

MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL®

Committed to Educational Leadership

CURRENT

Meeting Professionals International

October 1996

Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter

The Italians Will Be Here Soon!

Gemelli Chapter Seminar Will Focus on International Education



By Tim Wade (*Lennox Industries*)
Co-Chair, Gemelli Committee

Almost a dozen representatives of MPI's Italia Chapter link up with MPI D/FW in October for the Second Annual Gemelli Seminar at the Garrett Creek Ranch Oct. 19-21.

With emphasis on international education, this seminar is an opportunity for Italian colleagues to learn about business in the United States, and for D/FW Chapter members to learn more about international business and MPI around the world.

The objective of the Gemelli Chapter is to develop a communicative and interactive relationship between the MPI D/FW and MPI Italia chapters; thereby

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Gemelli Committee Chair **Bobby Bulger** (*Bobby Bulger Travel Concepts*), center, and committee members **Mona Kestler** (*Bauer Audio Visual*) and **Diane Smith, CMP** (*Alcon Labs*), get ready for this month's Gemelli Seminar.

President's Message

Most MPI Projects 'First a Dream'



Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP
Sterling Hotels & Resorts
D/FW Chapter President

One thing about the MPI D/FW Chapter—we never stop doing something new. This continues to happen because someone has a dream—a vision they make come true.

Do you remember the last time your dream came true? Maybe you achieved your CMP, got that new job or finally had a first date with Mr./Ms. Right! Whatever, it all began as a dream and you made it happen. Congratulations!

This year's chapter theme, "Focus on the Vision," encourages us to reach for the stars and make our dreams come true.

Thank you, Phyllis Firebaugh, CMP, for your vision of the "Future Leadership Forum." This Nov. 6 opportunity allows chapter

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MPI Now Featured on WWW Page

Meeting Professionals International unveiled its official World Wide Web site last month. Anyone with access to the WWW can now receive up-to-date MPI association information, learn about educational opportunities, read industry news, and purchase bookstore items from MPI by visiting the Internet address.

The site will also contain a secure online registration form for upcoming conferences and institutes.

Easy-to-use navigation tools are available on every page for the novice Web surfer.

<http://www.mpiweb.org>

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CURRENT MPI

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MISSION STATEMENT

Meeting Professionals International is the pivotal force in positioning meetings as a primary communication vehicle and a critical component of an organization's success. Meeting Professionals International leads the meetings industry by serving the diverse needs of all people with a direct interest in the outcome of meetings, educating and preparing members for both their changing roles and validating relevant knowledge and skills, as well as demonstrating a commitment to excellence in meetings.

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

Upcoming MPI Events

October 15, Tuesday
Kids Ball Committee Chairs
Addison Conference Center
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays thru Nov. 19
"Walk a While in My Shoes"
Tuesdays, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

October 17, Thursday
Program Committee
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

October 18, Friday
November CURRENT copy due
copy due by 5 p.m.



October 18-22
Gemelli Seminar
D/FW Hosts Italia Chapter

October 24, Thursday
D/FW Chapter Meeting
Medallion
6:00 p.m.

October 28, Monday
Public Relations Committee
IGNITION! Creative Group
6:00 p.m.

October 29, Tuesday
Education Committee
Annuity Board of SBC Offices
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

November 6, Wednesday
Future Leadership Forum
Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.
4:45 p.m.

November 12, Tuesday
Membership Committee
Grand Kempinski
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

November 13, Wednesday
MPI D/FW Board Meeting
5:00 p.m.

November 14, Thursday
Program Committee
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

November 15, Friday
December CURRENT copy due
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November 19, Tuesday
Education Committee
Annuity Board of SBC Offices
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

November 19, Tuesday
Kids Ball Committee Chairs
Addison Conference Center
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

November 21, Thursday
D/FW Chapter Meeting
Renaissance Dallas
11:30 a.m.

November 25, Monday
Public Relations/Marketing Committee
IGNITION 201 Regal Row
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.



Thanks to D/FW Chapter member **O.D. O'Donnell** (Nightlife Talent & Management Agency), **214-691-4417** for compiling this list of chapter meetings, committee meetings, educational opportunities, *CURRENT* deadlines and MPI International event dates.

