

CURRENT

Meeting Planners International

May 1993

Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter

President's Message

Shining Stars' Successes Theme of May Celebration

By Mary W. Cowart
Mary Cowart Meeting Consultants

When I think of May I think of stars. This is the month we honor and recognize the "shining stars" of the D/FW chapter of MPI, and the energy level is electrifying.

At this month's Parade of Stars at Loews Anatole, two of our chapter's special stars, Planner of the Year and Supplier of the Year, will be named and duly honored. Eight highly committed individuals with exceptional service records are nominated for these two awards.

The four nominees for Planner of the Year, as well as the four nominated for Supplier of the year, have dedicated considerable time and energy toward the growth and improvement of our local chapter. Simply being nominated for these prestigious awards is an honor.

Other shining stars among our membership are our three nominees for awards on the

international level—Chapter Manager of the Year, International Planner of the Year and International Supplier of the Year. These outstanding members who have contributed so much to the D/FW chapter and the hospitality industry as a whole will compete against nominees from 46 MPI chapters.

(See page three for a list of all nominees and more details about requirements for the various awards.)

Other shining stars to be honored this month are the winners of the Suzie Fiveash

(continued on page 2)



Mary W. Cowart

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see page 11

MPI

MEETING PLANNERS INTERNATIONAL*

May D/FW Chapter Meeting

*"Parade of Stars"
Awards, Honors & Reception
Honoring Past Presidents*

May 27, Thursday

*Loews Anatole Hotel/Dallas
2201 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75207
214-748-1200*

*Orientation 5:30 p.m.
Registration & Reception 6:00 p.m.
Dinner & Awards 7:00 p.m.
Dessert & Dancing 9:00 p.m.*

*R.S.V.P.
by noon, Tuesday, May 25
Sandy or Kim
214-343-0555*

*Advance Registration \$26
Late Registration \$35
Guest Registration \$30*

See pages 2-3 for more details and meeting reservation policy.

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Current

Meeting Planners International Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

Newsletter Staff

Editor

Gracie Hatfield Hilton
The Write Stuff
Phone & FAX
metro 817-467-7439

Director of Communications

Patricia Tripp, CMP
Princess Cruises & Tours
Phone: 214-230-6994
FAX: 214-230-6993

Vice President/Public Relations

Lesley Meyer, CMP
Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.
Phone: 214-401-0210
FAX: 214-556-0916

Advertising Chair

Stephanie Davis
Sheraton Park Central Hotel
Phone: 214-851-2016
FAX: 214-991-4557

Photographer

Mark Lazarow
Mark Lazarow Photography
214-380-0985

Department Editors

Membership

Bruce Jaster
The Jaster Companies, Inc.
214-891-8891

Education

Kim Kelley, CMP
The Tower Club
214-220-0403

Public Relations

Holly Adams
The Southland Corporation
214-828-7770

Staff Writers

Becky Milkie
Adolphus Hotel
214-742-8200

M.T. Gnadt

National Business Association
214-991-5381

Anita Seigers
Adolphus Hotel
214-742-8200

Current is published 12 times yearly for the D/FW Chapter of Meeting Planners 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 MPI Events

May 27, Thursday

Chapter Meeting
Chapter Awards & Officer Installation
Loews Anatole
6 p.m./Dinner

June 17, Thursday

Chapter Meeting
Hackberry Creek Country Club
11 a.m./Luncheon

June 26-27

Chapter Management Forum
Atlanta, Georgia
for more info call
1-214-712-7706

June 27-29

MPI Annual Conference
Atlanta, Georgia
for more info call 214-712-7751

President's Message

continued from page one

Year, and Program of the Year, a new award designation.

Also in our Parade of Stars are our current officers and board members, as well as a lineup of past presidents. All of these leaders will be honored and thanked for excellent service.

All year long the *Current* has saluted and applauded our many shining stars—the hundreds of officers, board members, committee members, donors, and other volunteers who have contributed to the growth and development of the D/FW chapter. A list of these bright and shining stars—who will be applauded at our May celebration—is included in an insert in this issue.

