

Chapter of the Year
1989 ★ 1990 ★ 1994
1996 ★ 2001

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Chapter Information
and Calendar of Events
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www.mpidfw.org**

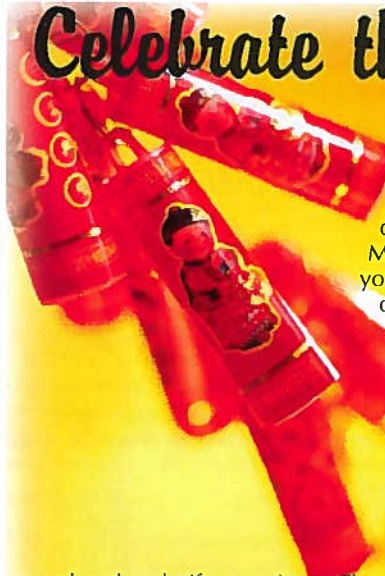
Mark Your Calendar

January 22, 2004
Gov't Issues & State of the Industry
MPI Pres./CEO Colin Ronie, Ph.D. CAE
Dallas CVB Pres/CEO Philip Jones
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Gilley's Dallas

Celebrate the Multicultural Season

by Jim Monroe, CMP, CSEP
James Monroe & Associates

Christmas is not the only holiday celebrated during the winter months. The MPI D/FW Chapter Multicultural Initiative Steering Committee invites you to Celebrate the Season with an awareness of other winter holidays.



Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorates both the defeat of the Syrians, whose king, Antiochus, had forbidden the Jews of Judea to worship God, and the miracle of the oil. When the great temple was rededicated there was only enough oil to light the N'er Tamid (the eternal flame) for one day. Once lit in a Jewish house of worship, this light should never be extinguished. By a miracle, it lasted for eight days. Chanukah, which means "rededication", is celebrated for eight days. Each night, prayers are said, candles are lit, special foods are served, games

are played and gifts are given. Chanukah's dates are based on the Jewish lunar calendar. This year, it will be celebrated from sundown on Dec. 19th to Dec. 26th.

Kwanzaa, a seven-day holiday, is a family and community strengthening observance for African-Americans, based on traditional African harvest festivals. Founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, it is considered a spiritual rather than a religious holiday. It is celebrated Dec. 26th to Jan. 1st and is based on seven principles: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Each night celebrates one of these principles. Special candles are lit. The holiday culminates in a Karumu, a celebration including ceremonies and feasting.

Chinese New Year is actually a 15-day festival. Based on the Chinese calendar, New Year's Day is the 2nd New Moon after the winter solstice. The holiday runs from new moon to full moon. New Year's Day 2004 will be Jan. 22nd, the first day of the Year of the Monkey. Traditionally, this time was highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and the family ancestors. Each day of the festival is given to a particular purpose (for example, third and fourth days are for sons-in-law to pay respects to their parents-in-law.) The fifteenth night is the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated with lantern displays and parades.

The multicultural committee hopes this has "whet your appetite" to find out more about these holidays. If you know somebody who celebrates one of them, ask!



DALLAS/FT. WORTH CHAPTER



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A Message from a Member



O.D. O'Donnell
Nightlife Talent / Panache

Random Thoughts on Member Care and Retention

Editor's Note: Normally, the "Message from the President" appears here, but this month, "The Current" shifts gears and celebrates the chapter's 25th Anniversary by asking long-time MPI D/FW member O.D. O'Donnell to provide comment on membership. O'Donnell has served in a variety of chapter leadership positions, currently serves on the MPI International Awards Committee and is an eight-time winner of the D/FW Chapter's membership recruitment award.

In today's environment of hard economic times and less disposable time, money and attention, membership growth is not a sure thing. Today's association must continue to understand and meet its members' needs if it wishes to truly represent those for whom it is organized.

What is clear is that today's members' expectations for services are higher and they want more for their dues dollar. MPI must take exceptional care of its members, stay in touch with their needs and continue to communicate the value of membership.

In planning association activities and making decisions regarding MPI's future, the International Awards committee is recommending that chapter's ask, "How many existing members will be retained and how many new members will be recruited as a result of this action?"

