

MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL®

CURRENT

Meeting Professionals International

December 1994

Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter

President's Message

Year End Review Provides Positives

By Diane Smith, CMP
Alcon Laboratories, Inc.

As we approach 1995 and all of the opportunities and challenges it holds, let's look back at what we've accomplished since July.

Our educational programs have reached an all-time high in both content and attendance. Our Richland College Program is on track, with the fall session sold out again.



Diane Smith,
CMP
D/FW Chapter
President

We're seeing as many as 60-70 participants per session at the "Brown Bag" educational luncheon programs and equally strong numbers at both the Executive Workshops and "How To" breakfasts.

When the "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" program kicks off next year, I predict record numbers taking advantage of this exciting opportunity.

Our public relations team is actively pursuing every opportunity to make MPI a "household" word, promoting the MPI mission throughout the metroplex.

The ACE Committee is running full steam ahead in fundraising efforts, and nothing can stop this locomotive! They're well on their way to producing the most outstanding "Kids Charity Ball" this chapter has ever
(continued on page 11)



MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL®



December D/FW Chapter Meeting



MPI celebrates with

NACE and IAEM at the

Annual Holiday Gala



December 22, Thursday

The Tower Club

1601 Elm Street, 48th Floor

Dallas, Texas 75201

214-220-0403



Underground parking garage accessed from Elm Street • \$2.50 per car

Orientation 6:00 p.m.

Reception & Registration 6:30 p.m.

Buffet & Dancing 7:00 p.m.



R.S.V.P. to Sandi
by noon,
Tuesday, Dec. 20
214-343-0555

Advance Registration \$30
Late Registration \$40
Guest Registration \$35
Walk-ins \$40



See pages 3 and 4 for more details. Meeting reservation policy on page 11.

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CURRENT

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CURRENT Deadlines

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
January '95	December 16, Friday
February '95	January 14, Friday
March '94	February 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.

Please send information on 3.5 disk, Windows format, preferably in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word.

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.

December 11-13
Professional Education Conference
Vancouver, BC

December 22, Thursday
Chapter Meeting
Holiday Gala
Tower Club
6:30 p.m./Reception

January 10, Tuesday
'How To' Breakfast Workshop
'Innovative Reward Methods'
Bristol Suites Hotel
7:00 a.m./Breakfast

January 26, Thursday
Chapter Meeting
Westin Galleria
'Time Management'
11:30 a.m./Lunch

February 23, Thursday
Chapter Meeting
Holiday Inn Brookhollow
'Art of Negotiating'
11:30 a.m./Lunch

March 18, Saturday
The Kids Charity Ball
The Great Hall
International Apparel Mart

March 23, Thursday
Chapter Meeting
Worthington Hotel/Fort Worth
Program TBA
6:30 p.m./Dinner

April 27, Thursday
Chapter Meeting
Venue TBA
'Destination Discover Game Show'
11:30 a.m./Lunch

May 25, Thursday
Chapter Meeting
Awards & Installation
Grand Kempinski
6:30 p.m./Dinner

June 22, Thursday
Chapter Meeting
Program TBA
Stadium Club/Texas Stadium
11:00 a.m./Lunch

NOTE: Chapter meeting plans are subject to change. Check the *CURRENT* each month to confirm details. For more information about association events, call MPI Headquarters, 214-712-7700.

C H A R I T Y

By Linda Sergeant • Bill Reed Decorations • 214-823-3154

O R N E R

Sock it to me! A Pair of Socks "Buys" a PGA Ticket!

Many thanks for the generous contributions to the D/FW Chapter's Annual Food & Clothing Drive last month. Remember, the collection continues at the December meeting.



Linda Sergeant
Chair, Community
Services

Trade in a pair of socks for a PGA raffle ticket in December! Nonperishable foods, coats, and, especially, socks, are much needed.

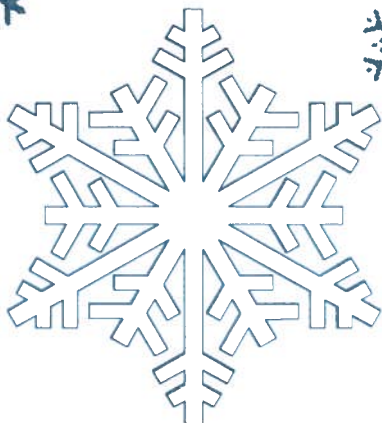
These items will be collected at registration and donated to the North Texas Food Bank and Trinity Ministry for the Poor.