During the past administrative year, the D/FW membership shined like never before. You accepted my challenge to *Get into the ACT*. Your continued Achievement, Contribution and Teamwork made this year a shining success, and I am personally grateful to each and every one of you.

Our Apology....

The Balloon House was inadvertently omitted from a lengthy list of MPI Sports Classic THANK YOUs in last month's *Current*. A heartfelt and belated THANK YOU to The Balloon House for the leprechaun balloon sculptures that made the Sports Classic a visual delight!

May Host Facility

Loews Anatole Hosts D/FW MPI

The Loews Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway, near downtown Dallas, will host the D/FW chapter of MPI May 27.

Situated on 45 acres, the Anatole is the largest and most complete convention hotel in the Southwest with more than 1600 luxurious guest rooms and first-class amenities.

From Atria I and II guest rooms to Tower suites decorated in mauve and peach, to garden hospitality suites with built-in wet bars and space for entertaining 150, to presidential suites which occupy an entire penthouse corner of the Tower and feature more than 3,400 square feet, the Anatole offers exquisite style and hospitality.

The Anatole has a variety of art collections throughout the hotel. Guests enjoy a variety of shops, a seven-acre park complete with jogging paths, trellised walkways, formal gardens, an aviary, and a lagoon filled with Japanese goldfish.

The hotel also has six theatre/lecture halls, eight function rooms, five major ballrooms, and an unparalleled 240,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space.

Northbound travelers on Stemmons (35-E), exit Wycliff, go left under Stemmons, left on the access road, then right into the parking lot.

Southbound travelers on Stemmons, exit Wycliff; the parking lot is on the right. Plenty of free parking is available.

Enter the hotel through the Tower or the Chantilly entrance. The Peacock Terrace is on the main level of the Tower building.

May Meeting Highlights

MPI 'Parade of Stars' Features Past and Current Leaders, Outstanding Achievers

By Rebecca Whitehead
Meeting Management

The program committee cordially invites the Dallas/Fort Worth chapter to MPI's Parade of Stars May 27 at the Loews Anatole Hotel in Dallas (see related article on page two).

The celebration begins at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail reception in the Gossip Bar. The reception will honor past chapter presidents, and photographs of these former leaders will be highlighted in the walkway to the reception room.

During dinner, served in the courtyard, enjoy scenic views, complete with live peacocks.

The parade of 1992-93 shining stars begins with recognition of current board members and the installation of new officers. Cindy Hamilton (Hackberry Creek Country Club) and Bob Walker (AVW Audio-Visual, Inc.) will serve as masters of ceremonies for this exciting presentation.

Other "shining stars" to be recognized at the May celebration are award winners and nominees on the local and international level (see related story on this page).

After the awards and recognitions presentation, we'll move to the terrace

for a starlight extravaganza—dessert and cordials, then dancing to the music of Jeannette Brantley's Quintet.

Co-chairs for the March meeting are Rebecca Whitehead (MMA, Inc./Festivities), David Gisler (Freeman Decorating), Phyllis Firebaugh (A&C Enercom), O.D. O'Donnell (Nightlife Entertainment & Management), Kathi Thompson (Inn on the River), Donna Daves (MADD), Gary Clark (AVW) and Bob Walker (AVW).

Among our hosts at the Anatole are Charlotte St. Martin, Sally Gibbons, Ellen Larson, Barrett Schwab and Andrea Greene.

We look forward to seeing a big number of our 560+ chapter members to brighten this special event and exciting celebration. Come and help us honor some of the brightest stars of the D/FW membership.

Business or party attire is appropriate dress for the evening.

Awards Committee Announces Nominees for '92-'93 Honors

By Phyllis Firebaugh
A&C Enercom

Award winners and nominees are among the "shining stars" who will be recognized at the May 27 "Parade of Stars" at the Loews Anatole Hotel.

The D/FW Awards Committee is pleased to announce candidates for awards at the local and international level.

