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Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

April 2007

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

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**For Up-to-date
Chapter Information
& Calendar of Events**

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Vision Statement

To be the pivotal force in positioning meetings and events as key strategic components of an organization's success.

Mission Statement

To be recognized as the leading global membership community to shaping and defining the meeting and event industry.

Career Success Can Be Planned...Sort of

by David DuBois, CMP, CAE, President and CEO of the Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau



Twenty-nine years ago, I was a fresh-faced graduate of The School of Hotel Administration at Michigan State University. I soon started my first job in hotel sales and marketing. My confidence couldn't have been higher as I donned my reversible vest and coordinating polyester suit and took my first steps into the world of cold calls and drop-by sales meetings.

Since then, my confidence has remained, but the circa 1980 wardrobe has been replaced with nicer suits and cowboy boots. And, instead of making cold calls, I am directing the hospitality industry sales and marketing efforts for the City of Fort Worth.

So, what does it take to accomplish this career transition and can it be planned? My answer to you is, "sort of."

For me, my career accomplishments were not achieved because I was able to map out each step on my career path. It is due to my ability to build on each step, which lead and guided me on my journey.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." I couldn't agree more, as learning from each experience and gaining knowledge have been the key to effectively managing my career transitions and making organizational changes as a leader.

These professional skills were honed during my tenure with PCMA and MPI. Serving as Executive Vice President of MPI Foundation and President and CEO of PCMA, my time at each organization was rewarding, and I am grateful for the experience gained while there.

During that time, I achieved my CMP and CAE certifications, which helped establish and build my credibility. Additionally, I took professional development and continuing education courses, allowing me to grow professionally and personally. All of this assisted with my preparation for my latest endeavor as president and CEO of the Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau.

What I have learned since starting this job in January is that Fort Worth is now the 18th largest city in the United States, the 9th safest, and one of the fastest growing in the nation. The landscape of the city changes daily and developments in Fort Worth's hospitality industry are helping to carry the city in a very positive direction.

Known for its mix of "Cowboys and Culture," is a top-draw destination for regional, national and international conventions and leisure travel.

When the Washington Post ranked Fort Worth as one of its top 10 "hot destinations," they discovered something we've all known here for years - that Fort Worth is a world-class city that has become one of the most attractive meeting locations in the nation. We recently completed a \$75 million renovation and expansion of the Fort Worth Convention Center, which is now one of the most flexible and useful meeting centers in the United States.

In late 2008, we will open the doors to the new Omni Fort Worth Hotel in downtown adjacent to the Convention Center. The new Omni joins our other fine hotels, meeting sites and attractions, plus the most exciting and pedestrian-friendly downtown district you'll find. And, D/FW International Airport is only 17 miles from downtown Fort Worth and offers thousands of direct flights daily.

As you can see, career planning is certainly a combination of skills, planning and sometimes...pure luck. 

Chapter Meeting • April 26, 2007 • 11:00 a.m. • Renaissance Worthington Hotel



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President's Message:



Interact, Inspire, Innovate...

2006-2007



Sally Goldesberry, CMP, CMM
2006-2007 President

Hello Chapter members. My message this month is to share information about the importance of our MPI Foundation and what the Foundation provides for our chapter.

The success that the MPI Foundation achieves every day for MPI members would not be possible without the generous support of individual donors. MPI chapter and corporate sponsors. On behalf of the MPI Foundation, I'd like to thank each of YOU for your belief in the Foundation's valuable work.

This year, over \$1 million in new funds have been raised through the Foundation. The MPI Foundation re-invests directly back to us.... The MPI Members. Our individual success is our ultimate goal. Several new Foundation fundraising initiatives have been launched over the past year, including the Texas Hold 'EM event during the WEC in Dallas and at the PEC-NA in New Orleans which, thanks to Foundation contributions from MPI members, raised over \$150,000.

MPI Foundation Chapter Liaison Council, made up of Past Presidents from each MPI Chapter, has also been successfully created to help broaden the fundraising efforts of the Foundation. It is important that I communicate to you the value of the Foundation to our chapter members. Without new initiatives and an emphasis on fundraising, the kind of support that the Foundation delivers to MPI members and chapters would not be possible.