Details are up-to-date at *CURRENT* publication deadline.

Call O'Donnell, the official "keeper of the calendar," for updates.

Chapter meeting plans are subject to change. Check CURRENT each month to confirm details. For more information about association events, call MPI Headquarters, 972-702-3000.

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October Meeting Highlights

Pollar Addresses Diversity in the Marketplace

By Marilyn Manby

Travelhost Magazine/Dining Dollars

Brought back by popular demand, Odette Pollar will address the dynamics of diversity in the workplace at the Oct. 24



Odette Pollar
Time Mgt. Systems

MPI D/FW dinner meeting at the Dallas Medallion Hotel.

"Diversity: Building Bridges Without Barriers" is the theme of her presentation.

Known for a keen sense of humor and interactive presentation style, Pollar presents ways to encourage organizations to create their potential.

Ms. Pollar, provided by Garrett Speaker's International, is a nationally recognized speaker, author and consultant to business, government and industry. In 1979

Marketplace Trends

• Women and minorities will comprise almost two-thirds of all new entrants into the workforce by the year 2000.

• 45 million physically and mentally challenged, but able, workers are entering this workforce.

• An estimated 10% of the population is gay or lesbian

she founded Time Management Systems, a training firm based in Oakland, CA.

Pollar is a regular columnist for two national magazines, *Successful Meetings* and *Contemporary Times* and has authored three top selling books—*Organizing Your Workspace*, *Dynamics of Diversity: Strategic Programs for Your Organization* and *365 Ways to Simplify Your Work Life*.

Program committee members are Marilyn Manby (*Travelhost Magazine/Dining Dollars*), Nancy Simonieg (*Omni Mandalay Hotel*) and Ginny Paxton (*Ginny's Gifts*).

MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL™

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October D/FW Chapter Meeting

*"Diversity: Building Bridges
Without Barriers"
—featuring Odette Pollar—*

Thursday, October 24

Dallas Medallion Hotel

4099 Valley View Lane • Dallas, Texas • 972-385-9000

5:30 p.m. Orientation - Acacia

6:00 p.m. Registration & Reception - Grand Ballroom Foyer

7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program - North Central Ballroom

(check the hotel reader board for any room changes)

Complimentary Parking

R.S.V.P. to Joe

by noon, Tuesday, Oct. 22

• *phone 972-233-9107 x203*

• *FAX 972-490-4219*

(see FAX insert)

• *74742.1725@compuserve.com*

Advance Registration \$28

Late Registration \$35

Guest Registration \$32

October Host Facility

Dallas Medallion Hotel

Within a Polynesian contemporary atmosphere, the Dallas Medallion Hotel offers its guests a comfortable, luxurious environment. Situated in the heart of North Dallas, the hotel provides easy access to the upscale business, shopping and entertainment districts.

The hotel has over 25,000 square feet of meeting space and 289 newly renovated guest rooms. Featuring Chef Ty Thoren, 1996 recipient of Best Chefs Showcase Presentation at the NACE Annual Convention and winner (for the last three years) of the Metrocrest Best Presentation Award, the Dallas Medallion has been recognized for its outstanding food and beverage accomplishments.

The Dallas Medallion Hotel is situated on the northwest corner of Midway and LBJ. Westbound and eastbound travelers on 635 (LBJ Freeway), exit Midway Road.

D/FW Chapter attendees will enjoy complimentary self-parking.

MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL™

Committed to Educational Leadership

Meeting Professionals International is the world's largest association of meetings professionals with more than 14,000 members in 44 countries and 56 chapters and one club. 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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President's Perspective

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members to investigate interest in chapter leadership. If you have any desire to be more than a committee member—perhaps a vision of being a chair, director, board member, vice president or even president—please come.

What about the vision of Bobby Bulger, Tim Wade and the countless other Gemelli Committee members who have made the Second Annual Gemelli Seminar a reality?!

What an honor to host our Sister Chapter from Italy! It will be a great learning experience and great fun, too, so please attend at least one of the special events during this five-day program.