Judy Love Rondeau (Canadian Consulate General) is our nominee for *Chapter Manager of the Year*. This award, which recognizes commitment in influencing the life of the chapter, is based on ability to motivate others, stimulate volunteer functions, provide a sense of direction, and act as a catalyst to cause exceptional results.

Norb Dettmann, CMP, PhD (Professional College Management International) is our nominee for *International Planner of the Year*. **Bill Boyd, CMP** (Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.) is our nominee for *International Supplier of the Year*.

These honors are based on service on the international level, service to the chapter, industry and community; published contributions to the industry; speeches; professional

recognition, certification and continuing education.

Four persons are nominated for each of the outstanding local awards—D/FW Chapter Planner of the Year and D/FW Chapter Supplier of the Year.

Nominated for *Planner of the Year* are **Kim Kelley, CMP** (The Tower Club), **Suzie Oliver** (Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers), **Diane Smith, CMP** (Alcon Labs), and **Alex Vurpillat** (Carey Transportation). Nominated for *Supplier of the Year* are **Sue Ferguson-Fry** (Cityplace Conference Center), **Mary Jo Malone** (Plaza of the Americas), **O.D. O'Donnell** (Nightlife Talent & Management Agency), and **Alan Powdermaker** (Circle R Ranch).

Awards to Planner and Supplier of the Year are based on significant contributions in committee and board involvement, meeting industry service, recognition and awards, meeting industry-related speaking engagements, and community service.

Other "shining stars" to be recognized at the May meeting include winners of the Suzie Fiveash Award for Membership, Host Facility of the Year, and Program of the Year.

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. **No-shows 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).



News Briefs

D/FW Chapter News

'93-'94 Chapter Leaders Elected by Mail; Results Announced Soon

This year's nomination and election process for officers and directors of the D/FW chapter of MPI took place by mail to enable the 560+ chapter members to participate, said Lisa South, CMP (Ducky-Bob's Party Rentals), chair of the nominating committee.

Results of the election will be announced next month and leaders for 1993-94 will be featured in the June issue of the *Current*.

South expressed thanks to these committee members: Mary Cain (Texas Bundles), Mary Cowart (Meeting Consultants & Associates), Norb Dettmann, PhD, CMP, (Professional College Management International), Barbara Fett (INFOMART), Jim Follett, CHSE (Intercontinental Hotel Group), Bob Jaeckle (Reunion Ranch), Marilyn Manby, CMP (Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.), Marsha Singer (The Executive Connection), Robert E. (Bob Walker (AVW)), and Laura Yarbrough, CMP (EDS).

June Chapter Meeting to be International in Scope

The June 17 chapter meeting, hosted by Hackberry Creek Country Club, will be international in every facet—including the menu! The kickoff of our Italian "Sister City" will be announced.

During the pre-meeting social hour, exhibitors representing European destinations, hotels, airlines and transportation companies will provide promotional materials and will be ready to answer questions regarding group or individual travel. Countries to be represented include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. All of these countries have active MPI chapters.

For information about exhibit space contact Sherri Cook (Sherri Cook & Associates), 214-394-8688, or Bobby Bulger (Networld), 214-341-5876.

Community Awareness Committee Discusses Impact-laden Events

Steven Foster (Yellow Rose Touring & Special Events), reporting on information discussed at a recent meeting of the community awareness committee,

announced that World Cup Soccer activity has increased and a FIFA-sponsored media campaign is in the works. The European Broadcasters will meet in Dallas later this spring and some members have site inspections of World Cup Village scheduled.

The Grand Prix race in downtown Dallas Sept. 17-19, developments with DART, and our chapter's new press kit were also discussed in the meeting which took place at Hotel Crescent Court.

The press kit, distributed to designated media last month, was developed by Lesley Meyer (Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.) and Tracey Smith (Electronic Form System).

Cindy Hughes (American Express) was recognized for her help in distributing MPI meeting notices.

A memorable buffet lunch—delicious cuisine, Rosewood-style, was hosted by Kim Mudrone.

The community awareness committee meets regularly to discuss important community developments that impact our membership. Ann Connolly (Culinaire) volunteered to host the next luncheon at INFOMART.