The single most important criterion for the retention of members in any organization is to meet the needs of the members. Retention begins the minute someone joins MPI.


It all begins with Membership and the sub-committees therein. Remember the four R's...Recruit, Recognize, Reward and Retain. We've all heard about the importance of a first impression. For that reason, I believe one of the most important committees within MPI is the Chapter Orientation Committee. In our own chapter, we take this opportunity to make our members and guests feel welcome. It also affords us the opportunity to give them an idea of what MPI is all about. We make them feel good about joining and at the same time motivate them toward getting involved in committee work. The opportunity to network during the meeting, enhanced by the Chapter's "Ambassadors" lends additional credence to the importance of getting involved.

The Involvement Committee is another critical committee with regard to Member Care. Committee members follow up on all new members and discuss involvement opportunities, including:

- Discuss different committees that they might be interested in
- Provide information on upcoming chapter events and meetings
- Confirm receipt of mailings/newsletters and chapter e-mails
- Answer questions/solve any problems
- Encourage meeting attendance

Successful committee work is the key to keeping members active. Recognizing that committee work is the purpose of the chapter's annual Awards Gala held each June. The committee that plans that event makes sure we properly recognize and reward our deserving members at this event.

This is the third and critical step in the four R's. MPI must complete this step to successfully RETAIN its membership. The International Awards Committee helps MPI chapters in their efforts to keep local members feel wanted, appreciated, respected and valued.

People will forget what you've said. People will forget what you've done. But people will never forget how you've made them feel. 



BOARD REPORT

By Randie Charnes
MPI D/FW Chapter Administrator

Membership:

Phone Blitz to survey 118 members regarding recruiting rewards and questions about the membership directory has been completed.

Two teams will be formed to assist with the Membership Directory and Needs Assessment projects. The committee will partner with the PR/Marketing Committee to discuss other options for the Chapter Directory (March-July) and consult with President Melissa Logar for direction on the scheduled Needs Assessment survey (March-July).

Programs:

VP Sherri Cook reviewed the Program Committee activities. Key points were:

- * Trying to secure sponsors for January chapter meeting
- * Several new members have volunteered for the program committee.
- * Need to fill some monthly program chairs

Nominating Committee:

The committee is formulating the nomination process for the 2004-2005 positions. There will be a sponsored reception for all candidates prior to the committee meeting, around the first of February. The reception will be for all interested candidates, including board members who are seeking to return to the board. The objective of this reception is to answer any questions candidates may have in an informal setting and to give the Nominating committee members an opportunity to meet each candidate.

"CURRENT" AFFAIRS

Our COTY Win #1: 1988-1989

Editor's Note: As MPI D/FW celebrates its 25th Anniversary throughout the 2003-2004 year, "The Current" marks this special time in our chapter's history by featuring comments from former presidents on MPI D/FW's past, present and future.



Bill Boyd, CMP, CMM, CITE
MPI/DFW Chapter President, 1988-89

Bill Boyd, CMP, CMM, CITE
Sunbelt Motivation & Travel

Winning the Chapter of the Year Award—a first-time win for our chapter-capped off my year as D/FW chapter president. I will never forget attending the international conference, sitting at the gala banquet with other D/FW chapter members, Mary Jo Malone on my left (D/FW chapter president-elect) and Greg Elam (a D/FW chapter past president) next to her. When the winning chapter announcement was made, I was so stunned I could not move! Mary Jo nudged me and practically bumped me out of my chair. Greg said, "Well, don't just sit there, go on up and accept the award!" Mary Jo, still holding her dinner napkin, and I went up on the stage to accept the award. No other detail about the acceptance of the award do I remember; the experience remains a blur to this day. I do recall that immediately after the dinner and ceremony we phoned at least twenty other D/FW chapter members, not the least of whom was Judy Love Bradley Rondeau, the chairperson of the submission committee (which meant she put the entire chapter application notebook together). That's how my term as president ended, but how it began was an important prelude to this event.

