

# MPI

MEETING PLANNERS INTERNATIONAL\*

# CURRENT

Meeting Planners International

April 1994

Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter

## President's Message

## The Stars Come Out for MPI's Kids at the Charity Ball

By Lesley Meyer, CMP  
Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.

On Saturday, March 19, more than 400 MPI members and guests gathered in the Regency Ballroom at the Fairmont Hotel-Dallas for "The Kids Charity Ball."

A wonderful time was had by all as we raised more than \$50,000 for our chosen charities, Give Kids the World and Love for Kids.

Roger Staubach, honorary chairperson, wife Marianne, and daughter Stephanie of Personalities International were on hand to ensure a successful evening. Ten lucky attendees were recipients of Roger Staubach autographed footballs. Roger actually passed the footballs to the ten "receivers" across the ballroom! Not one pass was fumbled. Even Phyllis Firebaugh, CMP (A&C

Enercom)—who was really nervous!—made a fine catch.



Lesley Meyer, CMP

Ten live auction items brought in \$25,250. More than 160 silent auction items brought in \$20,755. Twenty-two corporate sponsors gave \$22,000 with additional Gift of Love donations, resulting in an additional \$1,930.

This incredible event was the result of the efforts of many very special MPI volunteers. More than 100 volunteers were led by  
(continued on page 8)

This issue of **CURRENT** is sponsored by

**Holiday Inn  
Crowne Plaza**

**Atlanta**

### MPI

MEETING PLANNERS INTERNATIONAL\*

April D/FW Chapter Meeting

*"Celebrate Outdoors for  
Supplanning Success"*

featuring

Joe Jeff Goldblatt, CSEP

April 28, Thursday

Old City Park\*

1717 Gano Street • Dallas, Texas 75215  
214-421-5141

*Wear appropriate clothing and shoes for outdoor event!*

*\*In case of rain, function will be held  
at the Dallas Civic Garden Center at Fair Park*

Orientation 11:00 a.m.

Reception & Registration 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon & Program 12 noon

R.S.V.P.

by noon, Tuesday, April 26  
Sandi or Jennifer  
214-343-0555

Advance Registration \$22

Late Registration \$30

Guest Registration \$25

See page 3 for more details and meeting reservation policy.

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# CURRENT

Meeting Planners International  
Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

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The *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.

## CURRENT Deadlines

Upcoming deadlines for copy and ads for the D/FW MPI chapter newsletter, the *CURRENT*, are as follows:

ISSUE	DEADLINE
May '94	April 15, Friday
June '94	May 13, Friday
July '94	June 17, Friday

Please mail or FAX copy to Gracie H. Hilton, *CURRENT* Editor, 3020 Glasgow Court, Arlington, TX 76015, phone & FAX: (metro) 817-467-7439.

Copy is cheerfully accepted early. Because of production schedules, information received after 5 p.m. on the deadline day will not be included in the newsletter in progress. Late-arriving copy will be included in the next month's issue, if information is still timely.

## Upcoming MPI Events

### April 28, Thursday

Chapter Meeting  
Old City Park  
11:30 a.m./Lunch

### May 3, Tuesday

'How-To' Breakfast  
Wyndham Gardens/Las Colinas  
7:30 a.m.

### May 13-14

CMP University  
Plaza of the Americas  
Dallas

### May 17, Tuesday

Brown Bag' Luncheon  
Stouffer Hotel, Dallas  
11:30 a.m.

### May 26, Thursday

Chapter Meeting/Awards Dinner  
Adolphus Hotel  
6:00 p.m./Dinner

### June 11-12

Saturday-Sunday  
Chapter Management Forum  
Minneapolis, MN

### June 12-14

Sunday-Tuesday  
1994 Annual Convention  
Minneapolis, MN

### June 23, Thursday

Executive Workshop  
Cooper Aerobics Center  
1:30 p.m.

### June 23, Thursday

Chapter Meeting  
Cooper Aerobics Center  
6:00 p.m./Dinner

### July 28, Thursday

Chapter Meeting  
DFW Hilton  
11:30 a.m./Lunch

NOTE: Chapter meeting plans are subject to change.  
Check the *CURRENT* each month to confirm details.