A "past vision come true," our famous *Texas Cookin'* cookbook, reemerges. This time the vision is "Project Income." If we sell the remaining cookbooks and aprons, we can raise nearly \$10,000. We need your help; please call me to get involved with this committee that will definitely impact our future!

There's always room for more visions to come true. Go for it—and remember, *nothing happens unless first a dream...*



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—Meeting Tip—

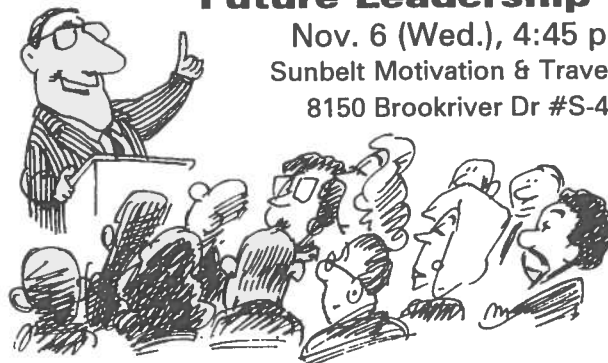
Buying a TV and using it as a gratuity or door prize is often less expensive than renting a TV for three days.

Interested in chapter leadership?

If you think you might like to serve as a future officer or director of your professional organization, the MPI D/FW Future Leadership Forum is an opportunity to learn more about those responsibilities—the *opportunity involved and commitment required*—before the Nominations Committee meets.

Future Leadership Forum

Nov. 6 (Wed.), 4:45 p.m.
Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.
8150 Brookriver Dr #S-400



Questions? Call Nominations Committee Chair Phyllis Firebaugh, CMP (SEI Incentives) — 214-717-1400

DFW MPI Chapter Hosts Gemelli Seminar Oct. 19-21



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increasing the potential for networking, business and educational opportunities and exposing all members to international opportunities.

While social activities are planned before and after the seminar in Fort Worth and Dallas, the emphasis of the seminar is *education*. Bill Boyd, (CMP Sunbelt Motivation & Travel, Inc.), will welcome the Italians and kick off the seminar Oct. 19 with "Meeting Professionals Selling and Serving the U.S. Market."

The seminar continues Oct. 20 with a panel discussion: "Can We Help Make Your Promotional Approach Even Better to the U.S. Market?" Sunday's session will include a Power Point demonstration for our Italia members and conclude that afternoon with a teambuilding session conducted by Francie

Schwartz, known for her hard-hitting, energizing sessions and the metaphors she uses for real workplace situations.

Schwartz's teambuilding session is a high impact program centered around the outdoor corporate challenge course focusing on roles, relationships, trust, problem solving and organizational change. Her appearance is courtesy of Garrett Speakers International.

Another educational opportunity open to all MPI D/FW members during the Gemelli Seminar is a lecture co-hosted by Richland College Travel & Tourism Management Program student organization and MPI. "Meeting Management: A New Science" will be presented by Dr. Rodolfo Musco, CMP, CMM, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Dr. Musco, an Italia member here for the Gemelli Seminar, is a meeting professional and a journalist. He is author of "The Meeting Planner: A Professional Between Sociology and Marketing." Musco lectures—on communication and human behavior—in Italian universities, as well as in education seminars in four continents.

The lecture will take place in El Paso Hall, Room E0979, Richland College, 12800 Abrams Road, Dallas. To RSVP or for more information, contact Marquita Sozio at 214-238-6097. There is no admission fee.

On Sunday evening, Oct. 20, 7:00 p.m., MPI D/FW and the SMU Music Department will sponsor a special concert, featuring noted Italian pianist Guido Fusaroli. Mr. Fusaroli is the husband of this year's MPI Italia Chapter President, Nadia Colaiuda. Admission is complimentary.

A number of MPI D/FW members will participate in this opportunity to meet colleagues from Italy.

If you are still interested in participating in one of these events, contact Bobby Bulger at 214-341-5876 to check on space availability.

Seize this opportunity to increase your "International IQ."



Gemelli Seminar '95 participants paused for a group photo at the cathedral in Siena.