Weekend Project

Many thanks to five chapter members who rolled up their sleeves and worked hard during our first weekend project, benefiting Trinity Ministry for the Poor last month. Hats off to volunteers **Paige Braun** (DalCity Associates), **Stephanie Davis** (Sheraton Park Central Hotel), **Linda Sergeant** (Bill Reed Decorations), **Mary Lynn Novelli** (Sterling Hotel Group) and **Belinda Nottingham** (ITT Sheraton).

The Kids Charity Ball

The Great Hall at the International Apparel Mart is the venue for The Kids Charity Ball 1995. See announcement on page 14.



D/FW Chapter of MPI



Holiday Gala



- MPI celebrates with NACE and IAEM
- Enjoy favorite holiday melodies with Luana Stoutmeyer at the piano during cocktails
- Dance the night away to the sounds of the Random Axis Band and T.J. the DJ!
- Enjoy La Musica String Ensemble with coffee and dessert!
- Numerous PGA raffles with fantastic prizes
- Numerous food stations
- Wine, beer and cash cocktail bar



Thursday



December 22



6:30 p.m.



More details on pages 1 and 4. • Remember the D/FW Chapter's annual holiday charity project! Bring clothing—coats and socks are especially needed—and nonperishable foods to the December meeting. Trade in a pair of socks for a PGA raffle ticket. Collections benefit Trinity Ministry for the Poor.

The Tower Club

Thanksgiving Tower • 48th Floor
1601 Elm Street • Dallas, Texas 75201 • 214-220-0403

Editor's Notes

CURRENTly . . .

It's time for tinsel and turkey; mangers and menorahs; decking the halls, shopping the malls—and celebrating the joys of the season with members of NACE and IAEM.

The Tower Club will host the annual MPI Holiday Gala Thursday, Dec. 22. **Sherry Montoya**, event coordinator at The Tower Club, reports that we'll have the entire facility to ourselves.



Gracie H. Hilton
The Write Stuff
CURRENT Editor

Situated on the 48th floor of the Thanksgiving Tower, The Tower Club, with an "art collection worthy of the world's finest museums," provides a panoramic view of the city.

After new member orientation at 6:00 p.m., the festivities begin with a reception at 6:30, with **Luana Stoutmeyer** (Encore Productions) at the piano, playing favorite holiday melodies.

In a departure from the usual seated dinner, enjoy "heavy hors d'oeuvres" from numerous food stations scattered around the club. Dancing music will be provided by the **Random Axis Band** and **T.J. the DJ**.

La Musica String Ensemble will provide pleasant background sounds during coffee and dessert!

Linda Sergeant (Bill Reed Decorations) and chair, community services, reminds everyone of the **ongoing food and clothing drive**, benefiting Trinity Ministry for the Poor.

Professional Growth Awards (PGA) raffles will be conducted throughout the evening with a number of fantastic prizes, reports **Sally Goldesberry, CMP** (Meetings & Exhibitors Specialist), PGA chair.

Holiday Gala committee members are: **Debbie Meyers** (BRAVO! Entertainment), **Cindy Hamilton** (Cityplace Conference Center), **Todd Richter** (Designs Behind the Scenes), **Peg Wolschon** (Kerville Bus Co.), **Piper Senzig** (Hard Rock Cafe), **Angela Morgan**, (The Mansion on Turtle Creek) and **Phyllis Tackitt**.

Facility hosts are **Susan Moore**, general manager; and **Sherry Montoya** and **Lynn McDaniel**, catering/event coordinators.

Readers of the October issue of *The Meeting Manager* recognized a familiar byline! D/FW Chapter member **Amanda Willbanks**, director of sales and marketing for *The Guest Lodge at The Cooper Aerobics Center*, wrote, "Fitness First—Hosting the World Cup '94 Referees."

This four-page case study outlined details connected with serving as headquarters and official "home base" for the internationally recognized Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) officials and the World Cup '94 (soccer) referees during the world's largest-ever sporting event.

Look for "Opinion, Please" in the January issue of *CURRENT*. This new feature is produced by **Mary Lynn Novelli** (Sterling Hotel Group), vice president/public relations.

Sixty-six D/FW Chapter members attending the **1994 Professional Education Conference (PEC)** in **Vancouver**, British Columbia, Canada this week will be decked out in distinctively "Texan" red/white/blue shirts for the "Come to Dallas in 1995" luncheon co-sponsored by the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Loews Anatole Hotel and the D/FW MPI Chapter.

The luncheon will promote the **PEC in Dallas, Dec. 10-12, 1995**.

