

CURRENT

Meeting Professionals International

May 1998

Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

TMKCB Proceeds Provide Richland College Scholarships for Eleven Dallas-Area Students



Among 11 Dallas-area students receiving scholarships from MPI D/FW are Saira Vargas (Thomas Jefferson), Diana Coria (Townview School of Business), Brenda Coria (Richland College), Yesenia Gomez (Townview School of Business), Nina Allen (Bryan Adams High School), Nicholas Scott (Bryan Adams High School), and Maricela Ruiz (Richland College). Not pictured are Thomas Jefferson High School students Maricela Camarena, Pivedio Sanchez III, Juan Suarez, Juan Jose Villarreal.

Students, family and friends were honored at the MPI Scholarship Awards presentation during the May MPI D/FW Chapter meeting at INFOMART.

Thanks to funds raised at The MPI Kids Charity Ball, 11 students—nine from the Dallas Independent School District and two currently enrolled at Richland—received a \$1,000 scholarship to the Travel, Exposition and Meeting Management Program at Richland College.

Richland College dignitaries attending the presentation included President Dr. Stephen Mittelstet, Dr. Sharon Blackman, Ivan Martinez, Dr. Kay Eggleston, and Mary Darin. Program director is M.T. Hickman.

President Mittelstet said, “The MPI Scholarship Program is a true demonstration of industry working with academics to build the workforce of the future.”

Each of the scholarship recipients was paired with an MPI member as a mentor. These mentors will help the students as they take classes and experience what it means to be a travel professional.

MPI D/FW members serving as mentors are Mary German, Peg Wolshon, CTP; Phyllis Firebaugh, CMP; Pat Smith; Sandy Galloway; Colleen Rickenbacher, CMP; Brenda Miller, CMP; Linda Vest, CMP; Judy Owen; Jill Heyerdahl, CMP; Dave Fulton; and Norb Dettman, CMP, PhD.

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CURRENT MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL®

Committed to Educational Leadership

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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Upcoming Chapter Meetings

June 25, Thursday
Monthly Chapter Meeting
Annual Awards Gala
Dallas Convention Center
"Awards and Honors"
6:30 p.m.

July 23, Thursday
Monthly Chapter Meeting

August 27, Thursday
Monthly Chapter Meeting

September 24, Thursday
Monthly Chapter Meeting

October 22, Thursday
Monthly Chapter Meeting

November 19, Thursday
Monthly Chapter Meeting

December 17, Thursday
Annual Holiday Gala



ISSUE

July
inserts due July 8

August
inserts due August 12

DEADLINE

June 19, Friday

July 17, Friday

MPI

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Dallas, Texas 75244-5903
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FAX: 972-702-3070
<http://www.mpiweb.org>

MPI D/FW Mailing List and Labels For Sale



Do you want to...

- Promote your business or service?
- Market specifically to planners? or suppliers?

The MPI D/FW mailing list, which consists of approximately 800 meetings professionals, can be purchased in ready-to-mail label format. The list, which is updated monthly, is sorted alphabetically, or by planner or supplier categories.

The cost is \$150 for MPI D/FW members; \$250 for members of other MPI Chapters; and \$300 for non-members.

To order, contact MPI D/FW Chapter Secretary Joe Kolb, 972-233-9107 x203.

(Note: it is against copyright laws to reproduce the MPI Directory in any format.)

President's Message

Chapter Nominations: Practical or Political?

My April column included the text of a letter from a member expressing discontent at MPI D/FW's nominations and election process—and my invitation for others to respond with their thoughts and ideas on this important topic.



Gregory Pynes
Hand & Associates
Communications
D/FW Chapter President

A response from Tracey Smith, a member of the 1998 Nominating Committee, explains in detail the MPI D/FW nominations and elections process.

The chapter follows a procedure outlined in the chapter Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. This process calls for:

1. Creation of Nominations Committee based on planner and supplier mix
2. Call for Nominations, allowing all members to participate
3. Creation of a slate of officers and ballot of Board of Directors
4. Presentation of slate and ballot to membership with call for additional nominations facilitated by use of a petition
5. Mailing of slate and ballot for voting by membership

6. Collection and tallying of the vote
7. Installation of the Board

Here are *my* thoughts about how we nominate and elect chapter members to the Board and why I think it serves the organization well.

The outlined procedures allows the entire membership to participate in the nominating, the petitioning, and voting process. The MPI D/FW process does mirror the principles of a democratic society in that we nominate (primary process), we petition and we elect.

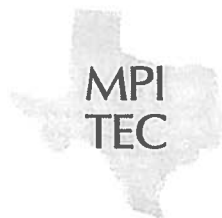
Many members I spoke to questioned the Nominating Committee. How is that a few members can sift through the nomination forms and come up with a slate of officers that are uncontested, and a ballot of a few options for the board positions?

How can that be democratic? My observation is that the nominating committee is similar to state conventions or the electoral college. Lest we forget, the voters do not elect the president of the United States. The "winner" is the candidate who receives a majority of the electoral votes, not the popular votes. The chapter's process follows the tenets of the democratic experience, providing members with input and participation.

The MPI D/FW Board has a long history of being a *working* body. Service on the board requires commitment and sacrifice. The chapter's nomination process is a practical approach with a focus on choosing the most qualified candidate willing to serve.

Second Annual Texas Education Conference

November 7-8, 1998
Saint Luis Hotel • Galveston



MPI Hill Country
MPI Houston Area
MPI D/FW

MPI

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Meeting Professionals International is the world's largest association of meetings professionals with more than 14,500 members in 51 countries and 58 chapters and three clubs. MPI serves as the pivotal force in positioning meetings as a primary communication vehicle and a critical component of an organization's success. MPI leads the meeting industry by serving the diverse needs of members and nonmembers alike through its commitment to quality education, continuous improvement and excellence in meetings while upholding high ethical standards.