Our chapter board realized that in order for us to win the Chapter of the Year Award, we needed to get more than just the officers and board members involved during "our" year. We needed "infrastructure" and "volunteerism" in order to shine. So my year was punctuated with soliciting service from our members, with establishing committees and then getting volunteers to "step up to the plate" to fill the positions within those committees, and with organizational management in order to get the largest percentage of our chapter members involved in the chapter. The best board any chapter president could ever have—one that included future D/FW chapter presidents Mary Cowart, Phyllis Firebaugh, Judy Love Bradley Rondeau, Mary Jo Malone and Diane Smith, assisted me. The board successfully motivated 78% of our membership into action in 1988-89. And, I think, we all had a great deal of fun in the process.

As I think back to 1988 and try to remember our challenges, opportunities and successes, what immediately comes to mind are the differences between then and now:


- Registrations were handled by clipping a mail-in form from our newsletter or at the registration table on check-in. We had no web site to "click on."
- Chapter events were so much smaller. Our average attendance at a meeting was 100.
- The logistics for our meetings were much easier to

handle. We were not nearly as sophisticated as the events and meetings of our chapter today. The AV, if any, consisted of a screen and overhead projector. (PowerPoint had just been introduced in 1987!)

- The finances of the chapter were much simpler. Our little bank account hardly kept our treasurer busy, and the balance sheet was only a half page in length.
- The newsletter was on 17"x 11" paper, folded in the middle, and we had problems filling it with chapter news.
- Board meetings were casual events usually held at a member's home.
- Only twenty-five chapter members attended the Annual Conference when we won the Chapter of the Year Award and we thought that was a huge attendance. The number pales in comparison to how many of our chapter members attend international conferences today.

Throughout the term from June 1988 to June 1989, we enjoyed many successes leading up to the Chapter of the Year Award:

- That small group established the first Meeting Planning Course at Richland College, the precursor to the current Travel, Exposition and Meeting Management Associate degree program.
- Our chapter board set up the first joint volunteer program with Love for Kids in an effort to further our community involvement.
- Branching out from our regular monthly meeting (a scary prospect), we established, for the first time, four breakfast workshops. They worked and we continued them.
- Attendance at our monthly meetings increased as the year progressed because almost everyone was involved.

The D/FW chapter has come a long way since I was honored to serve the members as president, but it is gratifying to know that it has continued its winning tradition and is continuing to offer new and improved networking and educational opportunities for its membership. 



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Holiday Gala: Thursday, December 18, 2003 • 6:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY CHEER, AND SHOPPING TOO AT CHAPTER CELEBRATION!

'Tis the season, so mark your calendar for the MPI D/FW Chapter Holiday Gala, Thursday, December 18, at the Adam's Mark Dallas Hotel for a great evening of food, networking, entertainment and dancing.

The event begins at 6:00 pm with Holiday Libations and an opportunity for some last-minute shopping. During the reception hour, attendees may buy gifts, bid on silent auction items and purchase raffle tickets for a local weekend getaway. Our Holiday Shopping/Auction area will feature items, including handmade crystal wine goblets, a Hockey Stick autographed by Mike Modano and a Suite at American Airlines for one of the Stars or Mavericks games.

Please join us for this special evening as we reflect back on the year and celebrate with our industry friends and partners. Let this evening be the start to a wonderful holiday season with loved ones, friends and partners.



Be our Guest! MPI D/FW Holiday Gala Committee Members invite you to Celebrate the Season at this month's Chapter Holiday Gala. Pictured, l-r, are Holiday Gala Chair James Hardman (Adam's Mark Hotel Dallas), Lori Boccaccio (Adam's Mark Hotel Dallas), Patty Phelps (Outstanding Productions), Bruce Wolpert, CMP (Echo Consulting, Inc.) and O.D. O'Donnell (Nightlife Talent/Panache).



'Tis the Season

MPI D/FW CHAPTER HOLIDAY GALA

Thursday, December 18, 2003



adam's mark.