MPI's Gemelli (Twin) Chapter Seminar will take place in **Tuscany, Italy, March 29-April 1, 1995**. Details will be reported in the January issue of *CURRENT*. For more information contact **Bobby Bulger** (Bobby Bulger Travel Concepts, Inc.), chair of the Gemelli Committee.

—ghh ☺



Out of a job?

Looking for a new challenge?

Seeking a qualified applicant to fill a position?

Check out 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 specifying the type of position that interests you

Send these items to:

Gretchen Parr-Silver
Chair, D/FW MPI Job Bank
2012 Van Buren Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

All inquiries are confidential.

D/FW MPI's
**JOB
BANK**



News Briefs

News of Local Interest

'How-To' Breakfast Set January 10

"Innovative Ways to Reward Your Team Members, Associates and Staff—Adaptable to Any Checkbook" is the lengthy but appropriate title for the 7:00 a.m. "How To" breakfast workshop Jan. 10, 1995, at Bristol Suites Hotel. Cost is \$15.

The workshop is designed for managers and leaders seeking creative ways to keep people motivated when financial boundaries limit monetary reward. Flex-time and four-day work weeks are among several options that will be explored.

Directing the seminar is Susanne Ruffner, CMP, executive director of The AMS Users' Group. Ruffner, assisted by nine fellow associates, manages the group's national headquarters in Las Colinas.

The Bristol Suites Hotel is situated at 7800 Alpha Road in Dallas.

The "How To" Breakfast Series is designed as an educational tool for meeting planners and suppliers interested in expanding their knowledge regarding various meeting planning functions.

Educational Working Partnership Premieres April 4, 1995

Get your shoes out of the closet and shine 'em up!

"Walk a Mile in My Shoes"—the first-ever MPI educational working partnership opportunity premieres April 4, 1995.

During this limited enrollment (20) evening course, "walk in the shoes" of other meeting professionals in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The class—a hands-on learning experience—will meet weekly, Tuesday evenings, 5:30-7:30 p.m., April 4-May 16.

Cost for this unique educational opportunity—including a binder, materials and special completion certificate—will be \$65.

Look for complete details and registration information in January.

D/FW Chapter Membership is 572

Membership in the D/FW Chapter of MPI stands at 572, according to the chapter membership report as of Oct. 31. That figure indicates a retention rate of 68.78%.

Chapter membership includes 259 planners (45.4%), 311 suppliers (54.5%) and two students.

International News

MPINet User Group to be Established

MPI is instituting an MPINet user group to help facilitate workshops for new subscribers. User group meetings will be held at all future MPI conferences/conventions and chapters will be encouraged to utilize user groups for subscribing members. Complimentary technical manuals for the Windows, DOS, and Macintosh systems are available to all users.

An MPINet User Group Council has been funded by the MPI Board of Directors to assist in establishing on-line rules and protocol for communications. The council will also be responsible for exploring other technologies within the meetings industry and how MPI can educate the membership about these technologies and their uses.

MPINet, developed by the MPI Foundation with the support of the ITT Sheraton Corporation, is the industry's first on-line network to allow meeting hospitality professionals to access and share information and expertise worldwide.

The cost for MPINet includes a one-time charge of \$10 for software for members (\$30 for non-members), plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Monthly charges from CompuServe are based on choice of two pricing plans.

With the basic plan MPINet users pay \$15.95 per month and have unlimited access to the MPINet Forum and CompuServe's Basic Services at no extra charge. This includes up to 60 private e-mail messages per month.

With the alternative plan, users pay \$9.50 per month and have unlimited access to MPINet, but access to CompuServe Basic Services is charged per connect time.

Questions about MPINet? Contact Marie Bloechle, manager of MPI's Resource Center and MPINet's SysOp at 1-214-712-7742

Government Affairs Committee Prepares for Legislative Action Day

MPI's Government Affairs Committee is readying for the second annual Legislative Action Day (LAD) March 2, 1995, in Washington, D.C.

LAD is a day of appointments with U.S. senators and representatives on Capitol Hill to discuss issues and concerns pertinent to the meetings industry.

This year, other industry-affiliated organizations will partner with MPI in a coalition effort.

For more information contact Laura Salazar at MPI International Headquarters in Dallas, 1-214-712-7703.

Independent Meeting Professionals SIG Develops Mission Statement

The Advisory Council of Independent Meeting Professionals Special Interest Group (SIG) met in Houston this fall to develop a mission statement, goals and objectives.

"To power and challenge its members to move Meeting Professionals International forward" is the group's mission statement.

Goals are: •to improve the quality of education, •to broaden benefits to members and •to promote understanding of the roles of Independent Meeting Professionals to MPI.