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Susie Carr-Tennison, CMP
Annuity Board of SBC
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Vice President/Finance

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Definda Dudley
Fun Factory
972-271-7444

Vice President/Programs

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Circle R Ranch
817.430.1561

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214.823.4370

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MCI Performance Group
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972.513.0054

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972.241.5444

JUNE AWARDS GALA

MPI D/FW Celebrates *Involvement through Service*

By Steven G. Foster
MPI D/FW Vice President of Programs
Circle R Ranch

WOW! What a year! Join fellow MPI D/FW Chapter members in a celebration of good times and great accomplishments at the Annual Awards Gala, Thursday, June 25 at the Dallas Convention Center.

The event will highlight the many successes enjoyed by MPI D/FW during the 1997-1998 "Involvement through Service" term of President Gregory Pynes (Hand & Associates Communications).

The evening begins with a cocktail reception at 6:00 p.m. in the D Lower Lobby of the DCC. Pianist Julie Bonk will provide background music.

Committee members will be recognized in a special presentation at 6:30 pm.

Dinner and the Awards Gala program begin at 7:00 pm in the D Upper Lobby, followed by dancing to the music of Aly Morgan and Crimson Rose.

Special awards will be presented throughout the evening, including Circle of Commitment Membership pins, Suzie Fiveash for membership recruitment, Perfect Attendance for monthly meetings, Program of the Year and Facility of the Year.

Chapter awards for International Supplier, Rising Star, Planner of the Year and Supplier of the Year also will be presented.

MPI International President Anna Lee Chabot, CMP, will preside over the installation of the incoming 1998-1999 MPI D/FW officers and board of directors.

Hosts for the June Awards Gala are the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau, The Dallas Convention Center, Culinaire International, Freeman Decorating Company, AVW Audio Visual, Inc., Nightlife Talent & Management Agency and Ginny's Gifts.

June Awards Gala committee members are chairperson Pat McCain, CMP (Krisam Hotels & Resorts), Steven Fos-

ter, (Circle R Ranch), Jim Monroe, CMP (Gales Sliger Productions), Gregory Pynes (Hand & Associates), Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP (Sterling Hotels & Re-

Garrett, CMP (Garrett Speakers International), Marilyn Manby, CMP (Marketing Equities International), Cindy Watters (I.M.A.G.E.), Esther Wigley, CAS (Ap-

See pages 6-7 for more on the June Awards Gala

- Chapter Awards Nominees
 - Circle of Commitment Pins Recipients
 - Galleria Gold (Recruiting Honors) Winners
 - 1997-98 Chapter Partners
-

sorts), David Gisler (Freeman Decorating Company), Wayne Wallgren (W2 Advertising), Brenda Miller, CMP (Malibu Speed Zone), Marti Fox (BTI Americas), O.D. O'Donnell (Nightlife Talent & Management Agency), Betty

pointments Professional Advertising), Delinda Dudley (Fun Factory Decorations & Special Events) Tony Cummins (Adams Mark Hotel) and Sy Retsky (National Contract Management Association).

**Aly
Morgan
and
Crimson
Rose**



Aly Morgan and Crimson Rose, a dance and show band, will perform at the MPI D/FW June Awards Gala. The band plays music spanning a half-century—from "40s favorites to 50s rock and roll to the Big Chill sounds of the 60s to current pop hits."

JUNE AWARDS GALA

*June Awards Gala
Celebrating a
Year of Success
and Recognizing
Involvement through Service*



*Recognizing and Honoring:
Committee Involvement
Galleria Gold Recruiting Winners
Suzie Fiveash Winner
Host Facility of the Year
Program of the Year
International Award Nominees
Chapter Planner of the Year
Chapter Supplier of the Year
Rising Star
Stars of the Month*

*Featuring
Installation of
1998-99 Board of Directors
Second Annual
Presentation of Membership Pins*



MPI

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MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL®
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Celebrate Involvement through Service Annual Awards Gala

Featuring MPI International President Anna Lee Chabot

June 26, 6:00 p.m.

Dallas Convention Center

650 North Griffin Street, Dallas, Texas 75202

214-939-2750

Sponsored by

The Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau

*The Dallas Convention Center
Culinaire International
Freeman Decorating Company*

*AFW Audio Visual, Inc.
Nightlife Talent & Management Agency
Ginny's Gifts*

5:30 p.m. Registration Opens

6:00 p.m. Chapter Orientation —D Upper Lobby: Room D261

6:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception and Committee Recognition—D Lower Lobby

7:00 pm Dinner and Awards Gala—D Upper Lobby

10:00 p.m. Dancing to the sounds of Aly Morgan and Crimson Rose

*Ground Level Self-Parking Available at Lot C between Lamar & Griffin Streets
Underground Self-Parking Available at DCC Lot at Griffin Street & Memorial Drive*

R.S.V.P. to Joe

by noon, Tuesday, June 24

•fax 972-490-4279 (see fax insert)

fax confirmation preferred!

•phone 972-233-9107 x1-MPI (674)

•joe@dondillon.com

Advance Registration \$32

Late Registration \$40

Guest Registration \$36

JUNE AWARDS GALA

1997-98 MPI D/FW PARTNERS



Every program, every meeting, every event needs the help and sponsorship of our members. Through this support the MPI/DFW Chapter can continue to deliver exceptional programs and educational opportunities. We salute our Partners in Leadership for your support and concern for further advancement in education and networking for MPI D/FW.