Independent Meeting Planners SIG Plan Quarterly Meetings

Debbie Hurley, manager of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) at MPI headquarters, was a special guest at the first meeting of the D/FW chapter's SIG for Independent Meeting Planners.

Mary Cowart (Meeting Consultants), liaison for the chapter's Independent Meeting Planners SIG, said the group would meet quarterly.

Those interested in being a part of this group should contact Cowart at 214-248-4429.

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DOLLARS & CENTS

D/FW Chapter/MPI

For the month ending March 31, 1993:

Beginning of the Month	\$36,116.32
Receipts	6,646.51
Disbursements	(7,985.61)
EOM Balance	\$34,777.22*

*EOM Balance includes Gives Kids the World Reserve Account and PGA.

Report submitted by Alan Powdermaker (Circle R Ranch), vice president/finance.

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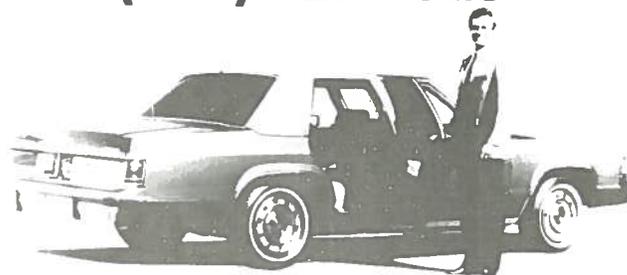
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Heard it through the Grapevine...

By M.T. Gnadt
National Business Association

Lee M. Conte has been promoted to associate director of sales for the *Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau*.

After having a second son, **Phyllis Cox** has returned to the *Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau* in its new historical location on Main Street. **Corey Taylor Cox** was born Sept. 26.

Sue Ferguson-Fry, *Cityplace Conference Center*, is "Event Coordinator of the Year" for ClubCorp of America (central region). More than 300 compete for this honor.

Steven G. Foster has been named general manager at *Yellow Rose Touring & Special Events*. This promotion comes after three years as director of operations for Yellow Rose.

Sandi, known to us as **Sandi Tarlton**, has reverted to a previous name. Our contact at the *MPI* chapter office answers once again to **Sandi Niermann**.

Jennifer Giesler has moved from *Hilton D/FW* to the *Hilton* national sales office where she will sell *Hilton Hotels* throughout the country.

Diane Smith, *Alcon Labs*, is a proud grandmother one more time. On March 24 Diane's daughter gave birth to a baby girl, **Taylor Mackenzie Seymour**.

Lisa South, *Ducky-Bob's Party Rentals*, was named Member of the Month in March for the National Association of Catering Executives.

Don DeFeo is the director of business and industry development for *Responsible Health Care Corporation*. He takes this position after 18 years in the hotel and convention and visitors bureau industry.

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** (214-991-5381 or FAX 214-960-9149) about items of interest for this column.

Orientation & 'Buddy' Programs Encourage Involvement

Member orientation and the "buddy program" go hand-in-hand to promote chapter involvement, reports **Diane Smith**, *CMP* (*Alcon Labs*), vice president/membership.

"These two programs are among our most valuable tools in getting our members involved," Smith said. "Both committees deserve congratulations for outstanding efforts."

With an average of 20 members each month, attendance at orientation has increased steadily; more than 100 new members have participated in the program since August. The largest group to date—32—attended orientation in January.

"O.D. and his group have done an outstanding job of encouraging members to experience orientation," Smith said, praising the efforts of **O.D. O'Donnell** (*Nightlife Talent & Management Agency*) and his committee.

The "first-timer" report cards, completed by all program attendees, consistently indicate that orientation results in a much better understanding of the benefits of *MPI* membership.

"New members agree that the buddy program makes them feel welcome and encourages them to become more involved at a quicker pace," said **Mary Cain** (*Texas Bundles*), buddy program committee chair.

Cain expressed appreciation for the many members who responded to the call for buddies, and encourages continued participation to keep the momentum going.