The MPI Foundation has invested over \$11 million (since 1984) into education programs, research and initiatives that benefit the MPI membership, such as the Chapter Leadership Conference, the Women's and Multicultural Initiatives, MPI Foundation/George P. Johnson EVENTVIEW research, the ROI II/Measurement Systems Platinum Series program, MPI Members Solutions, the Culturactive Tool, the Convention Industry Council APEX program and MPI Scholarships.

The Foundation's theme for this past fiscal year has been the "The MPI Foundation Year of the Chapters." This focus allows the Foundation to invest significant financial resources into our chapters and members....especially considering over 75% of our members never even get the opportunity to attend valuable MPI international conferences. The Foundation fully believes that education and networking opportunities must take place at the chapter level. Consequently they continue to offer a vital Chapter Grant program.

The Foundation and MPI aim for one common goal....to provide knowledge, networking and marketplace opportunities that will enable EACH OF US TO DEFINE and EXPERIENCE OUR OWN ULTIMATE SUCCESS.



Canada
keep exploring

A Special Thank You

The MPI D/FW Chapter wishes to thank the Canadian Tourism Commission and their Partners for sponsoring our March monthly program speaker Laraine Kaminsky, an MPI International Platinum Series Speaker!



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Bedford Wynne

Here We Grow Again!

by Bedford Wynne, VP of Membership

MPI D/FW Chapter membership and retention are at an all-time high! Dallas is second in the nation (Chicago is first) for retention. Chapter members: Your recruiting efforts are fundamental to the success of the chapter and your support is paying off!

As of February 2007, we're at 944 members...WOW!

DALLAS/FT. WORTH CHAPTER

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Jan.	Feb.
Total	886	894	886	889	889	895	913
New	36	22	11	13	14	18	26
Renewal	36	36	30	48	52	45	43
Reinstates	0	2	2	0	1	3	2
Cancels	20	14	27	11	15	12	7
Retention	72.96%	73.54%	75.13%	76.10%	75.96%	75.79%	78.49%
Planner Members	407	419	409	407	403	410	419
Supplier Members	460	456	455	460	462	461	468
Student/Faculty	019	019	022	022	024	024	026
Total	886	894	886	889	889	895	913
Subscriber Members	023	023	023	023	025	028	031
Grand Total	<u>909</u>	<u>917</u>	<u>909</u>	<u>912</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>923</u>	<u>944</u>



Evya Richards, CMP

Membership Focus

by Evya Richards, CMP, KPMG LLP

I've been a member of MPI since 2000. When I first joined MPI, I honestly didn't know much about the industry, much less know many people within the chapter. I remember coming to a few monthly chapter meetings and felt very lost. Finally, I had the good luck to meet Sue Fry. At the time I met Sue, she was working at the Belo Mansion. I don't remember the circumstances in which I met Sue; it just seems now that I've known her forever. She told me to stick with her and she would introduce me to everyone. ...And if you know Sue, you know she did just that! She appointed herself my "ambassador" and


just by hanging out with her for one afternoon, I was able to go to the next month's meeting and, with confidence, walk up and introduce myself to people. It only takes one person to impact another person's confidence in our chapter-and my "cheerleader" was Sue!

Now, seven years later, I have made numerous friends in the chapter. MPI is important to me professionally and socially; the people in our industry truly enjoy what they do! My personal experience is that my chapter colleagues are very giving about sharing knowledge and don't mind spending time to help you at all.

In 2005, I set a goal to study and sit for the CMP exam and to join at least two committees. Initially, I was overwhelmed just completing the CMP application! So, I reached out to the chapter and any opportunity I had, I would ask for advice. Every person I reached out to was willing to share information, experiences and just support my goal; be my "cheerleader" if that's what I needed - (Marti and Robert...Thank you!)

I understand that on occasion you may wonder what you get out of joining MPI. For me, it's been an integral part of my life both educationally and socially. I'm fortunate that I work for a meeting services department (at KPMG) where the director in my department champions my involvement in MPI. If your manager doesn't truly understand what you could possibly get out of MPI, consider bringing them as a guest to a couple of meetings so they can "see" what's so wonderful about our organization.