400 North Olive St. • Dallas, Texas • (214) 922-8000



6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Registration, Reception and Shopping

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Dinner & Holiday Program

8:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Dancing



Valet Parking - \$11.00

is available at the Main Hotel Lobby

Self Parking - Complimentary

available in the lot directly across from the Main Hotel Lobby

Advanced Member Price: \$45.00

Advanced Guest Price: \$45.00

Onsite Price: \$55.00

(Walk-in's May Be Placed On A Waitlist - Seating Is Not Guaranteed)



R.S.V.P. to Randie Charnes by 2:00 p.m., Monday, December 15, 2003
email: rcharnes@msn.com • fax: 972-506-7485

ON-LINE REGISTRATION PREFERRED

Go to the "Events" section at www.mpidf.org



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November Meeting Chapter Partners

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

Featured Speaker

Romona Riscoe
President - *Riscoe & Associates, Inc.*
4548 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139
215-895-4073

David Kliman, CMP
President - *The Kliman Group*
806 Butte Street
Sausalito, CA 94965
415-339-0237

Karen M. Garcia, CMP
Managing Director - Multicultural Initiative
MPI Foundation
4455 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75244
972-702-3047

Program Sponsor



Intercontinental Hotels Group
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terri.white@ichotelsgroup.com
972-335-8487

Facility, Reception, Luncheon



Crowne Plaza Dallas Market Center
7050 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, TX 75247
214-630-8500
Laura Strawn - Director of Catering
Joan King - Director of Sales & Mktg
Andre Martin - General Manager
Dean Gress - Executive Chef

November Chapter Meeting Highlights



Representing InterContinental Hotels Groups were, Front Row (l-r): David Griffith, General Manager, Crowne Plaza Addison; Julie Sykes, Associate Director of Catering, Crowne Plaza Addison; Laura Strawn, Crowne Meetings Director, Crowne Plaza Market Center; Veronica Torres, Sales Manager, Crowne Plaza Dallas Suites; Heather Cornwell, Catering Manager, Crowne Plaza Addison; Colleen Zihlman, Convention Services Manager, Crowne Plaza Addison; and DeeOnda Ahadi, Sales Manager, Crowne Plaza Houston Downtown. Seated (l-r): Joan King, Director of Sales & Marketing, Crowne Plaza Market Center and Terri White, Key Account Director, Global Sales, InterContinental Hotels Group. Top Row (l-r): Truett Pool, Hotel Manager, Crowne Plaza Addison; Helene Barnett, Sales Manager, The Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans; Michelle Hosey, Sales Manager, Crowne Plaza Houston Medical Center; Kristen Waddill, Director of Sales & Marketing, Crowne Plaza Dallas Suites; Angie Gadwood, Director of Sales & Marketing, Crowne Plaza Addison; Andre Martin, General Manager, Crowne Plaza Market Center; Joe Soto, Sales Manager, Crowne Plaza Addison; Adonia Beardsley, CMP, Crowne Meetings Director, Crowne Plaza Addison; Andrew Sultan, Director of Sales & Marketing, Crowne Plaza Houston Medical Center; Vanessa Kager, Sales Manager, Crowne Plaza Austin Executive Meeting Center.

Photos by Jim Woods
JWoods Photography



Thomas White (Dallas County Coach & Limousines) promotes the chapter-sponsored partnership with Toastmasters.



Facility I
(l-r) Laur
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Ducky Bobs

Leigh Stem
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7050 Stemmons
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Katherine Mathes
1937 Irving Blvd. Suite B
Dallas TX 75207
214-350-7787



s from the Crowne Plaza Market Center were
awn, Director of Catering, Joan King, Director
arketing, and Danielle Jury, Corporate Sales



Program Committee members were (seated, l-r) Carmen Mihelich (Richland College student), Laura Strawn (Crowne Plaza Dallas Market Center) and Sandi Galloway (Canadian Tourism Commission). Standing (l-r) are Brad Frazier (Wyndham Garden Hotel Dallas), M.T. Hickman, CMP, CTP (Richland College), Dr. Lawana Gladney, Program Chair P.J. Gonzalez, CHSP (Independent) and Jim Monroe, CMP, CSEP (James Monroe & Associates).



PI Multicultural Initiative was presented by the powerhouse trio of (l-r)
ia Riscoe, Chair of MPI's Multicultural Initiative Committee, Karen Garcia,
Managing Director of MPI's Multicultural Initiative Committee and David
, CMP, former MPI Chairman and President of The Kliman group.