A.J. Gonzales	International Speakers Bureau
Adam's Mark Hotel Dallas	IRIS Inc.
Hotel Adolphus	J & S Audio Visual, Inc.
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American Airlines	Malibu Speed Zone
American Airlines Training & Conference Center	Nightlife Talent & Mgt. Agency
Apartment Association of Greater Dallas	Old San Francisco Steakhouse
Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau	Omni Park West Hotel
AVW Audio Visual, Inc.	Performing Arts - Ft. Worth
Bobby Bulger, Travel Concepts	Planet Hollywood
Boot Scootin' Dance Company	Pomodoro
Business Interiors	The Ranch @ Downtown Dallas
Castleline	Richland College
Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau	Rough Creek Lodge
Dallas Market Center	SABRE
Dick's Last Resort	Sam's Cafe
DFW Lakes Hilton	Sheraton Grand Hotel
DoubleTree Guest Suites D/FW	Southwest Airlines
Embassy Suites Park Central	Spectra Communications, Inc.
Five Star Limousine	Square One Productions
Freeman Decorating Company	Stockyards Station
Ginny's Gifts	Studios @ Las Colinas
Gray Line/Kerrville Bus/Coach USA	The Trade Group
Hackberry Creek Country Club	Trail Dust Steak House
IGNITION! Creative Group Inc.	The Worthington Hotel
Inn on the River	Wyndham Anatole Hotel
Intelecon	

For more information about MPI D/FW Partnership opportunities, or to submit corrections to this list, fax Colleen A. Rickenbacher, CMP at 214.652.4263 or e-mail at cricken@dallascvb.com

JUNE AWARDS GALA

Membership Pins to be Presented at June Awards Gala

At the June 25 Awards Gala, chapter member Ted Olson will receive a membership pin commemorating a quarter-century of involvement in MPI. Olson will be one of 128 MPI D/FW recipients of the 1998 "Circle of Commitment" pin.

Last year marked the inaugural presentation of the pins; 178 were recognized for long-term membership. Pins will be awarded to members who have reached the 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 year points in MPI membership.

25 Years	5 Years	Lisa Furlow	Brad Lee	George Primo
H. (Ted) Olson	Leo Bary	Sandi Galloway	Sandra Lindstrom, CMP	Jayne Rankin
	Cheryl Beasley, CMP	Helen Gatewood-Kenny	Karen Lockhart	Ann Renneker
20 Years	Brian Booth	Cindi Ghormley, CMP	Melissa Logar	Linda Russell
Greg Elam	Nancy Bracalento, CMP	Deirdre Gordon	Jay Luippold	Leslie Slama
H.G. Johnson	Elizabeth Chandler	Ronald Grayson	Carol Manverse	Nan Stone
Suzann Oliver	Dean Conwell	LeeAnn Harle	Patty Marriott	Sandy Summers
	Lisa Conwell	Mary Henderson	Cyndi Martinez, CMP	Mark Thomas
15 Years	Brenda Crouch	Keith Hickman	Lisa McCoy	Linda Thornton
Melody Lavagetto	Tony Cummins	Barbara Hitt	Kelli McGonagill-Finglass	Linda Tibbets
Kevin McMahon	Duncan DuVall	Cheryl Hopkins	Debbie Meyers	Mollie Wallace, CMP
Eugene Rondeau	Walt Eatman	Linda Hughes	Valerie Neeley	Gynia Westbrook
Susanne Ruffner, CMP	Maria Escarfullery	Donna Johnson	Lianne Pereira	Curtis Wilhelm
Latrelle Smart, CMP	Karen Fogle	Judy Johnson	Kami Price, CMP	
10 Years				
Faye Cantrell				
Erin Donohue				
Vincent Elorza				
Marc Finley				
Vicki Kempe				
Judy Koslow				
Gary Larr				
Michele Lucia				
Marilyn Manby				
Charlotte Merrill-Davis, CMP				
Sandra Moten				
Joanne Nichols				
Robert Phillips				
Leslie Schultz				
Diane Smith, CMP				

Chapter Awards Nominees

Chapter Planner of the Year Nominees

Cheryl Beasley, CMP • SABRE Travel Information Network
 Dana Nickerson, CMP • Square One Productions
 Patti Wilke, CMP • Independent Planner

Chapter Supplier of the Year Nominees

Michelle Carter, CMP • Wyndham Anatole Hotel
 Steven Foster • Circle R Ranch
 Peg Wolschon, CTP • Gray Line/Kerrville Bus Co/Coach USA

Rising Star Award Nominees

Lynn Lewis • Ernst & Young LLP
 Brenda Miller, CMP • Malibu SpeedZone
 Patty Stern • Five Star Limousines

Nominee for International Chapter Leader of the Year

Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP • Sterling Hotels & Resorts

Galleria Gold

More than 18 MPI D/FW members will receive "Galleria Gold" in appreciation for membership recruitment. Be sure to attend the June Awards Gala to receive your "Gold" and see who will receive the Suzi Fiveash Award for Recruitment. (This list was up-to-date as this issue of CURRENT went to press.)

Cheryl Beasley, CMP
 Stacy Blackwell
 Stuart Burdette, CMP
 Michelle Carter, CMP
 Vincent Elorza
 Wendy Ezernack
 Phyllis Firebaugh, CMP
 Cindy Hamilton
 Darryl Leavitt
 Brenda Miller, CMP
 Valerie Neeley
 Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP
 O.D. O'Donnell
 Tamara Quilty
 Stephanie Schroeder
 Kathi Thompson
 Mollie Wallace
 Kimberley Williams

San Diego Chapter Management Forum Sets Sail for the New MPI Chapter Year

No time, mate? Drowning in your workload? Need fresh wind in your sails?