# C H A R I T Y

# O

# R

# N

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# R

By Mary Lynn Novelli  
Sterling Hotel Group

### The Kids Charity Ball

Please accept my heartfelt thanks to all who worked so diligently to make The Kids Charity Ball, this year's charity event benefiting Give Kids the World and Love for Kids, such a success! We should all be very proud of our accomplishments.

Thanks to your hard work and dedication, the star of hope may shine a little brighter this year for some very special kids.

You made it happen, so let's get ready to do it again next year!

Read more about it in "President's Perspective" and look for photos on page 7. More photos of this outstanding event will appear in the May issue of *CURRENT*.

### Weekend Project

Keep your eyes open for the volunteer form at our April monthly meeting. We need volunteers for the First Annual Weekend Charity Project!

## April Meeting Highlights

# Learn from Special Events Expert Joe Jeff Goldblatt at Outdoor Function at Old City Park

By Peg Wolschon  
Kerrville Bus Company

Learn how to turn your next meeting into a memorable, spectacular event at the April 28 luncheon meeting at Dallas' Old City Park. Joe Jeff Goldblatt, CSEP will explore wonderful reasons to go outdoors.

As the new millennium draws closer, both event suppliers and planners are challenged with shrinking resources, crowded schedules and dwindling dollars. During Goldblatt's entertaining and often humorous program, discover powerful secrets for working together to improve your product, raise your salary and achieve unlimited success.

Goldblatt, author of *Special Events, The Art and Science of Celebration*, the world's first textbook in the field of event management, is a Dallas native currently earning his doctorate in education at The George Washington University in Washington, DC, while developing the first major in event management.



Joe Jeff Goldblatt, CSEP

As coordinator for the University's Forum for Sport and Event Management and Marketing, he is creating a rich repository of event management curriculum to educate future generations of event professionals. Goldblatt has appeared on more than 150 radio and television stations and recently earned the Certified Special Event Professional (CSEP) designation.

**IN CASE OF RAIN:  
April meeting will move  
to Civic Garden Center  
at Fair Park**

Old City Park is situated just south of I-30 on Gano Street between Evray and Harwood. Remember to dress appropriately and wear comfortable shoes for this outdoor event. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Civic Garden Center at Fair Park.

Co-chairs for the April meeting are Mike Snider (Baker's Ribs) and Linda Sergeant (Bill Reed Decorations, Inc.). Other program committee members assisting with the April meeting are Sally Goldsberry, CMP (American Society of Petroleum En-

gineers), Peg Wolschon (Kerrville Bus Company), Steve Kemble (Steve Kemble Event Design), and George Primo (George Primo Orchestras).

Hosts for the event are Candis Clark from Old City Park and Mike Snider of Baker's Ribs.

### 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).

### April Host Facility

## Old City Park, Dallas

Step through the main gate of Old City Park and back through time to frontier days gone by. Vintage buildings provide a dramatic contrast to the towering backdrop of the Dallas skyline.

The restored historic buildings—log cabins and antebellum homes—of this 14-acre outdoor museum, coupled with demonstrations by professional craftspeople, explore the history of Dallas and North Central Texas during pioneer and Victorian days.

The 37 historic homes and structures date from the early pioneer days of North Texas through the turn of the century, and the beautifully landscaped grounds provide the perfect setting for special events, parties and picnics. The facilities support groups of 100-6,000. The Park's Pilot Grove Church, Renner School House, Brent Place Farmhouse and Park Cities Heritage House are also available for receptions and meetings. Group tours and luncheon packages are ideal for spouse tours.

Old City Park is situated on the edge of downtown just across I-30 from the Dallas Convention Center and within walking distance of the Farmer's Market—one block south of I-30 between Evray and Harwood.

Valet parking for the D/FW MPI event is complimentary.



# News Briefs

## Chapter News

### Dodson to Discuss CLC Contracts at May 17 'Brown Bag' Luncheon

Come hear the details from John Dodson, resident manager at the Adolphus Hotel, about how hotels will present the new CLC Standard Hotel Contracts.