Meeting Evaluation

COMMENTS BY SUPPLIERS

- This is an important initiative - hope the group meets all their objectives
- Positive: well organized and great idea on this new initiative.
Negative: Need to be careful how the speakers deliver the message - assumptions by another assumption.
I think this topic should be an educational session, not part of a monthly meeting

COMMENTS BY PLANNERS

- Objectives are great. Need to plan programs to help planners in dealing with issues.
- Great hotel - service and food awesome
- Based on the title of the program, did not expect a 30 minute overview of MPI's initiative - anticipated more in depth business studies/ applications.

COMMENTS BY GUESTS

- Educational - made me think
- My first meeting and first impression was great
I am delighted to witness the MPI multi-cultural program, coming from a different country and with no prior knowledge of the meeting, this initiative will do a lot for me, especially in education

<p>Photography JWoods Custom Photography Jim Woods 4907 Cedarbrier Drive Dallas, Texas 75236 214-395-5036</p>	<p>Meeting Copies Kinko's Inc. Liz Stelchek 3905 Oak Lawn #210 Dallas, TX 75219 214-505-7504</p>
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Tricks and Treats from the Halloween ‘WITCHING HOUR’

There weren't any witches flying around on Thursday, October 30, during the Chapter's Halloween Party at Kemp's Nightclub, but there were many laughs, great food and fantastic prizes for the more than 100 attendees who joined the party.

The Costume Contest was a howl, with awards going to Steven Flores of Eddie Deen's Ranch ("dressed" as "Velma" from the Scooby Doo gang), Steven Foster, CMP of Circle R Ranch in a ghastly appearance as Dr. Hannibal Lector from "The Silence of the Lambs" and Brooks Kendall of Ken-Ran Entertainment as a very tall Alien (and a dancing one, at that!).



"The Alien" aka Brooks Kendall (Ken-Ran Entertainment), took top honors for Most Unique Costume and was the evening's most sought-after dance companion.

Bobby Bradley of All-4-Fun LLC took home the \$500 Grand Prize cash drawing.

Thank you to all our Event Partners, including Hotel Inter-Continental, Kemp's, DJ Paul Andrews, Event Photography by Shane Varnell (sponsored by Ken-Ran Entertainment), Event Casino sponsored by Gary Peto and Shag Carpet, Casino Table sponsors Andrea True, Hilton Suites Dallas North; Jim Murdock, Hilton Lincoln Center; Kim Lowe, Del Lago Resort; Jean Buchanan, Renaissance Worthington Hotel and Jackie Devine, Marriott Hotels; Balloon Decorations by Paul Klipp, Allante Promotions, Inc. and printing by Sherman Sweeney, Williamson Express Printing and Tom Davies for Invitation Design.

Committee Members for the event were Tara Judd, Event Chair, Carol Benavidez, CMP, Danielle Bennett, Miranda Brown, Jan Gillin, Erin Lucia, Thomas White, Peg Wolschon, CMP and Bruce Wolpert, CMP.

Photos by Tara Judd, Imagine Events and by Laura Hallock, USA Hosts - Dallas



YouGoGirls! Patty Phelps (Outstanding Productions) and Erica Hesley (PGI) caught both the Halloween Spirit and Dance Fever.



Hannibal Lector and Fred Flintstone were one of the "Odd Couples" who made a scary appearance at "The Witching Hour." The chapter members "behind the masks" were Steven Foster, CMP (Circle R Ranch) and Thomas White (Dallas County Coach & Limousines).



Scooby-Doo, Where are You? The Murder Mystery Gang were, l-r: Steven Flores (Eddie Deen's Ranch) as "Velma", Laura Hallock (USA Hosts-Dallas) as "Shaggy", Bobby Bradley (All-4-Fun) as "Fred" and Suzi Morse (Southfork Ranch) as "Daphne."



Party-goers were welcomed at the registration desk by VP of Finance/Administration Carol Benavidez (HelmsBriscoe) in colorful "Flapper" attire and Chapter Administrator Randie Charnes.

EDUCATION NEWS

Advancing Women

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Ultimate Makeover by MPI D/FW - go to www.mpidfw.org for more information on this Program. WLI Monday Nights Networking Meetings are held monthly from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at Blue Mesa Grill-Addison.