Join the MPI crew at the Chapter Management Forum (CMF) at the World Education Congress, Saturday, July 11, at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel to: •gather a treasure trove of ideas for your chapter and your “real job;” •chart your chapter’s course of action at the captains’ tables (roundtables); and •learn about your group dynamics as all hands go on deck for a fun crew-building exercise.

MYTH #1: I have to be on my chapter’s board of directors to attend the CMF.

The CMF is a workshop/networking event designed for everyone: past, present and future chapter leaders.

It’s free, it’s fun and you will get great value out of the networking and sharing of ideas — whether you are an active or soon-to-be active member of your chapter.

MYTH #2: I have already gone to several CMFs, there is nothing new for me.

In order to combat the “seen it-done it-bought the T-shirt” syndrome, the International Chapter Leadership Committee (ICLC) has carefully designed the round tables to include hot new topics (like how to design your chapter’s web site) and we will be doing an interactive outdoor exercise where you will learn

about how you work in teams and will make invaluable new contacts. We will also have live demos of the new online Chapter Management Library.

MYTH #3: I can register at the door. Due to the outdoor teambuilding exercise, the number of participants is limited. Sign up now.

MYTH #4: I should dress in business attire for the CMF.

Since all adult education studies show that people learn best when they are actively involved with the materials, the CMF attendees will be working outdoors on a team project. Wear comfortable shoes and loose, casual clothing for this CMF.

MYTH #5: I went to the Chapter Leadership Workshops in Dallas in May; isn’t it the same?

No. The Chapter Leadership Workshops, led by MPI staff, are designed to train leaders in specific roles on your chapter’s 1998-99 board of directors.

The CMF is a multi-disciplinary networking event that is designed to motivate and inspire all future, present and past leaders at the chapter level — whether you are on your 1998-99 board or not!

The CMF is carefully designed by the ICLC member-volunteers to address grassroots issues and concerns indicated by your incoming presidents and other chapter leaders.

MYTH #6: Why should I go to the CMF?

Invest this afternoon of your life and you will:

- meet other professionals who will become friends and solid resources to you
- pick up a number of ideas on how to motivate volunteers, how to increase/retain your members, how to get more planners to your events, how to run more effective meetings...

- learn about how you work in a group, identify where you can improve your group’s dynamics for all your projects.

It’s free, it’s fun, but best yet, you are sure to take home ideas that can be applied immediately to your chapter’s operations, to your “real job” and to your personal life.

Sign up for the CMF on the official WEC registration form and fax (301-694-5124) or mail it to Galaxy Registration — or register online at www.mpiweb.org or call MPI Chapter Relations Department at 972-702-3000 for more information.

The ICLC is grateful for the generous sponsorship of American Airlines and the participation of the CMF host, the San Diego Sheraton Hotel.



Beyond Boundaries

REACHING NEW FRONTIERS

MPI World Education Congress
July 12-14, 1998
San Diego, California

- ★ 2 General Sessions
- ★ Seventy Workshops
- ★ MeetingPlace '98
- ★ Technology Laboratory
- ★ Featured Workshops
- ★ Unique Networking Events

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CALL 1.972.702.3051 FOR REGISTRATION MATERIALS

Educational Opportunities



at a glance

June 26, Friday
Technology Institute
MS Excel Beginner
\$59
(free with your “Smart Card”)
Call Sherri Cook, CMP, 972-732-9396

July 12-14
MPI World Education Congress
San Diego, CA
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for registration materials

November 7-8
Texas Educational Conference
Galveston Island, TX
Dana Nickerson, CMP
& Beverly O’Laughlin, CMP

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

'Involvement through Service' and 'Focus on the Vision' Gregory Pynes and Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP, Named Planner, Supplier of the Year at Last Year's Awards Gala

Gregory Pynes

MPI D/FW Chapter President Gregory Pynes, 1997 Planner of the Year, got into the meetings professions by chance.

As a 22-year-old graduate student completing work on a master of public administration degree, he was hired as administrative assistant to the city manager of the Town of Addison.

Drainage, public swimming pool construction, planning and zoning and "thrilling projects like the outsourcing of street cleaning were among my first projects," Pynes recalls with a wry smile.

The production of several special events and the construction of a conference and theatre centre was the beginning of Pynes' move into the meetings industry. He spent the next eight years working on both the planner and supplier side of the business.

In 1996 Pynes partnered with long time friend Rodney Hand to create Hand and Associates Marketing Communications, a company engaged in event production, publishing, and advertising.

A member of MPI D/FW since 1990, Pynes stresses personal outreach in attracting people to MPI. He was introduced to the organization by Betty Garrett, CMP, a long-time family friend.

Later, Paige Braun enlisted his service on the Governmental Affairs Committee. Pynes began his service on the MPI D/FW Board of Directors in 1993 and served as vice president of education before service as president-elect.

Education is one of Pynes' favorite areas. He taught for two years as an adjunct instructor in the Travel and Tourism Program at Richland College.

He was especially pleased when the MPI D/FW Chapter was the recipient of the coveted Award of Excellence for Education. The award was presented at the

1997 Professional Education Conference, the same year MPI D/FW was named Chapter of the Year for an unprecedented fourth time.

Pynes, whose presidential motivator motto is *Involvement through Service*, practices what he preaches. He recently joined other MPI members to charter an International Special Events Society Chapter for Dallas and now serves on that organization's board of directors.



Gregory Pynes was named MPI D/FW Chapter Planner of the Year and Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP, was named Supplier of the Year the night President Novelli handed over the gavel to President-Elect Pynes. The two—close friends both inside and outside the meetings industry—will name their successors at the June Awards Gala 1998.

Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP

Ask 1997 MPI D/FW Supplier of the Year Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP what is going on in her life—and she will talk about her job and MPI!