For a list of specific objectives, contact Mary Cowart (Mary Cowart Meeting Consultant), 214-248-4429.



**'How To'
Breakfast Workshop**

Jan. 10, 7 a.m.

\$15 per person

**'Innovative
Reward Methods'**

**Bristol Suites Hotel
7800 Alpha Road • Dallas**

Nominations Sought

Looking toward '95-96 Leadership

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

As 1995 fast approaches, the D/FW Chapter once again seeks quality leadership—officers and directors for the 1995-96 chapter year.



Lesley Meyer, CMP
Immediate Past
President & Chair,
Nominating
Committee

The Nominating Committee requests your help in developing a pool of outstanding candidates in order to develop a strong slate of officers and board recommendations for the March 1995 elections.

If you are willing to serve in the important role of an officer or board member, please complete the official 1995-96 Request for Nominations form—inserted in this issue of the *CURRENT*.

Chapter leadership and direction should be of major concern and importance to every member. Additional nominees for board positions are encouraged from all members.

For detailed information on the nomination process, please refer to pages 15-17 in the Policies and Procedures section of your 1994 D/FW Membership Directory.

Please remember the following:

- Any member in good standing may be considered for office.

- No two members of the same organization can serve simultaneously on the Board of Directors.

- Supplier members cannot constitute a majority of the Board.

- The Board of Directors is made up of 15 chapter members (six board members and nine officers).

The 1994-95 president, Diane Smith, CMP, (Alcon Labs) will become immediate

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP FOR MPI

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

- can contribute time, energy and creativity to the chapter
- have a history of involvement, accomplishment and dependable service to the chapter
- have positive, professional recognition as active participants in many areas of the meetings industry

past president, and 1994-95 president-elect, Phyllis Firebaugh (A&C Enercom), will be named 1995-96 president.

The Request for Nominations form must be returned to Lesley Meyer, CMP, (Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.) no later than Jan. 15 (postmarked no later than Jan. 13).

PGA Scholarship Awards Help Chapter Members Fulfill Educational Goals

By Sally Goldesberry, CMP
PGA Chairperson

Would you like to attend MPI's annual meeting, but don't have enough funds in your budget?

Would you like to apply for the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation, but can't afford the application fee?



Sally Goldesberry, CMP • Chapter
PGA Chair

The Professional Growth Awards (PGA) committee can assist you in accomplishing either of these goals.

As professionals in the meetings and hospitality industry, our dedication to education is ongoing. The PGA was established to provide scholarship funding to help members achieve their individual educational goals.

Funds are raised by selling raffle tickets at the monthly chapter meetings. In order to

increase scholarship monies this year, the PGA Committee has solicited prizes from supplier members.

Each dollar collected is available to any member of the D/FW Chapter of MPI as scholarship funding for specific educational programming.

Many thanks to the suppliers who have generously supported the PGA Scholarship: Four Seasons Hotel Austin (July),

The Grand Kempinski Dallas (August), Omni Mandalay Las Colinas (September), La Mansion del Rio San Antonio (October), Southwest Airlines (October), and Plaza of the Americas (November).

The next PGA raffle and drawing will be January 26 at the meeting at the Westin Galleria Dallas. Delta Air Lines has donated roundtrip tickets for two.

For more information about applying for PGA Scholarship funds, contact PGA Chair Sally Goldesberry, CMP, 214-407-0755; or Vice-chair Melanie Nussbaum, (The Grand Kempinski Dallas), 214-386-6000.

PGA Scholarship Raffle Prize Donors

Four Seasons Hotel Austin
The Grand Kempinski Dallas
Omni Mandalay Las Colinas
La Mansion del Rio San Antonio
Southwest Airlines
Plaza of the Americas
Delta Air Lines

**Thank
You!**

Don't miss this PGA raffle drawing at the Jan. 26 chapter meeting—roundtrip tickets for two from Delta Air Lines!

Perspective

MPINet is the Information Superhighway for Meetings Professionals

By Betty E. Garrett, CMP • President, Garrett Speakers International

MPINet—the first global on-line communications system designed specifically for the meetings industry—is an electronic forum MPI members can join for a reasonable fee and network with one another online via CompuServe.

Why did I subscribe to MPINet? It gives me the ability to network, seek other ideas from various members around the world on a multiplicity of topics. It's inexpensive, informative, and a good business resource. MPINet comes with an electronic address book and a manual to answer questions as you learn to communicate on the information superhighway via e-mail (electronic mail).