CHAPTER TRADESHOW



DALLAS/FORT WORTH CHAPTER

Save the date!
Wednesday, February 18, 2004,
is the upcoming
MPI D/FW Chapter Tradeshow.

The event will be from
4:30 pm-7:00 pm
at the Addison Conference & Theatre Center.
Get more information on the web site,
www.mpidfw.org.

FUTURE CMP ACTIVITIES

January 26, 2004

MPI D/FW-sponsored CMP Intro Class

Place: Adolphus Hotel

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Cost: \$25.00

Register online at www.mpidfw.org, click on CALENDAR.

Have you been wondering about the CMP certification program and growing professionally? This is a great opportunity to discover the ins and outs of the CMP certification process and begin the first step in the process - filling out the CMP Application.

In order to qualify as a candidate for CMP Examination, an individual must have:

- A minimum of three years experience in meeting management
- Current, full-time employment* in a meeting management capacity (CIC will accept applications from applicants who have been unemployed for a period less than twelve (12) months from the date his or her application is submitted)
- Responsibility and accountability for the successful completion of meetings

The certification program requires a two-step process in which applicants (1) demonstrate via a point system their broad range of experience in the field of meeting management on the CMP Application, and (2) successfully complete a written examination covering the functions performed in meeting management.

CMP News

IMPORTANT CMP DATES

March 15, 2004

Due: CIC - CMP Application Due

Cost: \$150 fee

www.conventionindustry.org

February 23 - May 10, 2004

MPI D/FW-sponsored CMP Study Group Sessions
(10 sessions over this period)

Place: TBD possibly North Dallas area

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, weekly

Cost: \$80 MPI members

\$100 non-members

jcampbell@meetYourMarket.com (Jennie Campbell, CMP, CMM)

MFoxEDUC@aol.com (Marti Fox, CTC, CMP)

May 17, 2004

Due: CIC - CMP Exam Request Due

Cost: \$325 fee

www.conventionindustry.org

June 26 & 27, and July 10, 2004 (Tentative)

MPI D/FW-sponsored CMP University

Place: Adolphus Hotel

Time: Varies according to date

Cost: \$125 MPI members

\$150 non-members

jcampbell@meetYourMarket.com (Jennie Campbell, CMP, CMM)

MFoxEDUC@aol.com (Marti Fox, CTC, CMP)

July 24, 2004

CMP Exam in Dallas & Denver (WEC)

www.conventionindustry.org

For Further information on the CMP certification program, contact:

Jennie Campbell, CMP, CMM

Meet Your Market, LLC

PH: 817-654-3934 or 817-271-8630

jcampbell@meetYourMarket.com

CMP BOOT CAMP

Are you almost there and need a final push toward preparing for the CMP Exam? Come join us for CMP Boot Camp. Take sample tests, hear testing-taking techniques and learn from your peers.

The 3rd segment of the CMP University, sponsored by MPI D/FW Chapter, will be:

Date: Saturday, January 3, 2004

Time: 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Place: Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas
221 E. Las Colinas Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039

Hotel Host: Heidi Murray, CMP, Director of Conference Planning,
Direct: 972-869-5528, Fax: 972-869-9053
Room: tbd

Did you miss the first and second days of camp? You can still join us for the third segment - cost is \$75.00 for this day. Contact Marti Fox, CMP at MFoxEDUC@aol.com or 972-417-7232.



“WE WANT YOU!”



Betty E. Garrett, CMP
Nominating Chair



DALLAS/FORT WORTH CHAPTER

Nominations Process Begins Now

One of the most important functions of the MPI D/FW Chapter begins this month with the forming of the Nominating Committee to seek qualified members for leadership positions as officers and directors for the 2004-2005 chapter year.

This chapter needs YOU. Our chapter is built on conscientious, hard-working passionate volunteers. People like YOU are the reasons that D/FW is a great chapter and serves as a benchmark for other chapters. Everyone brings valuable, special gifts to this chapter through his/her volunteerism. If you have led in another organization, your community, your workplace or have always wanted to have a leadership role, this is the opportunity to try your skills in a supportive organization.