Dodson is guest speaker for the May 17 'Brown Bag' luncheon at the Stouffer Hotel-Dallas.

The 'Brown Bag' Luncheon Series provides cost-defrayed, quality educational programs to D/FW chapter members. It's informal and informative—and FREE! Bring your lunch; soft drinks will be supplied.

To register for the 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. event, contact Ellen Larson (Loews Anatole Hotel), chair of the 'Brown Bag' educational series, 214-761-7252 or FAX 214-761-7242.

The Stouffer Hotel-Dallas is situated at 2222 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207.

### D/FW Chapter Membership is 597

Membership in the D/FW chapter of MPI stands at 597, according to the chapter membership report as of Feb. 28. That figure indicates a retention rate of 73.87%.

Membership includes 281 planners (47.6%), 309 suppliers (52.3%) and seven students.

## International News

### MPI Featured in USA Today

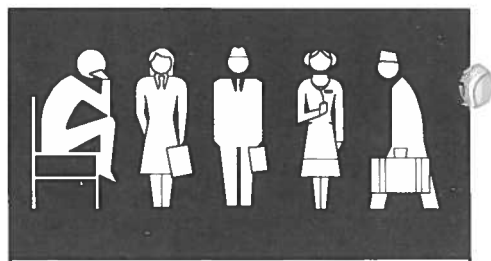
The April 5 issue of *USA Today* featured a section of articles on the meetings and convention industry. A reporter traveled to MPI Headquarters to conduct most of her research. A circulation of more than 1.5 million learned about MPI.

### MPINet—a Global On-line Communication System for the Meetings Industry

Meeting Planners International announces MPINet, the first global on-line communication system designed specifically for the meetings industry. MPINet expands communication options through information sharing, networking and educational opportunities, using electronic forums to bring people together efficiently and economically. For more information call 214-712-7744.

### New Certification Researched

MPI has appointed a task force to develop accreditation appropriate for senior meeting executives. Comprised of university professors and directors of training and development from major corporations and associations, the task force is developing criteria for the Accredited Meeting Executive (AME) designation.



Out of a job? Looking for a new challenge? Seeking a qualified applicant to fill a position? Your first stop should be D/FW MPI's Job Bank!

To list your resume with the Job Bank, send

- a minimum of five (5) resumes (more if you wish)
- a check or money order for \$15 (for MPI D/FW chapter members) or \$25 (for non-members) made payable to MPI D/FW Chapter
- a note regarding the type position(s) that interest you

Send these items to:

Jeff Means, CMP  
Chair, D/FW MPI Job Bank  
3018 Sierra  
Carrollton, TX 75007

All inquiries are confidential.

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BANK**

**MPI**  
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The New Meeting Professional**



## Winners to Be Honored in May

# Awards Committee Announces Nominees for 1993-94 Honors

By Phyllis Firebaugh  
A&C Enercom

Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter members with exceptional service records will be honored at the Adolphus Hotel when Planner and Supplier of the Year are named at the annual awards ceremony May 26.

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

Three 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 **Sherri Cook, CMP** (Sherri Cook & Associates), **Suzann Oliver** (Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers), 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), and **Pat McCain, CMP** (Krisam Group).

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.

Selection of the winner is based on a vote by the Chapter Board of Directors and former recipients.

Three chapter members are nominated for awards at the international level.

**Norb Dettmann, PhD, CMP** (Tarrant County Junior College) is our nominee for *International Planner of the Year*.

**Alan Powdermaker** (Circle R Ranch) 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.

**O.D. O'Donnell** (Nightlife Talent & Management Agency) 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.

International award winners, named by the International Awards Committee, will be announced at the Annual Convention in June.

Others who will be recognized at the May meeting include winners of the Suzie Fiveash Award for Membership Recruitment, Host Facility of the Year, and Program of the Year. Finalists for these awards will be determined after the April chapter meeting.

Sincere congratulations are extended to all nominees because the nomination itself is a cherished honor. These committed chapter members have dedicated many years of faithful service to the educational goals of Meeting Planners International.