D/FW Meetings & Hospitality Industry

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(H.D. Vest Financial Services, Inc.)
214-863-6160

MPI D/FW Technology Institute Restructured

The MPI D/FW Chapter's Technology Institute 1996-97 is being restructured in separate courses: Computer Basics/Windows Applications, Access Database, Word for Windows, Excel for Windows, and Powerpoint.

These intensive courses, open to all industry professionals, will be offered on six non-consecutive Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., over several months. (Access Database is a two-day course.)

A new schedule will be available in late October or early November. Scheduled courses will be based on interest signup forms.

If your organization has a computer lab with computers loaded with the software listed, that could be used for one or more courses, please contact Sherri Cook, CMP (Sherri Cook & Associates), 972-732-939 or fax: 972-732-9398.

Call Cook for more information.



Richland College Offers Study in Meetings, Conv. Management

By Traci Bower
Reunion Ranch

Did you know Richland College is the only college in North Texas offering a Meeting and Convention Management Associates Degree program?

Courses offered through the Richland College Travel & Tourism Management Degree Program include: •Introduction to Meeting and Convention Management; •Principles of Association and Corporate Meeting Management; •Advanced Meeting Management; and •International Meeting Management.

Related specialization courses include: •Exposition and Trade Show Management; •Exposition Service Contracting; and •Exposition and Trade Show Operations.

The program also offers the opportunity to hear noted industry speakers, such as Signor Rodolfo Musco, CMP of the Italian Gemelli Chapter of MPI. Musco will lecture Tuesday, Oct. 22, on "Meeting Management: A New Science." The 12:30-2:30 p.m. session is free and will take place in El Paso Hall, room E-070..

If you are considering working toward a degree or are just interested in great educational benefits, check out Richland's program. Registration for the spring 1997 semester begins in November with the first courses beginning Monday, Jan. 13.

Call 972-238-6097 to request an information packet.

For questions about the program, or to R.S.V.P. for Signor Rodolfo Musco's lecture, contact Marquita Sozio at 972-238-6097.

Members of MPI's Richland College Education Committee are Chair Marquita Sozio (Richland College); Traci Bower (Reunion Ranch), M.T. Gnad (Student), Colleen Rickenbacker (Dallas CVB), Pat Smith (PF Smith Enterprises), and Lisa South (Ducky Bob's).

CMP

By Cyndi Martinez, CMP
The Stoneleigh Hotel
CMP Liaison

O R N E R

CMP Study Group, University Begins Oct. 16

The **CMP Study Group** sessions and **CMP University** are about to begin! The Study Group will meet every Wednesday, Oct. 16-Nov. 20, 1996, 6-8 p.m. The University is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 22, 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 23, 8:30 a.m-5 p.m.

Both groups will meet at the Dallas Park Central Hotel, 7750 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas. 972-233-4421. Contact Cyndi Martinez, CMP, at The Stoneleigh Hotel at 214-871-7111 for further details.

The CMP Study Committee is in the process of establishing a CMP Scholarship fund. More details to follow.

For more information about these study opportunities, contact Cyndi Martinez, CMP (The Stoneleigh Hotel), 214-631-2222, x4088.

Remember to look for opportunities to study!

Courtesy of the Convention Liaison Council's glossary, here are a few terms you need to know:

Buffer zone: Block of seats on plane located between smoking and nonsmoking sections allowing for variance in the smoking and nonsmoking boundary.

Lanai: Room with a patio or balcony overlooking a garden or water.

Talkback: Speaker system that connects the control room with the studio.

Unidirectional microphone: Microphone which picks up sound primarily from the direction in which it is pointed.

Peninsula booth: Two or more exhibit spaces back to back with an aisle on three sides.



D/FW Chapter Welcomes 40 MPI 'New Kids on the Block'

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1996-97



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(Town of Addison, 972-450-6202.*

Professional Growth Awards



The Professional Growth Awards (PGA) program is a scholarship fund to assist members of the MPI D/FW Chapter in offsetting expenses of attending educational classes, seminars, etc.

Help support the PGA—and perhaps win a fun prize!—by purchasing “opportunity” tickets at each monthly meeting. Tickets are \$1 each, or six for \$5.