A chapter member since 1989, Novelli became involved in 1991 when she accepted the regional director of sales position for Sterling Hotels & Resorts where she represents a "superior and diverse collection of deluxe hotels around the

world," she says.

"I thought being involved in MPI would be the quickest and best way to get to know everyone in Dallas and Fort Worth" she says. "MPI has allowed me to make great planner contacts and, more importantly, it has allowed me to make great friends."

"Winning Supplier of the Year was a big deal to me," says Novelli, who served as 1996-97 MPI D/FW Chapter president. She expresses gratitude to Sterling Hotels & Resorts "for their support in my MPI efforts."

"I have accepted the additional workload wholeheartedly because I believe that the personal and professional growth and accomplishments that can be achieved through involvement in MPI is priceless," Novelli said.

She is especially pleased with the continued growth of The MPI Kids Charity Ball. Novelli served as chair of the first of these balls which raise funds for a number of local children's charities.

But if you want to see Mary Lynn really smile, just ask her about the "love of her life"—her 4 ½ year old grandson, Dominic.

The reason she's not around the D/FW area much on weekends is because she is usually driving to Austin to spend quality time with Dominic and her daughter, Toni.

"Local board service ends for me June 30," says Novelli, "and I am going to miss it. I loved my time serving this chapter and I love this chapter. But it is time to give someone else an opportunity to experience it all."

Future plans for Novelli include staying involved with MPI D/FW but her new *Focus on the Vision* is on MPI's International Board where she has just been elected by chapter presidents worldwide to serve a one year term representing the *Voice of the Chapters*.



The MPI Kids Charity Ball

*For those who were
The MPI Kids Charity Ball
Wyndham Anatole Hotel, here
share in the fun and excitement
For those who were there, tha*



There was never a moment that wasn't entertaining at the Ball, whether you were dancing to the music of Twenty+20, processing to dinner with Don McPherson's bagpipes, or just watching in amazement Lee's White Leopard Lion Dancers.



The nominees for The Bill & Angela Barrett Award for Loving Kids took a moment to pause with two of our own. From left to right: nominees Susybelle Gosslee, Doris Budner and Clarice Tinsley; TMKCB Chair, Cheryl Beasley, CMP; nominees Jane Dunne and Connie Yates and Chapter President, Gregory Pynes.



Freeman Decorating Company stationed a grand "Welcome" at the entrance to the Wyndham Anatole's Chantilly Ballroom.

able to attend
 1998 on May 9th at the
 e a few photos so you can
 this annual Chapter event.
 again for your support.

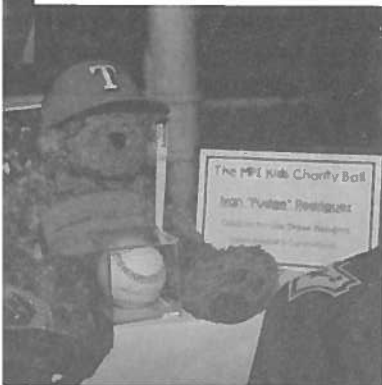


Angela and Bill Barrett were on hand to present the award to Jane Dunne for her outstanding service in the Dallas/Fort Worth communities for the benefit of children.

Whether your preference was for a Designer Bear or a Celebrity Autographed Bear, your choices seemed boundless. Seen here are Ursulla la Bruin Bear, by Jerrell's Rosemary Cantrell and the "Pudge" Rodriguez signed Bear.



The Chantilly Ballroom was a beautiful backdrop to feature The MPI Kids Charity Ball 1998, Produced by Meeting Professionals International Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter on May 9th.



There was something for everyone throughout the Internationally themed auction areas.



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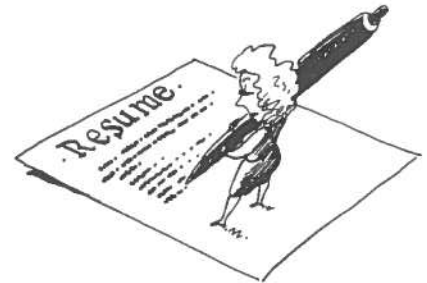
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M.T. Hickman
Richland College
'Grapevine' Columnist

Heard it through the Grapevine!



Mitchell Cathey
'Grapevine' Columnist

Sally Bresnahan has returned to *The Aristocrat* as the new director of food and beverage. Sally will marry Kenny Clausen in November.



Delinda Dudley accepted a sales and marketing position with *Fun Factory Decorations & Special Events*. For membership questions call 972-271-7444.

Candice Haun, the new director of sales for *Texas Lil's Diamond A Ranch*, was asked to serve on of the Board of Directors for the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International.

Phyllis R. Firebaugh, CMP, SEI Incentives, gave away her "last child" in marriage when daughter Terri Firebaugh married Robert Hayley on May 23.



Karen Raymond, Majesty Hospitality Staffing, was promoted from account executive to branch manager and has moved to Houston to open a new branch office this month.

Steve Kemble, Steve Kemble Event Design, and **Colleen Rickenbacher, CMP, Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau**, were appointed to the advisory board of the *SpecialEvents Magazine*.



Sonya Odell, meeting planner, *Central & South West Corporation*, and **Mitchell Cathey** recently graduated from the Leadership Arts Institute of the Dallas Business Committee for the Arts.



recovering after suffering from an aneurysm in January. The doctors have instructed her to get plenty of rest, go to therapy five days a week and think happy thoughts. You can help by calling (817-548-1221) or writing her: 1819 Kent Drive, Arlington, TX 76010. Sherry plans to be back in the industry in August.



Tamara Quilty, MCI Performance Group, formerly known as MCI Planners, was promoted from operations account manager to manager of planning and costing.