Sherri Cook, CMP



Suzann Oliver



Alex Vurpillat

### Nominees for D/FW Chapter Planner of the Year

### Nominees for D/FW Chapter Supplier of the Year



Sue Ferguson-Fry



Mary Jo Malone



Pat McCain, CMP

### Chapter Nominees for International Honors



N. Dettman, PhD, CMP  
Nominee for  
Internat'l Planner of the Year



Alan Powdermaker  
Nominee for  
Internat'l Supplier of the Year



O.D. O'Donnell  
Nominee for Internat'l  
Chapter Manager of the Year

## DOLLAR\$ & CENT\$ D/FW Chapter/MPI

For the month ending Feb. 28, 1994

Beginning of the Month	\$46,675.24
Income	30,723.31
Disbursements	(20,041.60)
EOM Balance	\$57,356.95*

\*Includes \$10,000.00 PEC  
Professional Education Conference

\*Includes \$1,212.00 PGA  
Professional Growth Award

\*Includes \$12,833.92 ACE  
Annual Charity Event

Report submitted by Carolyn Carey, CMP  
(Allianz Life Insurance Co.), vice president/  
finance.

## March Meeting Highlights

# D/FW Chapter Travels to 'Cowtown' for Annual Meeting in Fort Worth



*Photos by  
Mark Lazarow  
Photography*

*Meeting Details  
Reported by  
Traci Bower  
(Reunion Ranch)*

LEFT: Enjoying the pre-meeting reception in the Cactus Bar at the newly redecorated Radisson Plaza in downtown Fort Worth were **Doug Harman** (Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau), **Steve Kemble** (Steve Kemble Event Design), **Armel Santens** (Radisson Plaza, general manager), **Elaine Matthews** (Radisson Plaza, director of sales), **Charlotte Merrill-Davis** (Event Source Professionals), **Gail Wood** (Radisson Plaza, director of catering), and **Alex Vurpillat** (Carey Transportation). Carey Transportation provided motorcoach transportation from Dallas to Fort Worth for the March meeting.

BELOW: Entertaining chapter members with a series of lovely piano pieces during dinner was **Luana Stoutmeyer** (Encore Productions).



Chatting at the March meeting in Fort Worth were **Ashley McCoy** (Sheraton New Orleans), **Charlene H. Berard** (Sheraton New Orleans), **Mary Cowart** (Mary Cowart Meeting Consultants) and **Belinda "B" Nottingham** (ITT Sheraton Dallas).





**Mark Lazarow** (Mark Lazarow Photography), marks his ballot in favor of the proposed name change of Meeting Planners International to Meeting Professionals International. In order for the name change to be adopted, MPI by-laws require a majority vote by at least 20% of voting members. Ballots must be received by April 15. Lazarow, photographer for the D/FW chapter since September 1991, supplies photos of chapter activities for the *CURRENT*, as well as a number of other chapter publications and projects.



**Chapter President Lesley Meyer, CMP** (Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.), right, welcomes **Peter Turner** and **Michael Guidry** to the March meeting. **Turner**, senior vice-president of MPI International, was on hand to receive the check for \$3,190, the D/FW chapter's donation to the MPI Education and Research Foundation (ERF). Turner, who is responsible for international development and the overall management of chapter relations, serves as executive director of ERF. Most of the donation was raised at a recent chapter fundraiser at Medieval Times; Mary Jo Malone (Plaza of the Americas) was chair of that event. **Guidry**, of the Guidry Group, was guest speaker for the March meeting.

### MANY THANKS!

Many thanks to the individuals and companies whose time, talents, and expertise contributed to the enjoyment of the March meeting. They include •Hosts **Armel Santens, Elaine Matthews, Gail Wood** and **Reinhard Warmuth** of the Radisson Plaza Hotel •**Luana Stoutmeyer** of Encore Productions •Guest speaker **Michael Guidry** of The Guidry Group •**Alex Vurpillat** of Carey Transportation and •March meeting co-chairs **Steve Kemble** (Steve Kemble Event Design), **Carole Sharapata** (Kerrville Bus Company), •**Alex Vurpillat** (Carey Transportation), and **Charlotte Merrill-Davis** (Event Source Professionals).

