The Dallas Arboretum 8617 Garland Road Dallas, TX 75218 214/327-8263 214/324-9801 (fax) Supplier

Kristi J. Perkins
Catering Director
La Cima Club
5215 North O'Connor, Suite 2600
Irving, TX 75039
972/869-2266
972/869-4590 (fax)
Planner

Dayna L. Tooley
Special Events Coordiantor
United Way of Tarrant County
5702 W. Lase Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76180
817/258-8095
817/258-8092 (fax)
Planner

Marsha L. D. Willox Meeting Coordinator Internat'l Assn of Assembly Mgrs 4425 W. Airport Freeway Suite 590 Irving, TX 75062 972/225-8020 Planner

Marci L. Zaworski
Director of Sales
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Arlington, TX 76011
817/695-1251
817/652-01224
Supplier



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Fred Knieberg, CMP AFK & Associates (retired)

The Mentor Program

for more information about the MPI DFW Mentor Program, call Fred Knieberg, CMP 214.261.4316



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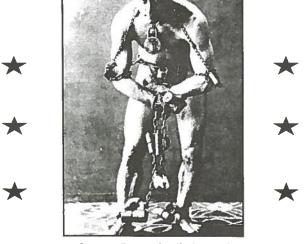


James C. Monroe, CMP Senior Designer Gale Sliger Productions Certified – January 1997



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Chapter Leadership Forum Looking toward '98-99 Leadership

By Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP Sterling Hotels & Resorts

Even though the 1997-98 MPI D/FW Chapter year began just several months



May Lynn Novelli, CMP Nominating Committee Chair

ago, the Board of Directors is already looking toward leadership for 1998-99.

If you think you might like to serve as a future officer or director of your professional organization, the MPI D/FW Chapter Leadership Forum (CLF) is an opportu-

nity to learn more about those responsibilities—the commitment involvement requires—before the Nominating Committee meets.

Plan now to attend this informative session November 11, 5 p.m., at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel.

To register for the CLF—or to express

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP FOR MPI D/FW

The Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of Meeting Professionals International seeks leaders who:

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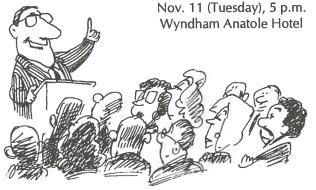
interest in serving on the Nominating Committee, call Immediate Past President and Nominating Committee Chair Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP, 972-726-9800.

Chapter Leadership Forum

Interested in chapter leadership?

If you think you might like to serve as a future officer or director of your professional organization, the MPI D/FW Chapter Leadership Forum is an opportunity to learn more about those responsibilities—the *commitmen involvement requires*— before the Nominating Committee meets.

Chapter Leadership Forum



To register for the CLF, or to express interest in serving on the Nominating Committee, call Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP (Sterling Hotels & Resorts) — 972-726-9800

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Tips for Planning Frugal, Fantastic Events

By Steve Kemble (Steve Kemble Event Design)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column, written by MPI D/FW Chapter member Steve Kemble (Steve Kemble Event Design), was published in the July 1997 issue of The Meeting Professional.

Meeting planners looking for new ideas are in luck, thanks to Dallas event planner Steve Kemble. Several of his inexpensive, creative tips are offered below.

- •Contribute money to a local high school band, then use the band for an event.
- •Make the most of your caterer. When planning a menu, ask for stations with design themes such as a stir-fry table or sushi bar. You'll provide excitement and decor within your food budget.
- •For a corporate picnic with a minimal food budget, get entrees from the caterer and request side dishes from employees. Ask them to submit their recipes two weeks before the event so they can be copied and put in a simple book to be distributed at the picnic.
- •Keep in mind that amusement and water parks and sporting events provide built-in atmosphere and entertainment.

- •Visit the local museum. It may cost money to rent, but you'll save on decor and your guests will be surrounded by art or artifacts worth millions.
- •Create your own jungle. Make a contribution to the local zoological society and you may be able to get animals, such as live elephants, for your event. This idea provides donations to the zoological society, recognition for the company and a memorable experience for guests.
- •For a corporate meeting with no entertainment budget, organize a talent show with help from the human resources department. You'll be amazed how creative people can be, especially if the grand prize for winning is a paid day off.
- •If a client has a low budget but wants to do something that will have a great impact, suggest a corporate donation to a civic cause.

MPI D/FW Board Notes

The MPI D/FW Chapter Board of Directors (BOD) meets monthly, usually on the Wednesday evening prior to the monthly chapter meeting.

All chapter members are welcome—and encouraged—to attend. If you are interested, contact any member of the BOD for details. (See directory on page 19.)

Here are highlights from the Sept. 24 meeting.

Membership Needs Assessment Survey

President Gregory Pynes distributed the results of the MPI D/FW Chapter Membership Needs Assessment Survey. Fourteen percent of the membership—47 planners and 56 suppliers—responded to the survey. Pynes asked BOD members to review the results for discussion at the October BOD meeting. More details to follow.