There are so many organizations available for us to belong to and support. My specific area of focus is planning for accountants. I liken what I get from MPI to be just as important to my education as CPA's get from their professional organizations.

So, the next time you wonder if you should renew your membership, I hope your answer is a resounding "YES," because MPI truly is an organization made up of people who will always be available to help whenever you need it...you can feel the passion for what we do is just so exciting you just have to be a part of it. 



DEFINING THE POWER OF MEETINGS™

Founded in 1972, Meeting Professionals International, with nearly 20,000 members in 60 countries and four chapters in formation, is the leading global community committed to shaping and defining the future of the meeting and event industry. For more information, visit www.mpiweb.org.

CURRENT

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Strategic Meetings Management - April Meeting

by Kim Reynolds, MA, CMP, CMM



**Kim Reynolds,
MA, CMP, CMM**

Open any meetings trade publication and you are bound to see an article on Strategic Meetings Management Programs. This hot topic continues to gain awareness among all levels of planners and their supplier partners. But why is this vital program to our industry?

Since 2002, the industry has seen an increase in Meetings & Travel spend, global business environments have evolved - due in part to the Sarbanes-Oxley corporate governance - and corporations have begun looking meetings as another tool to achieving goals.

Defined by MPI Global Corporate Circle of Excellence as *"an inclusive approach that maximizes quality and service at an affordable price by consolidating best practices processes [that] will integrate meeting planning into a company's larger strategic and business goals."* The program focuses on synergistic collaboration and consensus designed to integrate significant cost savings, cost avoidance incorporate risk management, and ensure liability reduction.


In response to this changing climate, Meeting Professionals International (MPI), and National Business Travel Association (NBTA) has each subsequently created a series of white papers on Strategic Meetings Management Programs. In March 2004, NBTA Groups & Meetings Committee recognized that success in the travel arena could be duplicated in the meetings and event arena and began issuing white papers from *Framework for Success: Strategic Meetings Management Programs*. In June 2005 MPI Global Corporate Circle of Excellence authored *360 Degrees of Influence: Demonstrating Professional Value through the Development of a Strategic Meetings Management Program*. This paper "articulates the eight-critical steps to creating a successful Strategic Meetings Management Program" Today, both associations continue to write numerous white papers on this subject. Most recently at the July 2006 annual World Education Conference in Dallas, Texas, MPI offered a six-course session on the eight-steps to creating a Successful Meetings Management Program. Since the publishing of both sets of white papers, companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Pfizer, American Standard, Honeywell, Cisco, Coca-Cola, Xerox, Allergan and Adecco have implemented strategic meetings management programs.

But why is this important to you? The October 9, 2006 issue of Business Travel News reported that Adecco, with an estimated 2006 meetings spend of \$2.2 million, saved more than \$200,000 in the first half of the year on meeting expenditures. Likewise, Pfizer reported in the October 1, 2006 Fortune 1000 Focus that they have "slashed an average 19% of corporate meeting sourcing expenditures since implementing their plan." This is important because recent industry trends continue to indicate that increased hotel occupancy is resulting in higher demand for hotel rooms and increased pricing, we are in a suppliers market and successful planner/supplier partnerships are more important than ever. According Smith Travel Research in a January 2007 article in the Meeting Manager, the average daily room rate has gone from \$82.71 in 2002 to \$90.88 in 2005 followed by a \$6.10 increase in 2006. In major sought-after destinations, such as Miami, the rate climbed from \$103.52 in 2002 to \$128.64 in 2005. According to American Express and Meeting Professionals Internationals 2007 Future Watch, spend per meeting is expected to increase 4% over 2006.

Similar to American Express outlook, Business Travel News Online predicts corporate room rate increases are expected to be as low as 5.25%, with gateway cities reaching into the double-digit percentage increase. Likewise, Smith Travel Research expects rates to go up at double the rate of inflation at 6.5% increase in 2007. American Express is forecasting a rise in room

rates in key US Cities such as New York as much as 18%. Hotel rooms are not the only major area that will see increases in 2007. American Express Business Travel forecast prepared by Advisory Services shows a 3% to 5% increase in domestic short-haul flights and a 3% to 7% increase in long-haul international flights. In Canada, fares are expected to rise 0-3% for domestic routes and 4% to 6% for international routes.