Laurie Sprouse, Ultimate Ventures, Inc., received the Certified Travel Executive distinction awarded by the Society of Incentive & Travel Executives. She is the first person in Texas to achieve the CITE status.

Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP, regional director of sales, *Sterling Hotels & Resorts*, was elected to the MPI International Board of Directors. Presidents worldwide elected her to this position where she will



be representing the voice of the chapters to the International Board of Directors.



Get Well Soon – Greg Elam, vice president, *Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau*, was in a serious accident in February. He is scheduled to make a full recovery but in the meantime will require lots

of rest and physical therapy. Cards are a great way to say you care. They can be sent to the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau 1201 Elm St. #2000, Dallas, TX 75270.

Get Well Soon – Sherry Howell, meeting planner, *The Arc of United States*, is

"Pictures! Head shots! We need them!" say *CURRENT* Editor **Gracie Hilton** (*The Write Stuff*) and Managing Editor **Kristi Carter** (J&S Audio Visual, Inc.).



"The photos accompanying 'Grapevine' notes are often the same faces you see over and over again in the newsletter," said Carter.

"The *CURRENT* team leaders are always striving to get more and new faces in the newsletter, but we have to have the photos in order to print them!" she said.

If the *CURRENT* does not have your photo on file, mail one to Gracie Hilton, (3020 Glasgow Court, Arlington, TX 76015). Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE), and it will be returned as soon as she scans it and makes a computer image.

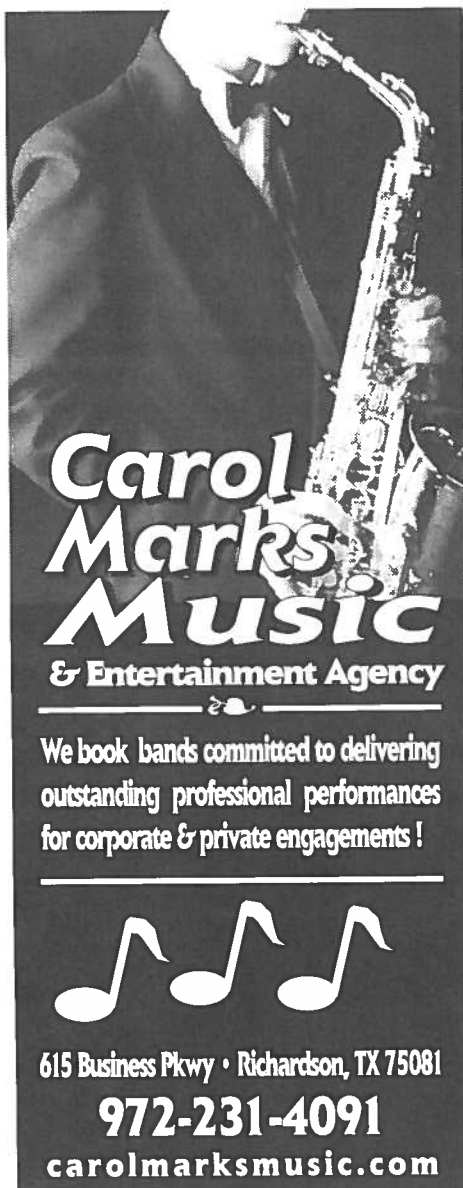
Don't forget the SASE! It's a *must* if you want your photo returned.

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 M.T. Hickman (Richland College) or Mitchell Cathey about items of interest for this column.

Hickman can be reached at 972-238-6097; fax 972-238-6333, or mthickman@dcccd.edu Cathey can be reached at 214-520-3901.

Please submit photo ("head shot") with your news item.



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ACTION!

Accepting the Challenge To Invest in Our Needs

Please see the Chapter Interest Form— an insert in the June issue of the *CURRENT*— and **ACT** on it!



STAR of the Month



"Star of the Month" is a recognition program honoring chapter members for involvement in committees and special programs. All Stars of the Month are eligible for a special drawing for two educational scholarship awards to attend the MPI International Conference or other MPI educational opportunities.



Stephanie Schroeder
 ITT Sheraton

Through years of participating in organizational publications, one comes to appreciate the heroes and backbones of those publications—the ad salespeople. There would be no publications and very little link between meetings and each other without these people. Stephanie Schroeder, sales manager at ITT Sheraton, is one of those heroes who is a solid promoter of MPI D/FW with her clients and gives her much time to chapter projects, including The MPI Kids Charity Ball.



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

Hall of Fame (April)

Please salute the many companies and individuals for their contributions to the April meeting in Fort Worth.

<p>Featured Speaker KEN DEVERO Downtown Fort Worth, Inc.</p> <p>Reception Facility BASS PERFORMANCE HALL PAUL BEARD & MELISSA POSTNIKOFF</p> <p>Program Facility & Dinner & Valet Parking THE WORTHINGTON HOTEL BOB JAMESON & DEBBIE RUBIN, CMP</p> <p>Post Event Facility STOCKYARDS STATION DENISE THOMAS</p> <p>Transportation/Beverages KERRVILLE BUS/GRAY LINE/COACH U.S.A. PEG WOLSCHON</p> <p>Reception Hors d' oeuvres USA CAFE DAN ROSENAUER</p>	<p>Reception Beverages, Street Performers & Prizes SUNDANCE SQUARE MARKETING ROLAND MACKIE</p> <p>Sunglasses Amenity DICK DAVIS INC. DONNA HALL</p> <p>Long Horn Convertible COWTOWN COLISEUM HERB BAKER & BILLY HUCKABEE</p> <p>Pianist GEORGE PRIMO GEORGE PRIMO ORCHESTRAS</p> <p>Audio Visual Services CARIBINER INTERNATIONAL TRENT HOTMAN</p> <p>Western Decor ULTIMATE VENTURES, INC. NIKI BUSH</p> <p>Post-Event Entertainment BLUES BROTHERS ENTERTAINMENT SAM & STEVEN MCNEIL</p> <p>BOOTH SCOOTIN DANCE COMPANY DON MYERS</p>
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Write Tight

CURRENT Editor
Gracie Hilton
The Write Stuff



RECAP: The best writing is the simplest. Vigorous writing is concise. Strip every sentence to its cleanest components. Omit needless words and meaningless jargon. *Less is more.*

Simple "Write Tight" tips can help avoid verbal clutter.