Policies and Procedures

Pynes requested any additional suggestions or changes for the chapter's Policies and Procedures. The final version will be distributed and voted on at the next BOD meeting, and will then be distributed to the membership.

MPI Foundation

Vice President Membership Delinda Dudley voiced the concern of several committee and other chapter members in reference to the DFW Chapter's three-year pledge of \$5,000 per year to the MPI Foundation.

Some are concerned that fulfilling the pledge might detract from funds needed for member recognition and education programs.

Although funds for donations to the Foundation come from fundraising activities, not from membership fees, many chapter members are not aware of this, nor are they aware of the benefits the Foundation provides to membership.

Because all financial pledges must be approved by the current BOD, it was decided that chapter leadership should place a strong effort on educating membership about the MPI Foundation—and then discuss the pledge again, closer to the end of this board year, when the decision will be made.

New Member Involvement

Vice President/Membership Delinda Dudley asked the board to encourage new members to attend chapter functions, including the monthly meetings and the New Member Happy Hours. All members are invited and encouraged to attend, as frequently as they wish.

Chapter Resource Handbook

Vice President Public Relations & Mar-

keting Marsha Singer reported the D/FW Chapter Resource Handbook is in production and will be ready for distribution at the October monthly meeting. Members will be allowed to pick up one handbook only, and must present a form of identification. There will be an additional opportunity to pick up the handbook at a separate reception; the remainder will be mailed.

Chapter Leadership Forum

Immediate Past President Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP, asked the board to actively train and incubate new leaders for the coming year(s). Board members were asked to invite and encourage committee and chapter members to attend the upcoming Chapter Leadership Forum, which is open to all members.



Public Relations Corner



Writing Effective Press Releases



By Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions) Community Awareness Chair

Media releases, short news stories or announcements about your business, service or product, can be an important tool.

The release is designed to kindle interest and initiate inquiries. Ideally, your releases are individually tailored to the style and format of each publication and sent to the editor most likely to use them. It is important to know the correct editor for a media release.

Your choice of format can make the difference in whether your release is printed or discarded. A non-traditional looking release can detract from your credibility.

Use these media release standards:

Use company stationary with address, phone and NEWS or PRESS RELEASE across the top.

Contact person–spokesperson for your company for an interview or follow-up. Be sure to include a phone number during the day if you are doing an event (such as a cell phone).

Release date- "for immediate release" or a specific date and time (used usually when sending out copy of a specific speech in advance).

Releases should be short – 250-300 words, 1 to 1 1/2 pages with 1 1/2" margins, double spaced with at least two inches of space just above the text of the release. One page is best! Type on one side of paper only.

The body of the release should start one-third of the way down the page to give the editor space to insert his/her own headline.

The headline should summarize the main news story for the editor's immediate attention.

The "lead" is the most important part of the release, containing the essential details. This could be the only part that is published. It should include the who, what, when, where, why and (sometimes) how.

Releases for the trade media can be more detailed and specific.

The body of the release should provide the details and expand on the headline announcement. Present the facts with short concise sentences and paragraphs, with action verbs to make the message clear to the reader.

Use simple language and straightforward explanations. Use regular typefaces and normal capital and lower case style. Do not use subheads, capitals, underlining, Italics or script typefaces.

Support claims with facts.

Use the inverted pyramid of writing, giving the most important information first.

Be wary of overwriting and use of ineffective superlatives or exaggerated words

Be wary of overwriting and use of ineffective superlatives or exaggerated words such as renowned, remarkable, superb, etc.

Be precise; say "400 members," not "many."

Avoid cliches.

Check for sense, accuracy, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Identify any picture, chart, diagram, drawing or photo on the back (they will not be returned).

Follow up with appropriate thank you note or letter to the editor, if release is published.

Keep a "fact sheet" on hand for journalists; they may call for more details or follow-up.

At the end of all press releases should be your "boiler plate" – a short descriptive paragraph of your business, etc. ie., MPI is the world's largest association of....."

Remember, once at the editor's office, you have no control over how the release will be used or edited.

CURRENTly

CURRENT Editor Gracie Hilton The Write Stuff



As MPI D/FW heads into fall, board members and committee chairs are still seeking volunteers for a variety of projects.

Don't know who to call to align yourself with the project or activity of your choice? Contact any member of the Board of Directors, and they'll point you in the right direction.

For your convenience, see the updated pictorial directory on page 19. Make that call and you'll be on the right track for *Involvement through Service*.

Another venue for Involvement through Service is providing articles or story ideas for the CURRENT!

Managing Editor Kristi Carter (J&S Audio Visual) wants to hear from youl See page 12 for ways to contact her.

Interested in writing for the newsletter? Get some writing tips from the article in "Public Relations Corner" on this page. Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions) makes it easy.