With available hotel inventory at a current all time low and prices expected to continue to increase in 2007 and beyond, the combination of these increases will result in a comparable rise in the managed and unmanaged meeting spend within organizations. In order to counteract these increases a collaborative effort between Purchasing and /or Corporate Travel and a Strategic Meetings Management Program should be evaluated.

Please join us for the April meeting as we discuss the key components of Strategic Meeting Management Program with Susan Lichtenstein, Vice President Corporate Markets, Experient, Inc. Susan currently manages the Strategic Meetings Management Executive sales team and sits on the NBTA Meetings and Group National Committee, is current the co-chair of the Management Strategies Committee and is an active member of MPI New York chapter. 



MPI D/FW CHAPTER Celebrates 30 Years At the June 28th Gala

by O.D. O'Donnell

Have you saved the date June 28, 2007? You don't want to miss this year's Awards Gala! Not only will you be well entertained, you'll learn a lot about our chapter's history during the evening.

Have you ever wondered who the members are that have been with the MPI D/FW Chapter the longest?

Ellen Beckert with the Freeman Companies will be celebrating 30 years with the MPI D/FW Chapter. She is followed by Suzy Oliver with Challenge Management, who has been a very involved member of the chapter for 29 years. About a month after Suzy joined the Chapter, Greg Elam with Solution House became the male member that has been with the chapter the longest. About a year later Bill Boyd, CMP, CMM, CITE of Sunbelt Motivation and Travel joined making him a 28 year member of our chapter.

Here's another interesting tidbit of information: It may interest you to know that the Rocky Mountain Chapter was the very first chapter chartered.

Now, I have a question for you to answer if you can... Can you tell me which of the four members mentioned above went on to become the CEO of MPI International?

Chapter Meeting • Thursday, April 26, 2007 • 11:00 a.m.

Strategic Meeting Management

Speaker: Susan Lichtenstein
Vice President Corporate Markets, Experient, Inc.

Strategic Meetings Management is shifting our role as logistic planners out of the Meetings Business and into the Business of Meetings.

In today's marketplace the Business of Meetings is becoming more and more strategically aligned to the organizations overall goals and objectives, planners are playing an important role in reaching these goals and taking a seat at the table.

During this valuable program, you will learn about the Strategic Management of Meetings related to the processes, spend, volumes, standards and supplier partners as a tool to provide expense reductions that have focus in improving the bottom line. Relevant to all levels of planners and their supplier partners, this topic explores the shift in the way we think and do business.



Susan Lichtenstein

Host Facility

The Renaissance Worthington Hotel

Marriott International Names Renaissance Worthington
"Full Service Hotel of the Year"
Venerable Hotel in Fort Worth Nabs Top Honor
for the Third Time in Five Years

The Renaissance Worthington Hotel, the only three-star, AAA four-diamond hotel in Fort Worth, is pleased to announce that it has been selected as 2006's "Full Service Hotel of the Year" by Marriott International Worldwide. Bestowed during an awards dinner at the company's annual general managers meeting last month, this is the third such honor that The Worthington, which celebrated its 25th Anniversary last year, has received since 2002 - an unprecedented achievement within the Marriott family of hotels.

"To be recognized by peers for our work and success in 2006 is a tremendous honor, particularly since our efforts were awarded at this level in 2002 and 2005 as well," said Robert L. Jameson, the hotel's general manager, who was joined by top Marriott International leaders in accepting the honor. "To be presented this award so many times in just a few short years represents a real accomplishment for the hotel's staff, reflecting our continued commitment to outstanding service and quality."

DIRECTIONS

From D/FW Airport:

Take the South Exit to 183 West to 121 South. Follow 121 South to downtown Fort Worth. Take Belknap Exit, go 1 mile, turn left on Houston. Turn right on 2nd Street. Take a right on Throckmorton and the garage entrance will be on the right.