Betty E. Garrett, CMP
Garrett Speakers
International

In addition to communicating with fellow meeting professionals, the "Net" is great for transmitting documents without paper, such as housing lists or floor plans to a hotel.

Within this wonderful forum—CompuServe and MPINet—are special bulletin boards or categories such as: •Welcome to MPINet, •Event Marketing, •Speakers/Education •Meeting Operations •Locations/Facilities, •Technology, •Legal/Government, •Meetings in Europe, and •Business Exchange.

Meeting professionals with a particular need, such as a speaker for an upcoming event, can "announce" that need within the Speakers/Education bulletin board. If a product, such as hotel rooms, is being offered at a particular date, this announcement is appropriate for the Business Exchange bulletin board. It's possible to send RFPs to vendors in less than a minute.

How do I use e-mail? Here's an example: Recently one of my clients inquired about scanning badges. I knew little about her question, so off to the MPINet I went, asking others for their input. I placed my plea for help on a message board and, within 24 hours, had detailed information for my client!—with no telephone tag, no wasted time and no big telephone bill.

Another example: My husband, Gene, and I have been working with Rod & Beverly Abraham of Professional Meeting Planners Network (PMPN)—an outsource resource which provides meeting managers on a contract basis. PMPN offices in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas and frequently all three offices need to be in contact with each other. It is not uncommon for Beverly in North Carolina to send documents or files via CompuServe to us in Texas. At this point, we retrieve our mail and download files sent to us via the computer.

Who would have thought that Gene and I would be on the information super highway? We can barely type; how could we hope to be productive in something so complicated?! We called on Beverly to walk us through the process—it's easy once you get the hang of it.

We've learned to retrieve files; it's a little intimidating at first, but fun! Now, we're able to download a 'Quicken' file into CompuServe, transmit it to the North Carolina office via e-mail where it appears as a check ready to be printed.

Why not have a keyboard "conference" rather than an expensive telephone conference call when you need to contact several people? Just type your comments, and others can read the message on computer screens—anywhere in the world. You're online with MPINet!

Who ever said cyberspace had to be complicated? All you need to get started are: computer, modem, e-mail address, patience and MPINet.

Don't be afraid! If I can do it, you can too! Hop on board and let's get going down the information superhighway!

November Meeting Highlights

Power Networking Skills and a Country Thanksgiving Feast at Circle R Ranch . . .



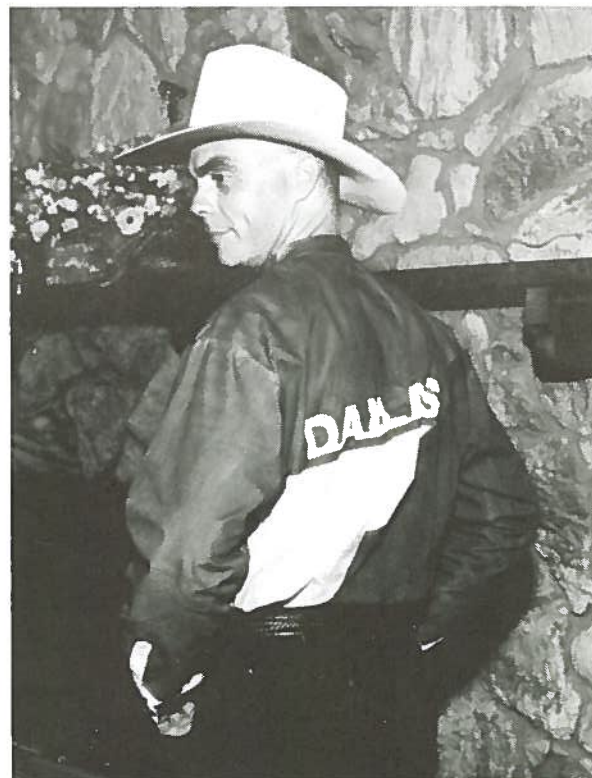
Enjoying the pre-meeting reception at Circle R's Chisholm Lodge were **Esther Wigley** (Apointments), and **Lisa Kuykendall** (Johnson & Wortley). Food for the reception was catered by the new *Memories by Circle R*, a complete catering company designed to serve off-premise functions. Also featured were foods from Circle R's gourmet line.



PGA Chair **Sally Goldesberry, CMP** (Meetings and Exhibitors Specialist) congratulates Chapter President **Diane Smith, CMP** (Alcon Labs), winner of the PGA drawing.