—ghh © gracie@eaze.net

Your Meeting Planning TIPs Here

The CURRENT wants to publish some of your favorite meeting planning tips. E-mail your list to CURRENT Editor Gracie Hilton (The Write Stuff): gracie@eaze.net

State the tips briefly and include your company name.

Executive Board



MPI D/FW CHAPTER President Gregory Pynes Hand & Associates Communications 214.979.4639 fax: 214.979.4649



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1997-98 Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter Officers and Directors



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Vice President/P.R. & Marketing Marsha Singer The Dallas Directory, Inc. 214.823.4370 fax: 214.821.1856

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Cheryl Beasley, CMP SABRE Travel Info. Network 817.963.2025 fax: 817.963.1622



Dana Nickerson, CMP Square One Productions 214.343.8067 fax: 214.343.6166



Tamara Quilty MCI Planners 972.418.1050 fax: 972.416.5345



Linda Vest, CMP State Farm Insurance 972.732.5970 fax: 972.732.5727

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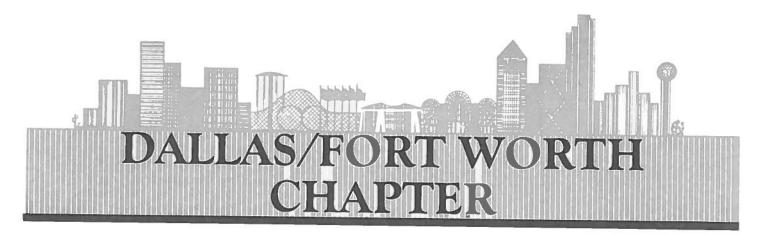
Alainna Webb, CMP Excel Communications 214.863.8926 fax: 214.863.8988

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6:15 - 7:15pm

"How Teambuilding Can Make a Difference"

Joey Connelly, Southwest Airlines Facilitator
Grand Prix, Turbo Trax, Simulators

Competition Begins:

7:15 - 9:00pm

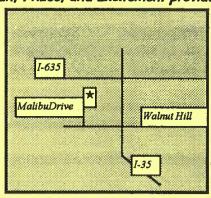
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9:00 - 9:15pm

Debrief: Awards:

9:15 - 9:30pm

Fun, Prizes, and Excitement provided by MPI, Malibu SpeedZone & Southwest Airlines



SpeedZone is located on I-35 approximately two mile south of I-635 and approximately two miles north of Texas Stadium off of Walnut Hill Lane.

After exiting Walnut Hill, go one block west to Malibu Drive and turn right.

SpeedZone will be on your right at 11130 Malibu Drive.

Phone 972-247-RACE

Event Requirements and Recommendations:

- All participants must be 18 years old, have proof of a valid drivers license, and be required to sign a Express Assumption of Risk, Complete Waiver Agreement not to Sue and Indemnity Agreement for Group Events at time of registration of event.
- All participants are recommended to dress for an outdoor event (slacks, jeans, light jacket) and closed-toe shoes are required.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during competition. A cash bar will be available after 9:00pm.
- Lockers are available at SpeedZone to secure your personal belongings and valuables (i.e. purses) during competition. Cost is \$.50.



Please Complete the Back Side of this Form to Register!!!

MPI MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL® Committed to Funcational Leadership

Register by Faxing form to: Jill E. Heyerdahl, JH Travel Incentives Phone (972) 293-1509 Fax (972) 293-2774

Cost: \$30 Per Person Checks payable to MPI DFW Chapter

Please complete the following survey!

From the choices below, please check 10 of the 20 boxes that best describe you and your preferences. After you are finished, please circle "the best of the best". Circle that one checked box that is most descriptive of you. Choose only one! See you at the SpeedZone!

City/State/Zip:			11-11:					
Address:								
Phone:		Fax	k:		MF	Pl Member <u>Ye</u>	s/No	
Name:Company:								
EXCITING LIVELY HANDS-ON		PRIDE TRADITION DO THINGS RIGHT		NATURE EASY GOING HAPPY ENDINGS		BOOKS MATH MAKING SENSE		
BUSY FREE WINNING	÷.	FOLLOW RULES USEFUL SAVE MONEY		SHARING GETTING ALONG ANIMALS		THINKING SOLVING PROBLEMS CHALLENGE		
PLAYFUL QUICK ADVENTURESOM	IE .	HELPFUL TRUSTWORTHY DEPENDABLE		KIND UNDERSTANDING GIVING	i	INDEPENDENT EXPLORING DOING WELL		
FUN ACTION CONTESTS		CLEAN ON TIME HONEST		CARING PEOPLE FEELINGS		CURIOUS IDEAS QUESTIONS		
ACTIVE VARIETY SPORTS		ORGANIZED PLAN NEAT		NICE HELPFUL FRIENDS		LEARNING SCIENCE PRIVACY		