### EDITOR'S NOTE

In the rush of deadlines, **Pat McCain's** name was inadvertently "twisted" with that of her company in a cutline in the March issue of *CURRENT*. The mistaken sentence should have read: "Two of the chapter's new CMPs are **Pat McCain, CMP** (Krisam Group) and **Phyllis Firebaugh, CMP** (A & C Enercom)."

*Mea culpa—and my apologies!*  
—ghh



**Cathy Mason** (USMotivation), left, introduced guest speaker **Michael Guidry**, right, of The Guidry Group, an internationally-known consulting firm specializing in security-related issues. Guidry, who had just returned to Dallas/Fort Worth from an emergency meeting in Mexico after the assassination of one of Mexico's leading political candidates, presented several tips regarding safe travel habits, and provided an overview of what to expect, security-wise, at the 1994 World Cup Soccer Matches in Dallas, an event for which Guidry's firm will provide a broad range of security services.

## D/FW MPI Chapter Raises \$50,000+ for Children at 'The Kids Charity Ball'



ABOVE: Chapter members **Mary Lynn Novelli** (Sterling Hotel Group) and **Steve Kemble** (Steve Kemble Event Design) visit with **Marianne and Roger Staubach** at The Kids Charity Ball. Staubach was honorary chair of the event at the Fairmont Hotel-Dallas. The ball netted more than \$50,000 for children's charities.

RIGHT: **Mary Lynn Novelli** (Sterling Hotel Group), chair of The Kids Charity Ball, makes presentations at the black tie gala event.

Watch for more photos in the May issue of *CURRENT*

Photos by **Sal Sessa EVENTS Photography**



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205 S.W. Barnard St. • Glen Rose, Tx. 76043 • 817-897-2101 • Fax 817-897-7729

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE VATICAN  
POSTI TIME'S RUNNING OUT! NOAH'S FILLING UP HIS ARK, TWO BY TWO! HAVE YOU RECRUITED YOUR TWO NEW MPI MEMBERS?!



Remember Father Vito's Words!



# D/FW Chapter Welcomes 20 New MPI Members!

**Bhawna Agarwal**  
Student  
625 W. Madison #2905  
Chicago, IL 60661  
312-902-3622  
Student

**Tina Y. Ho**  
Texas Instruments  
13510 N. Central Expwy., MS 227  
Dallas, TX 75243  
214-995-0400  
Planner

**Monty Ramey**  
Advantage Rent-A-Car  
13647 Omega  
Farmers Branch, TX 75244  
214-458-2380  
Supplier

**Paul R. Wedesky**  
Bauer Audio Visual, Inc.  
1607 W. Mockingbird Lane  
Dallas, TX 75235  
214-630-6700  
Supplier

**Bobbi Cooper**  
Alexis Park Resort  
375 E. Harmon  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
702-796-3300  
Supplier

**Thomas M. Horn**  
National Pawnbrokers Assn.  
2050 Stemmons Fwy. #119  
Dallas, TX 75258  
214-745-4746  
Planner

**Kimberly D. Sparks**  
Harvey Hotel/DFW Airport  
4545 W. John Carpenter  
Irving, TX 75063  
214-929-4500  
Supplier

**John W. Willson**  
Network, Inc.  
13407 Rolling Hills Lane  
Dallas, TX 75240  
214-385-7596  
Supplier

**Philip C. Crouse**  
Philip C. Crouse & Associates Inc.  
400 N. St. Paul #440  
Dallas, TX 75201  
214-220-9091  
Planner

**Wayne C. Jeansonne**  
Supreme Travel Services  
9851 Carnegie Place  
Dallas, TX 75228  
214-327-8046  
Planner

**Bobbi J. Tierney**  
AT&T Energy Systems  
3000 Skyline Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75149  
214-284-2092  
Planner

**For the Record...  
Address Changes**

**Melissa Z. Zimmerman**  
Zimmerman  
2406 Lindblad Court  
Arlington, TX 76016  
817-451-6786  
Planner

**Deanna S. Diamond**  
Distribution Data Mgmt. Systems  
1655 Timber Ridge Lane  
Roanoke, TX 76262  
817-431-0668  
Planner