D/FW Chapter members attending the November meeting at Circle R Ranch got a jump start on the winter holiday season as we enjoyed a "Country Christmas Feast"—featuring individually carved smoked turkeys at each table. Enjoying a networking opportunity were guest speaker **Donna Fisher** (Discovery Seminars) and **Sandra A. Moten** (Mobil Exploration and Producing Technical Center). One of Circle R's waitstaff is also pictured.



Robert Owen (Texas Starr by R.E.O.) models the "Dallas" shirt, which will be worn by 66 D/FW Chapter members at the "Come to Dallas in 1995" promotional luncheon at the 1994 PEC in Vancouver. Owen, whose company designed and made the shirts, was on hand to fit and measure attendees for the personally tailored shirts.



ABOVE: Eager to show off the facilities at Circle R Ranch to D/FW Chapter members were hosts **David Powdermaker**, president; **Wendy Skalski**, sales director; and **Alan Powdermaker**, chairman.

LEFT: Guest speaker **Donna Fisher** (Discovery Seminars, Houston), discussed "The Ten Commandments of Networking" at the November chapter meeting at Circle R Ranch. "Networking is one of the greatest market tools around when used appropriately, wisely and professionally," says Fisher, whose Discovery Seminars program is dedicated to the delivery of training, keynote presentations and products that teach and inspire people to build a strong network of relationships to enrich personal and professional success.



Program Committee members for the November meeting were **Gail LeMaire** (The Adolphus Hotel), **Sandi Galloway** (Canadian Consulate General), **Debora Jerman** (Cityplace Conference Center), and Chairperson **Phyllis Tackitt**.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the individuals and companies whose time, talents, and expertise contributed to the enjoyment of the November meeting. They include • **Dorrit Turner** (Yellow Rose Touring and Special Events) for stage decorations, • **Cindy Hamilton** (Cityplace Conference Center) for AV services, • **Mark Lazarow** (Mark Lazarow Photography), for capturing the monthly meeting on film.

Special thanks to facility hosts at Circle R: • **Alan Powdermaker**, chairman, • **David Powdermaker**, president and • **Wendy Skalski**, sales manager. Thanks to **Dakota's** for providing the gift certificate for a dinner for two to the winner of the report card drawing, and to the **Plaza of the Americas Hotel** for providing a weekend night and a continental breakfast for two as the prize for the PGA drawing. Meeting details reported by **Sandi Galloway** (Canadian Consulate General).

*Photos by
Mark Lazarow
Photography*

Fagan's

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The Kids Charity Ball

Classified Ads

HELP WANTED! SPONSORS! Wide range of opportunities and benefits for corporate sponsors of The Kids Charity Ball March 18. Please contact **Bob Berry**, *EFI Communications*, 214-869-9751 or **Mary Ellen Malsbury**, *World Travel Partners*, 214-702-1014 X3008.

HELP WANTED! AUCTION ITEMS!—for The Kids Charity Ball March 18. Needed are items for both the silent and live auction—exciting trips, gifts, sports memorabilia. Please contact **Todd Richter**, *Designs Behind the Scenes*, 214-319-9206, or **Pat McCain**, *CMP, Kirsam Group*, 214-458-8692.

HELP WANTED! PUBLICITY! If you have space in your corporate newsletter to promote The Kids Charity Ball, please contact **Stephanie Staubach**, *Personalities International*, 214-934-8764. We will provide the pertinent information.



Heard it through the Grapevine!

By M.T. Gnad
'Grapevine' Columnist

Debbie Duggan, national account manager at the *Adolphus Hotel*, is a new grandmother. On Sept. 3 her son Joe and his wife Carla became parents to Kalen Ross.

Mary Guzman, director of national accounts, *Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas*, gave birth to a baby boy, Robert John Guzman, on Oct. 9.

Kelly Hochstrate, senior sales manager, *Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas*, is a new mom. Clay Hochstrate was born Oct. 17.

Vanessa Strothmann Hebrank, sales manager, *Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament*, married Bill Hebrank Sept. 17.

Jennifer O'Loughlin, *CHSE*, sales manager, *INFOMART*, is engaged to Brad Winget. A wedding date has not been set but is expected sometime in the 90s.

Belinda Nottingham, account director, *ITT Sheraton National Sales Center*, moved to Kansas City Dec. 1 to open a regional ITT Sheraton office. She will be responsible for all market segments in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas City.

Congratulations to **Al Nelson**, president, *Intelecon Services, Inc.*, who was selected one of the Top 10 Award Winners for the Dallas 100 Awards Competition sponsored by the CEO Institute.

Barbara Rathwick, *Journey House Travel*, has been appointed to represent *INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE ADVENTURES*, a Northwest-based photo safari company.