How does the process work?

Step 1: The Nominating Committee is formed with the Immediate Past President, Betty E. Garrett, CMP, serving as chair. The composition of the Nominating Committee is reflected in the Chapter's Policies. The Nominating Committee will be comprised of an equal number of planners and suppliers.

No member of this committee is eligible for election to the board. Both Chapter President Melissa Logar, CMP, and President-elect PJ Gonzales, CMP, will serve on the committee to provide insight on the coming Board year. And both will serve in 2004-2005, as previously elected.

Step 2: The Nominating Committee is to seek the input of the membership through the use of the insert "Candidate Interest Form." The committee uses this data to make an informed decision. Any member wishing to serve must complete the enclosed form and return it as indicated by January 22, 2004.

You can nominate yourself or identify a member you feel has demonstrated involvement and service to the Chapter, through a commitment to serve and lead. The Nominating Committee requests your help in developing a pool of outstanding candidates in order to create a strong slate of officers and board recommendations for the March 2004 elections.

There are some new and exciting changes relating to the composition of the Board that have been approved by International Chapter Leadership Committee (ICLC) and unanimously approved by International Board of Directors. All chapters allowing uniformity of all board positions and expediting communications throughout MPI are embracing these changes. The New Board of Directors is made up of 17 chapter members (seven officers: President, President-elect, Immediate Past President, Vice Presidents of Education, Finance, Membership and Communications, and ten board members: Leadership Development, Monthly Programs,

Professional Development, Special Events, Strategic Alliances, Recruitment, Member Care, Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations). Be sure to review the Candidate Interest Form for a synopsis of job descriptions. Active chapter members are eligible for 15 of the board positions, as 2003-2004 President Melissa Logar, CMP will become Immediate Past President, and President-elect, PJ Gonzales, CMP will be named 2004-2005 chapter president.

Step 3: The proposed slate and ballot will be presented to the membership as an insert in the February issue of the CURRENT along with a call for additional nominations.

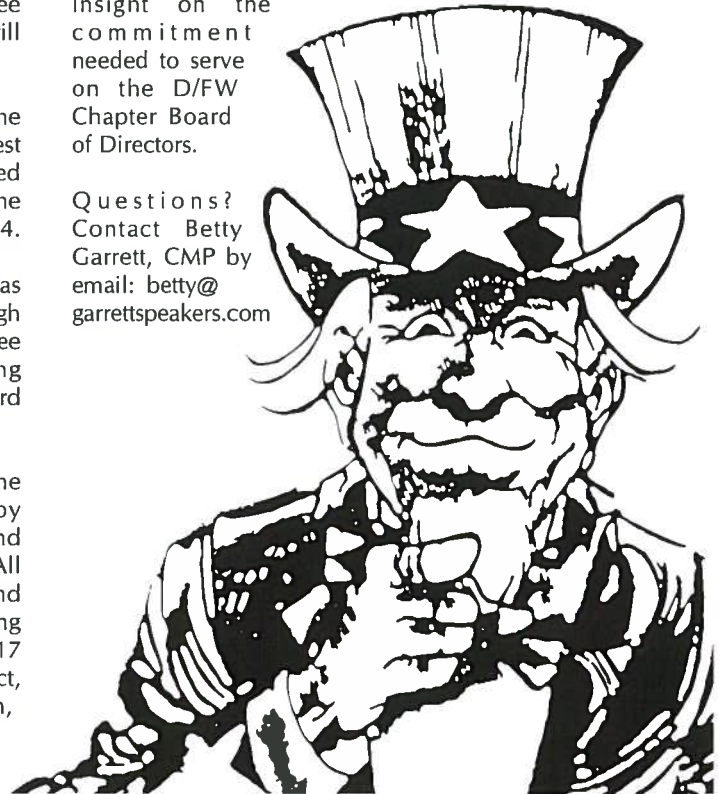
Step 4: The ballot and slate will be mailed to the membership on March 1; it must be returned by March 15, 2004.

Step 5: The new Board will be presented to the membership at the March Chapter meeting.

Involvement and Commitment: The Nominations process is so important and your participation is vital to ensure that we continue to secure qualified members to lead us.