**Ann M. May**  
Student  
424 LaSalle Drive  
Richardson, TX 75081  
214-231-3217  
Student

**Ali Vafa**  
Bauer Audio Visual, Inc.  
1607 W. Mockingbird Lane  
Dallas, TX 75235  
214-630-6700  
Supplier

**Deuany A. Florence**  
LaQuinta Conference Ctr.  
825 N. Watson Road  
Arlington, TX 76011  
817-640-4142  
Supplier

**Dany F. Menendez**  
Medallion Hotel  
3000 N. Loop W.  
Houston, TX 77092  
713-613-0651  
Supplier

**Deborah J. Hesse**  
National Pawnbrokers Assn.  
2050 Stemmons fwy. #119  
Dallas, TX 75258  
214-745-4746  
Planner

**Patricia K. Newbrand**  
Embassy Suites  
13131 N. Central Expwy.  
Dallas, TX 75243  
214-234-3300  
Supplier

**Beverly W. Hill**  
PDX Inc.  
101 Jim Wright Fwy. S. #200  
Fort Worth, TX 76108  
817-246-6760  
Planner

**B.J. Patton**  
Incentive Horizons Inc.  
5429 LBJ #620  
Dallas, TX 75240  
214-702-9374  
Planner

## Proposed 1994-95 Officers and Directors for D/FW Chapter of MPI Named

Nominees for officers and directors of the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of Meeting Planners International for 1994-95 were named by the nominating committee in mid-February.

If uncontested, this slate will be elected by acclamation at the April chapter meeting.

See insert that is a part of this issue of *CURRENT* for more information about officer and director nominees.

## MEMBERSHIP WORD SEARCH

Here are some reasons to renew your membership.  
Can you locate the words?

Awareness	Idea	New Friends
Buddy	Involvement	Resource
CMP	Job Bank	Value
CURRENT	Learn	Workshop
Education	MPI	
Fun	Network	

F S I J B C Y Z A G I  
A G L D K R O W T E N  
P A W E N N A R E T U  
T R M D A D S U E Y E  
L E U U B R O T R J A  
T N W C B B N N E A T  
N W L A O I U E S W S  
E A F T J G F R O A D  
M S O I M Y W R U R N  
E V R O D F K U R E E  
V N P N E S E C C N I  
L M V L H A V Y E E R  
O P A O V A T I C S F  
V K P U L B P U I S W  
N S Q U F M D D P P E  
I R E M T O E D A M N  
G Q L O D A E N M U C  
M A Y D D U B E T F P

# Chapter Service Good Way to Prepare for the CMP Exam!

Patricia Tripp, CMP  
*Princess Cruises & Tours*

As we glide through the '90s, our focus as "specialists" or "experts" in our particular fields seems less than sufficient for the global picture.

Hence, it is now our time for action! To enhance, improve, update ourselves, and reinvest our time and develop our expertise in all facets of the professional meetings industry.

Even now, we sit on the edge of a major international vote to change our association name from Meeting Planners International to Meeting Professionals International. That name says it all! We must be knowledgeable in all facets of our industry.

The best opportunity to gain this overview of knowledge is through the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) study course and "university" offered by the D/FW chapter of MPI.

The blueprint for the study course is structured for the candidate who will sit for the CMP exam in June or December. The 1 1/2 day university with 17 CMPs and other experts in their fields focuses on 25 meetings management functions and 22 conditions which affect these functions.

In addition to the study course and CMP University preparation, one of the best ways to prepare for the exam is through volunteer work for the local chapter!

The official CMP testing application requires significant practical experience in the meetings industry. Applicants must score at least 75 points out of a possible 125 on the application form to sit for the CMP exam.

An example: One of the application sections with a 53 point maximum score relates to "Responsibility Scope/Level," a method of determining experience in people management—and that experience may be gained through work in a paid position or as a volunteer.