To get to Valet Entrance:

Turn left on 2nd Street and the Hotel will be on your left

IMPORTANT PARKING NOTE:

The Parking Garage (now under construction, entrance on Throckmorton) may or may not be available on April 26. If it is open, you must park in the garage to receive complimentary parking (with MPI validation).

If the garage is closed, valet will be complimentary (with MPI validation).
If the garage is open and you choose to valet, the rate is \$16.

Strategic Meeting Management

Thursday, April 26, 2007



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- 11:00 am - 11:30 am Chapter Orientation
- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm Registration & Reception
- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Luncheon and Program

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in the parking garage.**

Advanced Member Price	\$38.00
Advanced Guest Price	\$43.00
Onsite Price	\$48.00

(Walk-ins will be placed on a wait list on-site. Seating is not guaranteed after the guarantee cut-off - Monday 2:00 p.m.)

R.S.V.P. ONLINE

by 2:00 p.m., Monday, April 23rd

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

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

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Laraine Kaminsky
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Out of the Garden

Photography

Jim Woods
J Woods Photography

March Meeting Highlights

by Sherry DeLaGarza, CMP, CMM
MAC Meetings & Events LLC

Our guest speaker, Laraine Kaminsky, enlightened members and guests on what is needed to become a culturally-competent meeting professional, during her luncheon keynote presentation at the fabulous Gaylord Texan Conference Center on March 22nd. The attendees were provided with statistics regarding the globalization of our own backyard here in Dallas/Fort Worth, as well as pointing out that certain colors and numbers have particular meanings in different cultures. Kaminsky encouraged us to be "comfortable with the uncomfortable" and always be willing to increase our "cultural curiosity" when working with cross-culture clients. Look for a complete recap in next month's issue of the Current, when a more in-depth review of Kaminsky's eye-opening presentation will be featured.

Kaminsky is an MPI Platinum Speaker and the program was presented by the MPI D/FW Chapter Multicultural Initiative Committee. The speaker was sponsored by the Canadian Tourism Commission and Partners. A "grande" thank you to our March meeting sponsor, the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, who brought numerous hotel property partners to the meeting and generously donated eleven prizes, including overnight stays at several of their incredible hotels.

March Program Committee members were: Jayna Monroe, Chair - JCM Special Events; Tina Bavemark-Society of Petroleum Engineers; Leah Belasco-Independent; Karen Brack-TEMM Student; Angela DeLaGarza-Event Source Professionals Inc; Sherry DeLaGarza, CMP/CMM - MAC Meetings & Events; Camille Gilmore - Venture2 Hospitality Services; MT Hickman, CMP/CTP - Richland College; Tara Judd - Imagine Events; Jim Monroe, CMP/CSEP -JCM Special Events; and Bill Reeser, CMP/CTS - AVW Telav.



Nancey Hernandez, CMP, presented Patty Markley, CMP with the Spirit Award in recognition of her contributions to the chapter's marketing & communication efforts!