One way to keep copy tight: avoid stringing two or three nouns together where one will do.

William Zinsserism, a renowned writer on writing, calls it "creeping nounism."

No one goes broke. We are experiencing money problem areas. It no longer rains. We are experiencing precipitation activity.

We're not in a recession. We're experiencing a period of advanced negative economic growth.

Newsweek columnist George Will calls it "ersatz profundity," or, onamotaepoically, "blatherspiel."

Choose one short, specific noun and avoid the extra verbiage.

Would we remember the great American statesman and founding father Benjamin Franklin—with such warmth if he had said, "In this world nothing is certain but negative patient-care outcome and revenue enhancement."

What if the great Russian writer Leo Tolstoy had penned a book titled *Violence Processing and a State of Permanent Pre-Hostility?*

Several examples of "creeping nounisms" and simpler expressions (some, tongue in cheek! ☺):

- curb the outflow of dollars (cut costs)
- ethically challenged (crooked)
- chronologically gifted (old)
- fiscally retentive (cheap)
- adverse weather visibility device (windshield wiper)
- period of advanced negative economic growth (recession)

"Tune in" next month for more simple "Write Tight" tips!

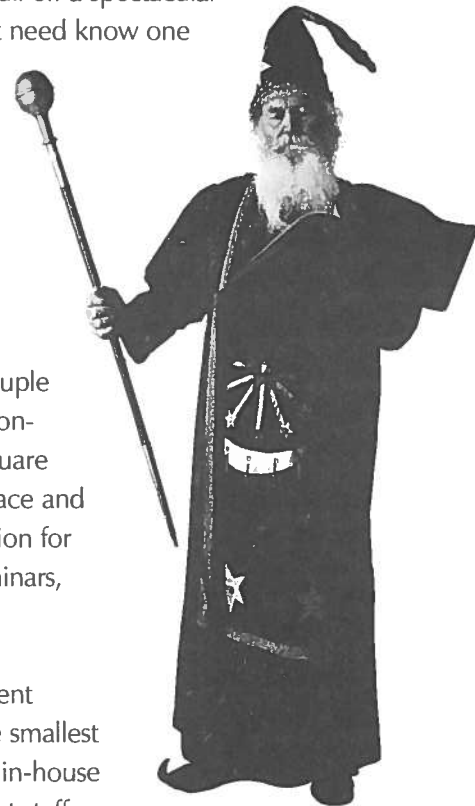
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Tidbits from the Top: News from MPI International

President's Honor Roll

The 1997-98 President's Honor Roll Campaign officially ends June 30. A record number of MPI members have participated in this year's "Recruitment Roundup" with some 4,600 new members already signed up through the middle of May.

New member sponsors are rewarded for their efforts and the top recruiters are eligible for trips to Bali, Puerto Rico and Vancouver.

CMM Curriculum Finalized

The curriculum for the much-anticipated Certification in Meeting Management (CMM)-North America has been finalized. A brochure outlining the program will be mailed to senior-level meeting professionals in June.

Submitted by
Michelle Carter, CMP (Wyndham Anatole)
MPI DIFW International Marketing Liaison

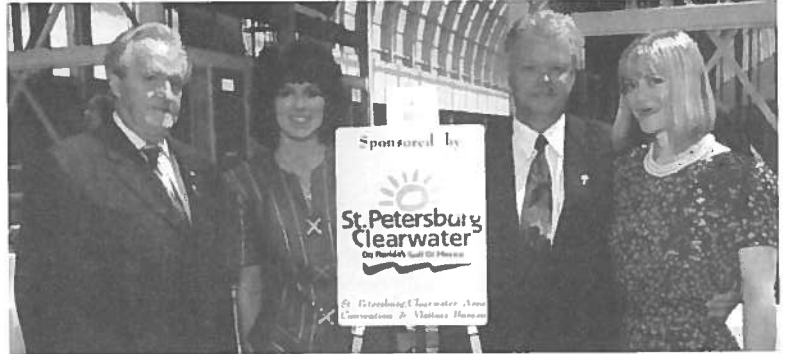
May Meeting Highlights

Richland Scholarship Recipients Honored at INFOMART Meeting; Speaker Bill Chaffin Focuses on Integrity



Richland College students **Brenda Coria** and **Maricela Ruiz** are both repeat winners of the MPI D/FW Scholarship to Richland College's Travel, Exposition and Meeting management Program. (See page one for a complete story about the MPI D/FW Scholarship Program.)

*Photos
by
VISTA*



May Program Committee members **Anna Squire** (Hackberry Creek Country Club) and **O.D. O'Donnell** (Nightlife Talent & Management) welcome St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Florida CVB representatives **Melissa Boelkins**, CHME and **Andy Bergeron**, CHSE, sponsors of the May meeting.



In a presentation focusing on integrity, motivational speaker **Bill Chaffin** (Turn-Key Communications) uses basketball skills to illustrate his points in "Nothing but Net—Taking Your Performance to the Next Level." Below: **Billy Carter** (SuperShuttle) "took the challenge" and battled it out with Chaffin in a 60-second free throw contest. Carter lost but made a good showing and had a good time! Chaffin emphasizes that "swishing the net in basketball will give you an exhilarating feeling, but it's far better to hit nothing but net in everyday life."