"Involvement could also bring a great personal reward," said **Smith**, referring to the vacation prizes to be awarded to *Supplier*, *Planner* and *Recruiter of the Year*. Winners will enjoy one of three exciting grand prize vacations, one of which is showcased on this page (below).

The Supplier of the Year just might enjoy a...



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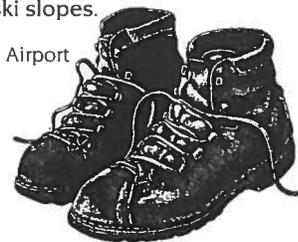
Representatives from both the international office and D/FW chapter of MPI celebrate the presentation of \$1500 raised for the MPI Education and Research Foundation. The foundation was the recipient of proceeds from a recent fund raiser at Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament in Dallas.

Pictured are Ed L. Griffin, Jr., CAE (MPI executive vice-president/CEO), Terri Lawrence (director, MPI Resource Center), Mary Jo Malone (Plaza of the Americas, benefit event chair), Mary Cowart (Meeting Consultants, chapter president), Scott Cannon (director of marketing, Medieval Times), and Mark Johnson (actor, Medieval Times).

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April Meeting Highlights

MPI Learns about 'Americans with Disabilities' at 'One of the Year's Highest Rated Meetings'

Photos by Mark Lazarow Photography



LEFT: D/FW MPI member **Bruce Jaster** (The Jaster Companies) discussed the realities of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The MPI representative on the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Task Force, is vice-president and a board member of the North Texas Amputee Support Group.

Jaster is an independent planner and consultant representing a broad range of clients in the law practice management, government, healthcare and beverage industries. In 23 years of meeting planning he has been involved in three major planning categories—association, corporate and independent.

BELOW: Three chapter members experience just a small taste of what it means to be handicapped when they became wheelchair-bound volunteers at last month's meeting featuring the Americans with Disabilities Act. All three emphasized that meeting planners should focus on "wider spaces and no stairs"—and more sensitivity to the special needs of individuals with disabilities.

Phyllis Firebaugh (A&C Enercom), left, suggested that meeting planners obtaining wheelchairs for guests should inquire about the guest's physical size. "One size DOES NOT fit all," she said. Firebaugh also called for ensuring that the chair is fully equipped—i.e., has a place to support the guest's legs, if appropriate and observed that it would be polite for guests speaking to individuals in wheelchairs to make an effort—perhaps bending at the knee—to be at eye level, as does **Judy Love Rondeau** (Canadian Consulate General).

Alan Powdermaker (Circle R Ranch), center, noted muscle fatigue caused by not being able to cross his legs or change position "as we all do without thinking when sitting for long periods of time." He also noted a need to have a beverage holder and other accessories for wheelchairs. Like Firebaugh, Powdermaker also experienced the difficulty of making eye contact with individuals standing up when addressing him.

When chapter president Mary Cowart asked volunteers from the Sports Classic fund raiser to stand, **John Ures** (ITT Sheraton), right, realized that impossibility for wheelchair-bound persons.





Co-chairs for the April chapter meeting at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas were **Carolyn Taylor** (Big Spur Corral), **Peg Wolschon** (Kerrville Bus Co.), **Kyle Smith** (Fairmont Hotel), **Mary Lynn Novelli** (Sterling Hotel Group) and **Carole Sharapata** (Kerrville Bus Co.).



ABOVE: **Norb Dettman** (Professional College Management), and **Lynn M. Erney** (Stouffer Dallas Hotel) examine an infrared assistive listening device. The equipment, provided by Audex of Longview, Texas, is designed to serve the needs of the hearing impaired.



Gracie Hatfield Hilton (The Write Stuff), *Current* editor, directs pianist **Danny Hollis** to look toward the camera. Hollis, who is blind, contracts with Nighlife Talent & Management Agency.

LEFT: **Ted Robinson**, president of the North Texas Amputee Group, and **Mary Jean Hayden**, coordinator of Baylor Rehabilitation ADA Consultants, were guest speakers at the April chapter meeting.

Thank You!