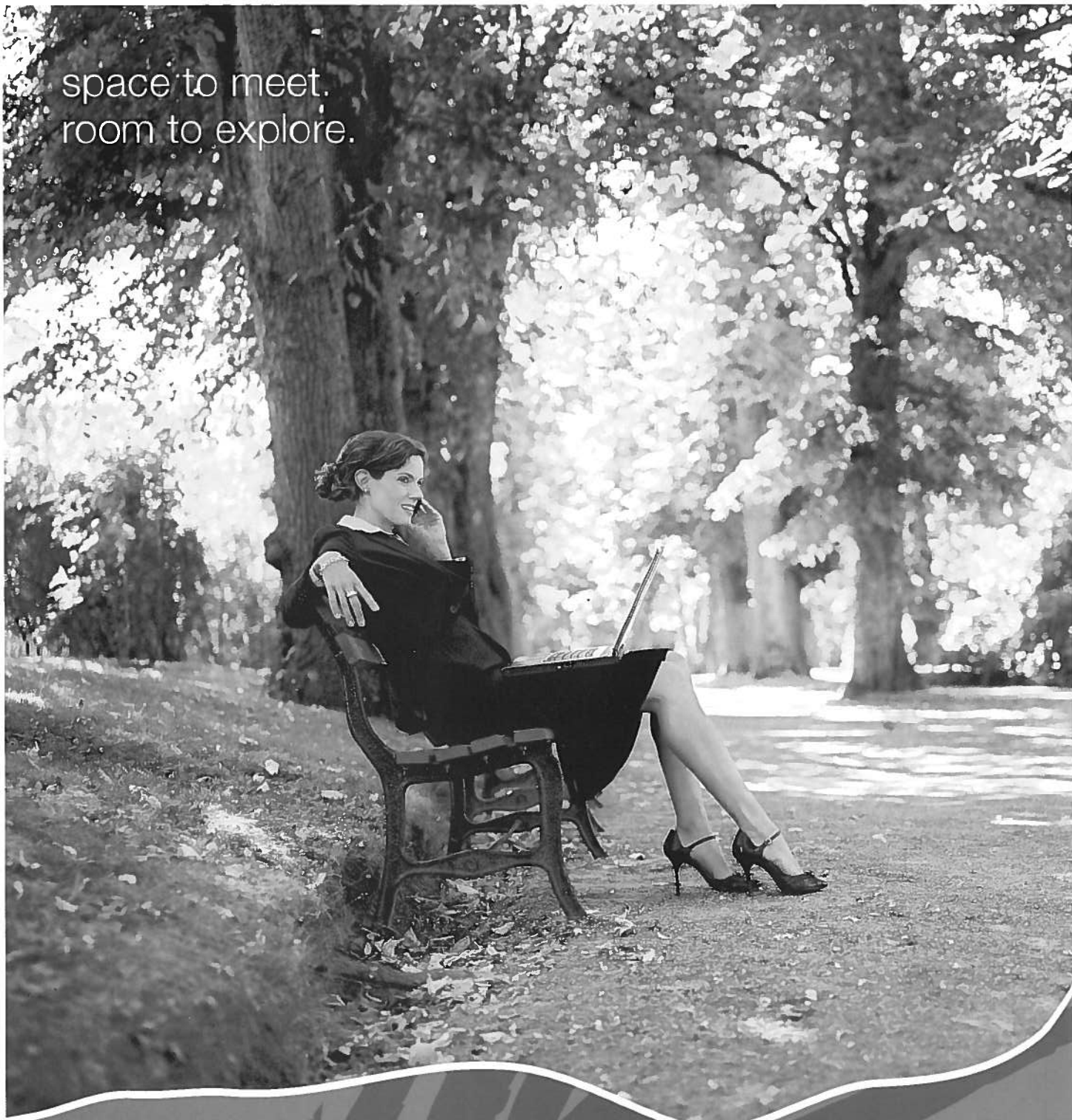
Thank you to Puerto Rico CVB, our March Program Sponsor! From left to right: Dyhalma J. Torres (Puerto Rico Convention Bureau) Karla Mora (Puerto Rico Convention Bureau), Gail McClurkan (Ritz Carlton San Juan Hotel Spa & Casino), Maria Machado (Normandie Hotel), Mireya Aragon (San Juan Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino), David Lopez (Caribe Hilton), Frances Pyatt (Intercontinental San Juan Resort & Casino), Claudia Aguas (Martineau Bay), Yeiza Figueroa (Embassy Suites Hotel & Casino) and Janet Pulis (Holiday Inn San Juan)



The March Program Committee produced a magnificent educational program! From left to right: Camille Gilmore, Karen Brack, Bill Reeser, CMP, CTS, Sherry DeLaGarza, CMP, CMM, Guest Speaker Laraine Kaminsky, Program Chair Jayna Monroe, Jim Monroe, CMP, CSEP and Leah Belasco

Woods
Photography
Photos by Jim Woods

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room to explore.



www.meetings.canada.travel



EDUCATION NEWS

"NAVIGATING THE DANGER ZONE"

A workshop to be presented in May 2007

Sponsored by the D/FW Independent Meeting Professionals Consortium

Navigating the waters of working with others can be treacherous. You may think you can swim on your own; but, when you can't, who can you trust when you begin to sink? Who shares your business values and views on ethical behavior? And, if you find yourself in an under tow, what recourse do you have?