For more information about applying for PGA Scholarship assistance call PGA Chair Eric Newcomb (Le Meridien), 214-855-1786.

Volunteers Needed for PO⁴Ds!



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Tony Cummins
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The PO⁴Ds program makes it possible for MPI D/FW Chapter members within certain geographical areas to meet for educational and networking opportunities.

Call Tony Cummins today!

*Get involved in the MPI D/FW Chapter! Volunteer opportunities abound!
For other opportunities call Volunteer Coordinator Tracey Smith
214-250-7404 • FAX 214-250-7100*

Stars of the Month

"Stars of the Month" is a recognition program honoring chapter members for involvement in committees and special programs. All Stars of the Month are eligible for a special drawing for two educational scholarship awards to attend the MPI International Conference or other MPI educational opportunities. Stars of the Month named at last month's meeting were:



Gracie Hilton
The Write Stuff

Gracie Hilton
(The Write Stuff) has volunteered her services for almost five years to edit the chapter newsletter, the *CURRENT*.



Mark Lazarow
Mark Lazarow
Photography &
Custom Video
Service

Mark Lazarow
(Mark Lazarow Photography and Custom Video Services) has volunteered his services for almost seven years to chronicle the activities of the MPI D/FW Chapter.



Jan Pollard
Hospitality
Marketing
Solutions

Jan Pollard
(Hospitality Marketing Solutions) orchestrated and coordinated the D/FW Chapter's recognition program applauding members who contribute services or products to chapter meetings and educational programs.

If you want to nominate a Star of the Month, please call Paige Braun (Dallas Conventioneer), 214-691-8073.

Videos of Chapter Meetings!

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September Meeting Highlights

Kevin Mellott Discusses 'Mission Impossible: Preparing for the Unexpected'



Kevin Mellott, president of ERASE Enterprises, is one of the most sought-after speakers in safety and security. With more than 22 years experience in the field of public safety, he has supervised safety and security services for the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism, the Microsoft Global Summit, the annual convention for MPI, the SAE International Conference and for many international celebrities. His address focused on sensitive issues concerning safety and security in the hospitality industry.



Debbie Williams (Designs Behind the Scenes) provided the "Mission Impossible" theme backdrop to illustrate the speaker's topic.



Guest speaker **Kevin Mellott** (ERASE Enterprises) and facility host **Eric Newcomb** (Le Meridien Hotel) accept thanks for their contributions to the September chapter meeting.



Keith Strellis, executive chef at Le Meridien Dallas, shows off some of the culinary delights MPI D/FW members enjoyed at the September chapter meeting.

Photos by Mark Lazarow Photography



Le Meridien hosts **Thomas Pasamante**, sales manager, and **Gigi Holcomb**, catering manager, welcome **Barry K. Johnson** (Morton's of Chicago) to the September chapter meeting.



LEFT: **Luana Stoutmeyer** (Encore Productions) provided piano music during the pre-meeting reception.



Jennifer Winget, CMP, CHSE (INFOMART), Shannon Christo (Dallas CVB) and Nancy Brian (Dallas CVB) visit at the September meeting.



LEFT: MPI D/FW Chapter President **Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP (Sterling Hotels & Resorts)** announced that chapter membership has exceeded a record 700.



September Program Committee members were **Scott Hawkins** (Personal Excellence, Inc.), **Betty Garrett, CMP** (Garrett Speakers International) and **Todd Richter** (Morton's of Chicago). Garrett's company provided the services of guest speaker Kevin Mellott.

Hall of Fame

Please salute the following companies and individuals for their contributions to the September meeting at LeMeridien Hotel:

Garrett Speakers International
guest speaker

Kevin Mellott, ERASE
Betty Garrett
972-513-0054

Le Meridien Hotel
facility & lunch
Eric Newcomb
214-855-1786

Bauer Audio Visual
AV services
Mona Kestler
214-630-6700

Encore Productions
reception piano music
Luana Stoutmeyer
214-317-2336

Designs Behind the Scenes
stage backdrop
Debbie Williams
214-747-1904 fax

Bill Reed Decorations
signage
Linda Sergeant
214-823-3154

Dallas Blossoms
centerpieces
Gregg Whitt
214-855-0067

Morton's of Chicago
gift certificate—dinner for two
Todd Richter
214-741-2277

Prokell Publicity
Terri Firebaugh
golf-themed party giveaway
214-644-9505

September Program Committee
Todd Richter
Morton's of Chicago
Betty E. Garrett, CMP
Garrett Speakers International
Scott Hawkins
Personal Excellence, Inc.