Hall of Fame

Please salute the following companies and individuals for their contributions to the May meeting at INFOMART.

Featured Speaker

Bill Chaffin
Turn-Key Communications

Official Meeting Sponsor

Melissa Boelkins
St Petersburg/Clearwater, Florida
Convention and Visitors Bureau

Facility Reception Luncheon at Infomart

Connie Ward
Jennifer Winget CMP
Kami Price CMP
Bill Reeser—AVW Audio Visual

Decor and Centerpieces

Sherry Hobbs
Yellow Rose

Transportation

Melanie Hoover
Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau

May Program Committee Members

Anna Squire
Hackberry Creek Country Club

O.D. O'Donnell
Nightlife Talent and Management

Sally Bresnahan
Hotel Aristocrat



Hosts from the INFOMART and Dallas Martet Center included **Connie Ward, Doris Rich, Claudine lafrate, Jennifer Winget, CMP, and Ann Renneker.**

**Photos
by
VISTA**



Lisa Porter (American Contractors Insurance) was the lucky recipient of a trip for two to Tampa on Southwest Airlines—a giveaway that includes three nights at the DonCeSar Beach Resort and Spa, two tickets to Busch Gardens and an Avis Rental Car for three full days. With Porter is **Andy Bergeron, CHSE** of St. Petersburg\Clearwater Area (Florida) Convention and Visitors Bureau.



“Will there be a space?!” Late registrants want to know!

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Participants in 5th Annual Meetings Industry Legislative Action Day Visit U.S. Congressmen to Discuss Industry Issues

By LeeAnn Harle
Renaissance Mtgs. and Incentives, Inc.

This spring, several members of the MPID/FW participated in The 1998 Meetings Industry Legislative Action Day (MILAD) in Washington, DC as part of a delegation of more than 250 meeting and convention industry representatives from eleven associations.



LeeAnn Harle
Renaissance Mtgs. & Incentives

Seventy-two official MILAD teams conducted visits with elected officials—to discuss key issues, including support for the United States National Tourism Organization

(USNTO), preservation of the 50% Business Meal Deductibility, and continued support of the Fairness in Music Licensing Act of 1997

Each team member took a particular issue and explained its affect on his particular business.

For example, a local hotel rep studied the Fairness in Music Licensing Act and described some of the unfair collection practices by some of the licensing organizations. Describing how the client, the property, and all associated vendors can be held liable strengthened our position.

The issue I discussed with legislators was the preservation of the 50% Meal Deductibility. As a small business owner, I explained, I cannot afford expensive

advertising. The best way for me to reach my potential clients is by entertaining them over a meal.

My perspective helped de-bunk the myth of the “three martini lunch” abuse of business entertainment.

There is one piece of pending legislation in the House (House Resolution 628) that seeks to restore the meal deductibility to 100%, so I asked Congressmen for their support of this proposed bill.

As proof that “grass-roots” politicking is effective, I received an e-mail from one of the offices I visited with the news that Congressman Ron Paul (R-14th) from Houston had signed on to be a co-sponsor of HR 628 based on the information I had shared at our meeting.

On a very personal level, I am helping to shape legislation that benefits our industry!

To all MPI D/FW Chapter members who took the time to travel to D.C., I say thank you. What we’re doing does make a difference!

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MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

These meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, with the exception of November and December. Attendance averages 200+ people, with space needed for registration and reception. Please indicate first, second and third choices that your property would be able to host a meeting:

First: Month _____ Lunch Dinner
Second: Month _____ Lunch Dinner
Third: Month _____ Lunch Dinner

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

These are smaller, in-depth learning experiences for chapter members. They include Walk A While, PODs, CMP Study Group, CMP University, Technology Institute, Super Sessions and others. Attendance averages 20-40 people. These sessions are targeted for the first Monday, second Tuesday and third Wednesday each month. Program times vary and are held during breakfast, lunch or in the early evening. Please indicate first, second and third choices that your property would be able to host an educational program:

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WE NEED YOU. Yes, **YOU** are the driving force in our chapter! Since the MPI D/FW Chapter is fortunate to have many talented members, we are constantly "raising the bar" while keeping **YOU** involved! There are countless ways you can become involved such as joining committees and devoting your time to various educational events. However, the single most important way of being involved is by sponsoring your products and services to the chapter.

Why would you want to sponsor anything? Because....

- Dallas/Fort Worth has over 750 members locally; 365 planners
- 1,187 members in Texas are planners: 48% corporate, 25% association, 16% other, 14% independent and 9% are employed by hospitals, universities or governmental agencies.
- Dallas/Fort Worth average budget for planners is an estimated \$1.2 million annually. *Collectively members account for a total of \$243 million annually locally.*
- Each Dallas/Fort Worth planner conducts an average 23 meetings annually.
- Types of facilities used by MPI D/FW Chapter Planners:

Suburban Hotels	66%
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- Over 83% of MPI members do business with other MPI members over non-members

Thanks to Dana L. Nickerson, CMP, Square One Productions, for compiling this vital information about our chapter members' buying power. This is the time for **YOUR** participation within the chapter. Dr. Richard Carlson's, author of Don't Sweat the Small Stuff. and It's All Small Stuff, basic philosophy is "the more you give, the more you get back", and it is true. So act **NOW**, reap the benefits of being an active member of MPI D/FW and fax the completed form by **August 17th**. **YOU** are an integral part of MPI Dallas/Fort Worth....**WE NEED YOU!**