Colleen Albert Rickenbacher, *CMP*, was promoted to vice president of member services for the *Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau*. After she recently conducted a one-day presentation to the Cornell University Hotel School, she was invited to return to conduct a week-long executive workshop.

Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter President **Diane Smith**, *CMP*, *Alcon Laboratories*, has been promoted from professional relations to sales promotion manager, Consumer Division, Vision Care Group. On Nov. 9 Diane added another grandchild to her collection, when Sarah Allison was born to Diane's eldest son Keith and his wife Donna. Diane is now the proud grandmother of five granddaughters.

Steve Parker has been named director of sales for *dani' Foods*, a hospitality management and off-premise catering company that manages events and food services for the Dallas Museum of Art and for more than two dozen Fortune 500 companies nationwide. Parker was formerly with *Affairs Extraordinaire, Inc.*, Dallas.

Cindy Palmer, principal/chief operating officer, *Premiere Productions*, has opened a new office in Scottsdale, AZ. She hired Debra Keeton to serve as regional sales manager of the Dallas office.

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 Gnad (214-539-6538 • or FAX 214-724-0932) about items of interest for this column.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

D/FW Chapter • Meeting Professionals International

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President's Message / Year End Review

continued from page 1

seen. Our benefiting charities can look forward to outstanding support in 1995.

The Membership Committee kicked off its annual Membership Drive, "Membership: A Golden Opportunity," providing an opportunity to help grow our chapter, and "strike it rich" at the same time.

While our membership is strong, our numbers are down somewhat. We will see an increase if each member sets a goal of bringing in one new member and retaining one member in 1995.

We need your help and support as we make a concerted effort to offer our membership the best education, personal growth and networking opportunities possible. At-

tendance at monthly meetings and the various educational programs offered is the yardstick by which we measure our success.

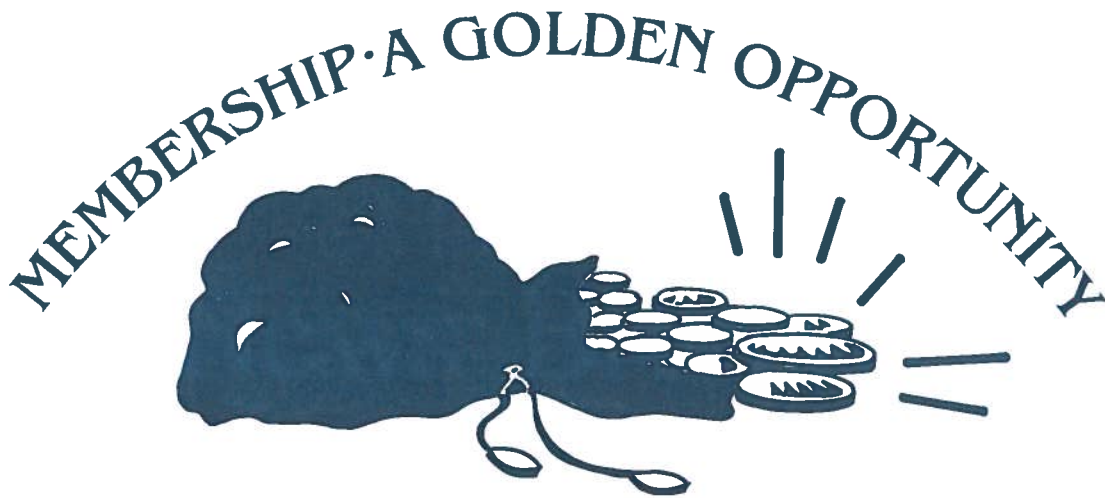
It's been a great six months, indeed a great year. We have a lot to be thankful for, much to celebrate.

We all have our own way of celebrating the holidays. I look forward to sitting around the tree on Christmas morning, surrounded by my wonderful family, especially my five beautiful granddaughters. It couldn't get any better than that!

Speaking for the entire board, we extend best wishes for the holiday season to you and yours. We look forward to 1995 and continuing, with you, the *MPI Challenge*.

MPI D/FW 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. **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).



By Jennifer O'Loughlin
INFOMART

Membership in Meeting Professionals International is viewed by many of our members as a golden opportunity; so much so that the Membership Committee adopted this theme for the 1994-1995 campaign.

Membership retention has been a strong focus this year. Realizing that "Membership is a Golden Opportunity," more than 75% of our members renewed their membership in 1994.



Jennifer O'Loughlin
Retention
Committee

Here are some of the reasons:

"I remain involved in MPI because of the educational benefits that MPI offers—and the monthly meetings afford me the opportunity to interact with my peers," says Deborah Wheeler, event manager, Society of Petroleum Engineers.