By Kim Kelley, CMP
The Tower Club

THANK YOU to many special people for their contributions of time, special skills, and finances. You made our April meeting about the Americans with Disabilities Act extra special.

Ray Tackaberry, GM, Fairmont Hotel, extended to MPI a very special rate for the reception and luncheon, + \$300 for decorating (VALUE: \$9,350—\$42.50 per person—for guarantee of 220 people). The hotel also provided complimentary valet parking for 100 cars (VALUE: \$500).

Guest speakers included **Bruce Jaster**, The Jaster Companies, one of our MPI members; **Ted Robinson**, immediate past president, North Texas Amputee Support; and **Mary Jean Hayden**, Baylor ADA Consultants.

David Gislser, Freeman Decorating, provided stage carpeting and draping, screen draping, ramp and handrails, and handicapped pole signage (VALUE: \$1,334).

Bryan Beatty, Audek, provided assistive listening devices.

Michael Clay, AVW, provided a 35 mm projector and stand, screen, mixer and six microphones. (VALUE: \$305.50)

O.D. O'Donnell, Nighlife Talent & Management Agency, was responsible for the piano entertainment at our reception. The very special pianist, **Danny Hollis**, is blind.

Bob Price, Petals & Stems, provided centerpieces for 28 tables (VALUE: \$140).

Gary Vincent, Sunshine Floral, provided live plants (rental VALUE: \$325).

Robert Lipscomb, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, provided Braille menus (VALUE: \$30).

(Total price for the meeting, with a guarantee of 220: \$11,984.50.)



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Member Profile/Alexandra Vurpillat

Carey's Meeting Planner Enjoys Foreign Travel, Time with Family

By Anita Siegers
The Adolphus Hotel

Alex Vurpillat has been employed by Carey Transportation since November 1988. Her responsibilities as director of marketing include sales and marketing as well as the inception of Carey's meeting planning department. Experience as former corporate meeting planner for Nasco Hellas has proved invaluable in this endeavor.

Vurpillat's tenure with Nasco Hellas took place during the six years Alex and her family spent in Europe. During that time, she enjoyed frequent visits to Paris, London and Greece.

Currently a member of the board of directors, Alex has been active on

many committees—chairing several—since she joined the D/FW chapter of Meeting Planners International in 1989.

She also serves as a board member for Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association.

Among Alex's favorite pastimes are cooking, sailing and travel—especially to Mexico, Paris, and the island of Hydra in Greece. She also enjoys spending time with her grandson, Trystan.

Her fondest remembrances of childhood include the tradition of Christmas dinner with her family in New Hampshire—and gathering together all of her immediate family for the same holiday meal is high on her wish list.



Alexandra Vurpillat enjoys some quality time—playtime!—with grandson, Trystan.



Travel aficionado Tim Wade recently toured Europe, enjoying historical sights such as the Roman Colosseum.

Member Profile/Tim Wade

Lennox Events, Incentives Man Loves Travel, Enjoys Writing

By Anita Siegers
The Adolphus Hotel

Oklahoma native Tim Wade grew up in Lawton—the eleventh of thirteen children! A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Tim has a B.A. in journalism with an emphasis in public relations—fields of study he has found most helpful in his tenure with Lennox International and Lennox Industries.

Since he began with Lennox in December of 1985, Wade has moved from public relations editor to public relations manager, and is currently manager of events and incentives for the company.

Wade has been involved in numerous MPI endeavors since he joined the D/FW chapter in 1989.

He currently serves on the board of directors and is co-chair for the MPI Sister City committee. He has been a member of the public relations and program committees and served as chair of the “Brown Bag” seminars for the education committee.

Tim enjoys travel, both professionally and personally. He prefers coastal destinations such as Maine or Northern California, and enjoys travel to foreign countries as well.

Looking to the future, Tim would like to retire in extreme financial comfort—and soon! To attain this goal, he would love to win the lottery. Should that not happen, he would be happy to reap the benefits from a *New York Times* best seller, listing Timothy A. Wade as author!



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Gracie Hatfield Hilton
The Write Stuff
Phone & FAX
metro 817-467-7439

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