Join DFW Independent Meeting Professionals (DFW IMP) as they openly discuss industry case studies; share best practices and lessons learned; and brainstorm solutions with colleagues; and then hear a corporate attorney's point-of-view on where to draw the line in the sand with a client or vendor to maintain your reputation and avoid legal action.

This program is beneficial for planners and suppliers as we look at:

- **areas where we can get in trouble** (i.e. using the term "Partnering," marketing, proposal sharing, and price fixing);
- **what we need to protect** (i.e. proprietary information, relationships, property); and
- **ways to avoid or resolve ethically questionable situations.**

Every table will have an experienced business owner as a facilitator who will guide the intense conversations. Be prepared to ask questions and/or share your expertise! More details to come in the May issue of *Current*.

Roundtable Navigators: DFW Independent Meeting Professionals consortium, formed in 2001 - Current professionals: Carol Boyd, CMP C. Boyd Meetings & Events; Tony Cummins, CMP, Hotel Resources; Charlotte Davis, CMP, Event Source Professionals, Inc.; Anne Findley, CMP, Plan-It Services, LLC; Mike Fernandes, CMP, Site Selection Services; Marti Fox, CTC, CMP, CMM, GlobalGoals, Inc.; Cindy Gromatzky, CMP, CMM, Meeting Innovations, Inc.; Dara Hall, CMP, CMM, Event Source Professionals, Inc.; Lynn Lewis-Bjostad, CMP, Premier Meeting & Event Mgmt.; Erin Longley, CMP, XcelEvents; Lisa South, CSEP, CMP, CMM, Be-Seen, LLC; and Diane Smith, CMP, CMM, Global Meeting Concepts, Inc.

Mark Your Calendar!

9th Annual
CMP/CMM
Celebration Achievement!

The Breakfast of ChAMPions

Date: Thursday, June 7, 2007

(Please make note that this year's event will take place on a Thursday rather than on a Friday)

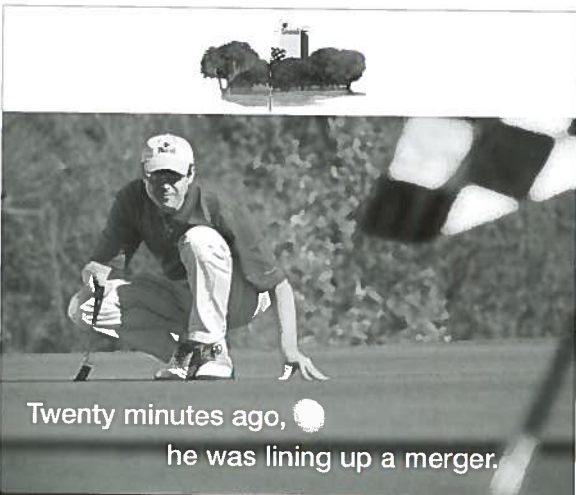
Time: 8am-10:30am

Event: Breakfast

Location: The Belo Mansion

Have you moved or changed positions since last year? Please help us keep your contact information updated.

If you have a new position, address, phone number and/or email address, please contact Leah Belasco at 972-818-4811