"I renewed my membership because it is an opportunity to continue to build meaningful relationships and further my education of our industry," says Lynn Erney, senior sales manager, Stouffer Renaissance Dallas Hotel.

"I like the networking opportunities and friendships available through MPI," says Scott Wilson, sales manager, Bauer Audio Visual.

Remember, "Membership is a Golden Opportunity!" Don't miss out on your opportunity to be involved with Meeting Professionals International in 1995!

If you have questions regarding membership, contact Vice President/Membership Sherri Cook, CMP (Sherri Cook & Associates), (214) 732-9396.

MPI MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



New planner members are needed to match 15 current pending suppliers on the waitlist to join our chapter.

We need your help, fellow members—both planners and suppliers! Please promote MPI membership to non-member planners in your daily routines. Membership applications, brochures and other materials are available at the MPI information table at registration during our monthly meetings.

You may contact MPI International Marketing, 214-712-7750, for membership packets. These materials are also available from the following chapter members: • Karen Fogle (Star Brand Ranch) recruitment chair, (214) 932-2714; • Pat McCain, CMP (Krisam Group) (director of membership, (214) 458-8692; and • Sherri Cook, CMP (Sherri Cook and Associates), vice president of membership, (214) 732-9396

Remember—Membership is a Golden Opportunity for your recruits and yourself (Galleria Gold! \$\$\$).

Thank You!

October Buddies

Traci Bower · *Reunion Ranch*

Kami Price · *INFOMART*

Melanie Arguello · *Fort Worth CVB*

Bettie Smith · *Texas Instruments*

M.T. Gnadl · *Independent*

Cindy Hamilton · *Cityplace Conference Center*

Betty Presnall · *DFW Town Car*

Pat McCain, CMP · *Krisam Group*



... for being a
"buddy" to a new member!

Recent Renewals D/FW Chapter • Meeting Professionals International

Tamara Adkins
Hilton Executive Conference Center

Cheryl Beasley
Sabre Travel Information Network

Robert L. Berry
EFI Communications

J. William Boyd, CMP
Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.

Deanna Bright
Club Corp. of America

Cathy Brixey
The Beach Club

Nancy Bryan
Fort Worth CVB

Elizabeth Chandler
Meadows Foundation

Donna Daves
The Freeman Companies

Karen Fogle
Star Brand Ranch Exec. Retreat

Mary Guzman
Omni Mandalay Hotel

Jan Hall
International Communications Association

Keith Hickman
Sabre Travel Information Network

Gail Lemaire
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Marie Malloy
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Peabody Hotel Memphis

Jonna Moody
Dallas Park Central Hotel

Deborah Musyznski
Hyatt Regency Dallas

Kathy Senese
Omni National Sales Office

Linda Sergeant-Johnson
Bill Reed Decorations Inc.

Laurie Sprouse
Wild West Adventures

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'New Kids on the Block' D/FW Chapter Welcomes Seven New MPI Members!

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Travel Resources Management Group
5201 N O'Connor #500
Irving, TX 75039
214/402-4858
Planner

Chris P. Deschner
Supershuttle
729 E. Dallas Road
Grapevine, TX 76051
817/329-2001
Supplier

Jill E. Heyerdahl
XTS Travel & Incentives
2920 N. Stemmons Frwy
Dallas, TX 75247
214/819-9036
Supplier

Karen C. Hoover
Tiffany & Company
13350 Dallas Pkwy; #7
Dallas, TX 75240
214/458-9800
Planner

Michael J. Law
Inter-Continental Hotel Montreal
360 Saint-Antoine
Montreal, Quebec
Canada K2V 3Z4
514/847-8509
Supplier

Jessica L. Vernon
Dallas Park Central Hotel
7750 LBJ Frwy
Dallas, TX 75251
214/233-4421
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Holiday Inn South
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Saturday
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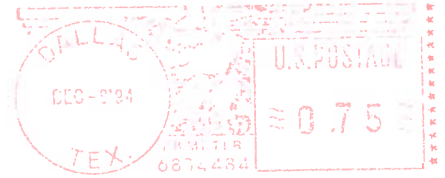


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DALLAS/FORT WORTH CHAPTER

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Meeting Professionals International is the world's largest association of meetings professionals with more than 12,000 members in 42 countries and 49 chapters and clubs. MPI's mission is to provide educational opportunities and recognition for those in the meetings industry. The association is committed to excellence in meetings, continuous international growth, research, a strong chapter network and high ethical standards.

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