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MPI Membership Passes 14,000 Mark

Another MPI milestone was achieved this summer when total worldwide membership topped the 14,000 mark. Marilyn Brand with McDonell Douglas Corporation is the "official" 14,000th member. She received a complimentary registration to the 1996 World Education Conference in Nashville.

D/FW Chapter membership now tops 700.

MPI Headquarters Has New Area Code

MPI Headquarters has a new area code, 972. The change was effective in mid-September. Prefixes and extensions remain the same.

The main phone number is 972-702-3000. The main fax line is 972-702-3070.

Callers who try to reach MPI Headquarters by dialing "214" will hear a recording advising of the change. Faxes transmitted to the wrong code will yield an error message on the sender's end, noting that the transmission did not complete.

Many D/FW Chapter Members Have New 972 Area Code

When the new "972" area code went into effect in certain sections of the Dallas area, a number of D/FW Chapter members were assigned the new code.

If your area code has changed, fill out the pullout page in the MPI D/FW Chapter directory and fax the information to the chapter office.

Call for Global Paragon Award Entries

Meeting Professionals International announces that the 1996 *Global Paragon Award* call for entries will be circulated throughout the industry. Sponsored by Opryland Hotel Convention Center this industry-wide program recognizes exceptional and distinctive global meetings.

Association and corporate meetings held between July 1, 1995 and June 30, 1996 are eligible.

There are two categories, one for meetings with expenditures up to \$1000 per attendee and one for meetings with expenditures of more than \$1000 per attendee.

Deadline is November 15, 1996. Contact MPI Headquarters for more details: 972-702-3000.

PEC-North America '97 in San Francisco

"Fast Forward to the Future" is the theme of the Jan. 12-14 Professional Education Conference-North America in San Francisco.

D/FW Chapter Has PO⁴D Handbook

The first PO⁴D Handbook was mailed to MPI D/FW Chapter members recently. The book, developed by PO⁴D Director Tony W. Cummins (Radisson Dallas Park Central Hotel) describes the chapter's program that makes it possible for members within certain geographical areas to meet for educational and networking opportunities.



Gerry Reid

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TEXAS COOKIN'

is a cookbook featuring favorite Texas or regional specialties from among the D/FW Chapter membership—as well as from noted Dallas/Fort Worth area chefs and state and local celebrities.

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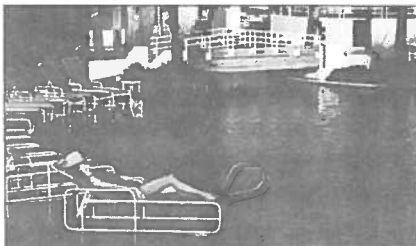
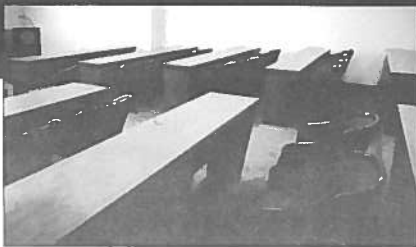
Proceeds will benefit the MPI D/FW Chapter's educational programs.