Volunteer to serve as chair or co-chair of a chapter meeting and experience all phases of planning and directing a function for more than 200!

Bingo! You have just acquired valuable points toward your CMP.

The CMP University will be held Friday, May 13, from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, May 14, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Plaza of the Americas Hotel in Dallas. Registration for members is only \$25.

Prepare for the "global future." Don't miss the ship! It will sail without you!

For more information and registration, call Patricia Tripp, CMP (Princess Cruises & Tours), 214-230-6994 or 800-527-6200.

## President's Message

(continued from page 1)

one fantastic lady who never gives up, Chair person Mary Lynn Novelli (Sterling Hotel Group), and her dynamic duo co-chairs Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions) and Greg Pynes (Addison Conference & Theatre Center).

Once again TEAM MPI has broken all past records for fundraisers. Our total net income is in excess of \$50,000 with 75% going to Give Kids the World and 25% to Love for Kids.

What good things we can accomplish as a TEAM—*Together Everyone Achieves More.*

## Heard it through the Grapevine...

By M.T. Gnad

*National Business Association*

**Coleen Albert Rickenbacher, CMP**, director of Convention Services, Dallas CVB, was married on February 25 to Steve Rickenbacher in Dallas at the Arboretum. Their honeymoon will be to Alaska in August.

**Ann Connolly**, corporate catering sales manager, Dallas Market Center, announces her engagement to Bob Renneker. The wedding will be in Dallas on October 23.

**Mary Cowart**, Mary Cowart Meeting Consultants, and her husband, Larry, are proud grandparents for the third time; Jennifer Lorin Cowart was born February 7.

**Al James** has been promoted from corporate events coordinator to director of sales and marketing for *Omnitrition International, Inc.*

**Tess Merrick**, ExecuCar, announces the birth of her son, Collin Ryan, 7 lbs., 1oz., born February 12.

**Mike Miller**, president, *Margaritas-R-Us*, is running for the National Affiliate Representative for the National Association of Catering Executives. NACE members will vote on this position at the NACE Educational Conference in July.

**Suzie Oliver**, Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, and **Jan Pollard**, Omni Hotel National Sales Office, invite all women in the hospitality industry interested in playing golf to join "Just for the Fun of It." Golf lessons, clinics, and scrambles are planned monthly. All levels of experience

and expertise are welcome. Contact Suzie, 214-239-7367, or Jan, 214-444-0044 for details.

**Mary Lynn Novelli**, Sterling Hotel Group, has opened and will direct the company's new Worldwide Headquarters Group Sales Office. This responsibility is in addition to her current responsibilities as regional director of sales.

**Gretchen Parr-Silver** has been appointed director of sales for *Events Unlimited Inc.* She was previously with Universal Studios Hollywood.

**Sheri L. Pizitz, CMP**, president, *Events Unlimited*, has recently received the designation of Certified Special Events Professional (CSEP). She has also been named to the *Special Events* magazine Advisory Board for a two-year period.

**Kathy Senese**, national sales manager, *Omni National Sales office*, is a new mom. Her first baby, Gina Marie Senese, 7 lbs., 4 oz., was born on February 17.

**Peg Wolschon**, director of sales & marketing, *Kerrville Bus Company*, has been appointed chairman of the Travel Industry of America Membership Committee.

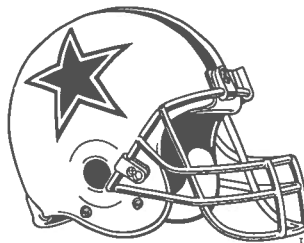
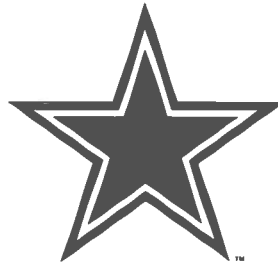
Keep up with personal news about fellow MPI chapter members—job changes, promotions, awards or special recognitions, weddings, or births—through "Heard it through the Grapevine." Please contact Marjorie Therese Gnad (214-991-5381 or FAX 214-960-9149) about items of interest for this column.



## HOST TO THE SUPERBOWL CHAMPION DALLAS COWBOYS

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