Take the time to consider yourself and other members as potential candidates. Talk to current or past board members for their insight on the commitment needed to serve on the D/FW Chapter Board of Directors.

Questions?
Contact Betty
Garrett, CMP by
email: betty@garrettspeakers.com



MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Mericela Ruiz

THE NEXT GENERATION

TEMM Graduate Mericela Ruiz


"I knew I wanted to be part of hospitality industry, but I did not know how to get there," said Mericela Ruiz. I was a high school junior taking classes in tourism but did not know what the next step would be.

Ruiz, a Sales Coordinator for the Inter-Continental Hotel, began her journey of success into the Industry when she received an MPI D/FW Scholarship to attend Richland College to work on an Associate Degree in Travel, Exposition and Meeting Management. "At first I was so scared to leave high school and start college," she said.

"I am the first in my family to attend college so I did not want to disappoint anyone. With the help of my mentor, Pat Smith, and the encouragement of M.T. Hickman, I began to feel more confident about my abilities."

During her two years at Richland College, Ruiz volunteered for The Kids Charity Ball and the Granada Theater Grand Opening. She also was a member of the TEMM Travel Club and was instrumental in coordinating the International Bake Sale.

After earning her degree at Richland College, Ruiz received a \$2,000 transfer scholarship to work on a Bachelor of Science Degree in Hospitality at the University of North Texas. While a student there, she also received the 2000 Presidential Scholarship and two years later, graduated with honors. She recalls her most memorable highlights of college - attending the Hospitality Trade Show at the Jacob Javitz Convention Center in New York and completing an internship with the Inter-Continental Hotel."

"Through my education, I learned the importance of volunteering and giving back," she said. "Today, I am active with our hotel, participating in Oktoberfest and with the TEMM Alumni. I am also grateful to MPI D/FW for helping me achieve my dream." 



TECH TALK

LCoS Technology

Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCoS) technology is similar to LCD in that it uses a liquid-crystal imaging device. But like DLP, LCoS reflects rather than transmits light. The light from the lamp is split into separate colored light streams by a polarized beam splitter, just like LCD, and is then reflected by an LCD imager that changes reflectivity in accordance with the signal level. The light streams are then recombined and projected.

There are two primary benefits of LCoS technology. LCoS has the highest fill factor of the three main digital projection technologies. It also has the highest resolutions. This combination of high fill factors and high-resolution combines to give LCoS images a very smooth, integrated appearance.

There are three main disadvantages of LCoS technology. While LCoS has good contrast, it's not as good as a single-chip DLP because there are three light paths and three imagers. LCoS solutions are more expensive than comparable LCD and DLP projectors. LCoS projectors aren't available in packages less than 10 lbs., which has kept them out of the portable markets.



Alainna Palmer, CMP
'Grapevine' Columnist



Leah Belasco
'Grapevine' Columnist

Heard it through the Grapevine!

Gary E. Hammond, CMP has accepted a position with the *California Society of CPAs* as associate director of member relations. His final day with the *Texas Society of CPAs* was November 14th.

Congratulations! **Lisa Hagerty** with *Hilton Dallas/Park Cities* celebrated the birth of her daughter, Makena Louise Fisher, on September 22nd.

Celebrity Sighting....Almost! During the MPI International Awards Committee meeting held last month at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, comedian **Sinbad** was mistaken for chapter member **Steve Kemble** by a hotel greeter. Seems as if both Kemble's and Sinbad's limos pulled up to the hotel at the same time. Sinbad did a "double-take" when Kemble stepped out of his car and correctly identified himself to the staffer. We can only guess if the incident made it into the comedian's lounge act later that night. Joining Kemble in New Mexico for the International Awards Committee meeting were fellow MPI D/FW chapter members **Steven G. Foster, CMP** (*Circle R Ranch*) and **Dvorah A. Evans, CMP** (*Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce*).

*Merry Christmas MPI! Let's all remember the real reason for the season.
May you and your families be blessed this holiday!*

To submit your member information, please contact:
Alainna Palmer, CMP • alainnapalmer@comcast.net • Fax 972-377-6513
or Leah Belasco • 972-818-4811



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