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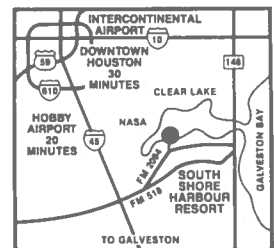


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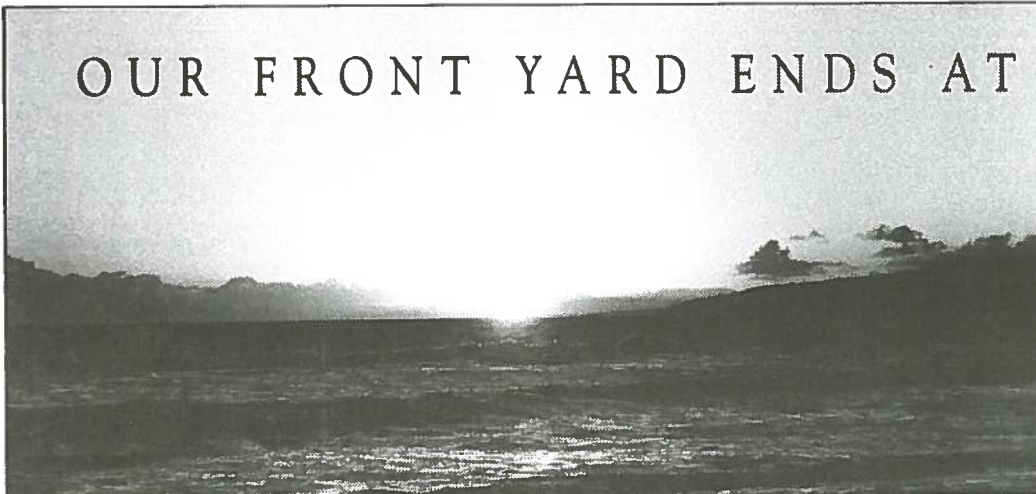
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Planner Profile



Lucinda G. Nichols

Occupation: Local and conference planner for the American Heart Association

MPI Member since: December 1993

Benefits of MPI Membership: networking, and cultivating friendships.

What I like best about my job: The constant variety of tasks and the quick pace

Advice to someone starting in this field: Network and ask questions

Other organization(s): Dallas Symphony Chorus for six years as a soprano

Favorite book: *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett

Favorite movie: "On Golden Pond"

Favorite music: Carmina Burana, Mahlers 8th symphony

Favorite Meal/Restaurant: Italian, in Chicago at Tuscany

Ideal vacation: a month overseas—Greece, Italy or Spain.

Fantasy luncheon guests: Cecelia Bartolli, Jesus Christ, Mozart, Beethoven, Rosie O'Donnell

Trademark: always smiling, never negative

Best asset: Organized and positive

Admire most: Mary Kay, Eleanor Roosevelt, because they are women against the odds

Favorite way to spend my time: sailing, international travel, time with family, singing, Ronald McDonald House

Advice to New MPI member: Be bold and dig your heels in; the more people you know in the industry, the easier your job.

I can be reached at: Lucindan@amhrt.org or 214-706-1298; fax: 214-373-3406

Occupation: MPG* Meeting Planners Guide, Publisher

MPI Member since: January 1996

Joined MPI because: I love Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP

What have been the benefits? My love has grown! (see above)

Education: B.S., Hotel Management, University of Houston

Advice to someone starting in this field: Find a good mentor

What I like best about my job: Being my own boss.

What I like least about my job: Having "me" as an employee.

Other organizations: Rotary, HSMIAI, TSAE, MPI, Hotel Assoc. Tarrant Co.

Favorite music: Jazz, classical, classic rock

Favorite Movie: *The Big Country*

Ideal vacation: Porsche 911, San Diego to Vancouver, Hwy 1, for six months—on someone else's credit card!

Best asset: Happiness

Worst habit: Procrastination (It took me two weeks to finish this profile)

Supplier Profile

Joel Hueske



Most people don't know: how to pronounce my name. Hueske rhymes with—"He's key!"

Fantasy luncheon guest(s): Jesus Christ, Herb Kelleher

Admire most: Anyone honest!

I wish I could: See colors better (I have poor color vision)

Current projects: Building a business, raising two sons, being a good husband and learning to play golf—all *lifetime* projects!

Advice to New MPI member: get active!

I can be reached at: mpg*@why.net or 817-656-2046; fax: 817-498-0421

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Opinion, Please!

Q: What is your current professional VISION? How can your MPI membership help you accomplish this vision?



Sheri L. Pizitz, CMP, CSEP
Events Unlimited Inc., President

A: "... to actively work towards helping the industry and myself become credible as a profession. MPI helps by providing outstanding educational opportunities, a networking environment and help with the CMP certification process."



Mike R. McCoy
CVN, Inc., Director of Sales

A: "... to form long standing partnerships with customers. In reality I work for both CVN, Inc. and our clients ... MPI allows the opportunity to build fundamental relationships with potential customers."



Kevin D. Mellott
ERASE Enterprises, President

A: "... to reduce our clients' exposure to loss from safety and security related occurrences. This requires providing clients with training, planning services and site support. MPI— an association committed to safety and security in the meeting place—provides a networking opportunity."



Diane Thrasher
Mobil Business Resources Corp., Meeting and Special Event Coordinator

A: "... to make a positive impact within my organization while providing a valued service to help clients achieve outstanding results. MPI helps me meet these challenges because of the outstanding professionals I come in contact with, especially through the Corporate Special Interest Group."

"Opinion, Please" is a question and answer feature column prepared by Denise Howieson (IGNITION! Creative Group).



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Top Recruiter O.D. O'Donnell Wins Trip to PEC '97

At MPI's recent World Education Congress in Nashville, TN, D/FW Chapter member O.D. O'Donnell (Nightlife Talent & Management Agency) was the winner of a drawing for "Top Recruiters" of MPI members.



O.D. O'Donnell
Nightlife Talent &
Mgt. Agency

O'Donnell was awarded a complimentary registration and roundtrip airfare to MPI's Professional Education Conference in San Francisco Jan. 12-14, 1997.

O'Donnell was one of three grand prize winners among 1,120 MPI members who made the President's Honor Roll during 1995-96 for recruiting new members.

Michelle Rubin, CMP, program manager for B.T.I. Americas Inc. in Rutherford, N.J.; and Sandra Bloodworth, business manager/meeting planner for the Austin-based Texas Independent Producers/Royalty Owners, were also grand prize winners.

O'Donnell has been a dedicated supporter of MPI and a loyal member of the D/FW Chapter for almost a dozen years.

In May, for the second consecutive year, O'Donnell was the winner of the D/FW Chapter's Suzi Fiveash Award—named in memory of an outstanding Membership Committee member—for membership recruitment.

O'Donnell recruited nine of the chapter's 162 new members in 1995-96.

He has served in a variety of elected and volunteer leadership positions and is widely known as "The Source" for the chapter's historical highlights and achievements.

MPI sponsors the President's Honor Roll campaign annually. The new cycle began June 1. The 1996-97 "Go for the Gold" membership campaign will target more than 4,000 new members during the fiscal year.

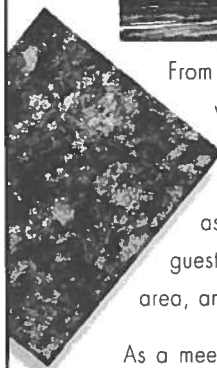
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Involvement Committee Member Marti Fox (BTI Americas), 214-905-8558.



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We heard it through the Grapevine—and read it there too! A number of love matches—resulting in engagements and marriages—occurred through MPI relationships. Now that's some kind of networking! The *CURRENT* will feature some of these love stories in the February issue! Please let us hear from you!

Fax or e-mail your love stories to V.P. Public Relations/Marketing Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions), 214-343-6166 (dana14@ix.netcom.com), or *CURRENT* Editor Gracie Hilton (The Write Stuff), 817-467-7439 (gracie@cyberhighway.net)

Editor's Notes—CURRENTLY . . .



MPI D/FW Chapter volunteers **Mark Lazarow** (Mark Lazarow Photography & Custom Video Services) and **Gracie Hilton** (The Write Stuff), photographer and editor of the *CURRENT*, were honored as "Stars of the Month" at last month's chapter meeting. Both extend the honor to a host of "background contributors," including MLP and CVS staffers Debbie Holman, Shelley Kaler, Chris Dishman, Mark Roos and Monique Harpaz—and to D/FW V.P. Public Relations & Marketing Dana Nickerson, CMP (Square One Productions).

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