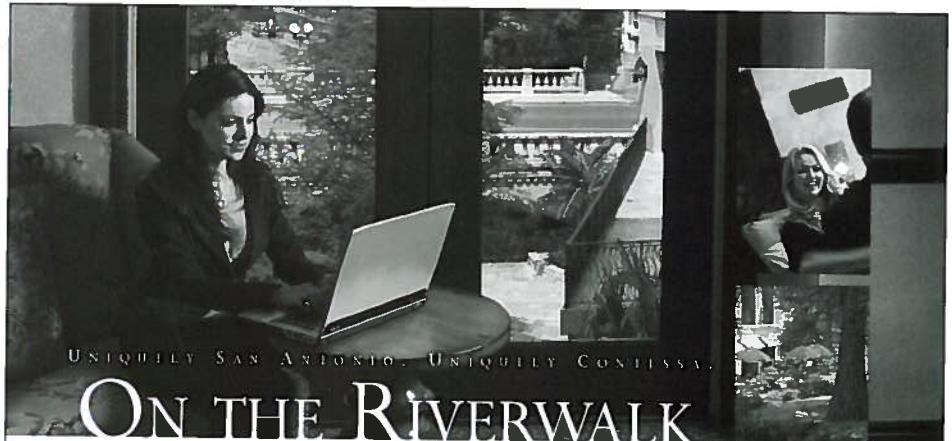


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Advancing Women

MPI D/FW Chapter Women's Leadership Committee

Gail Evans from CNN is coming to Dallas!

by Lori Clark, *BostonCoach*

Save the date and keep your calendar open for Thursday, May 24th, 2007!

The Women's Leadership Committee is hard at work to bring you another action packed day of education and information. Gail Evans, who retired from CNN after 21 years and is one of the most successful and influential women in the workplace, will teach and train us about women in the workplace.

Her book "Play Like A Man, Win Like A Woman" has been a best seller around the world. Her most recent book, "She Wins, You Win" will be given to each participant. This grandmother of 5 promises to be one of our best speakers this year!

...On another note, have you taken a look at the goals you set for yourself this year?

Now is a good time to review Q1 and see where you excelled and where you might need some fine-tuning. The beauty of goals is that you're in control...they can be changed and modified as the year progresses to ensure you're staying on top of your goals but also giving yourself flexibility to welcome new opportunities that come your way that might alter your strategy to get where you need to go!

Personally, as a working mom with three kids, I set a goal to be home more in the evenings. Does anyone know how hard this is in our industry? Well, it sure forces you to think through decisions that involve evening commitments. One solution to my MPI involvement is on the horizon. Your leadership team is developing a monthly meeting that will allow you to attend one meeting, on one evening and benefit from the involvement of several committees. Keep an eye out for these changes. 🌐



The Fort Worth CVB Invites You To Stay After the April Monthly Program!

Planners: Join us for a "Mini-Fam" Tour of Fort Worth.

Time: 1:45pm-5:00pm

Departure Location: Renaissance Worthington Hotel (Meet in the main lobby)

We will visit the Cultural District, Historic Stockyards and finish up in Sundance Square featuring the Fort Worth Convention Center and all of our new hotel openings and new special event venues. We will complete the tour with a reception in Sundance Square from about 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please RSVP directly to Barbara Stone with the Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau by April 23, 2007

Telephone: 817.336.8791 ext. 213

Email: barbarastone@fortworth.com

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BENCHMARK HOSPITALITY INTERNATIONAL

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Carrie Elder, CMP

Newer Member Networking Event

by Carrie Elder, CMP

Are you new to MPI and want to see what all of the fuss is all about?

Have you been a MPI member for a couple of years and still haven't gotten involved? Have you wanted to learn more about the chapter but didn't know how to make that happen or who to talk to?

Then we have the perfect opportunity for you!

Date: April 24th

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Location: Dave and Busters
(Stemmons)



Join us for a networking opportunity that was created just for you! It can be challenging to find your role in large organizations at times and the D/FW chapter is committed to ensuring that no one feels overwhelmed and that everyone gets the most out of their MPI membership.

We want to make a difference to you! Register online at mpidfw.org



Leah Belasco
'Grapevine' Columnist

Heard it through the Grapevine!

Congratulations and best wishes to **Peg Wolschon, CTP, CMP** and Jim Lubnieski on their March 3 wedding in Phoenix. We wish them continued happiness and good health.

Carole May, CTC, CMP, has joined the sales staff of the *ETC Group* in Arlington.

Jane Richards, representing *Cowboys Golf Club*, received the Mailman Award for Tournament Salesperson of the Year 2006 for "delivering the difference" for 3 consecutive years for *Eagle Golf Management Company*.

Sherry DeLaGarza, CMP, CMM, received the Mary Margaret Fore Alumna Service Award for Region XII of Delta Zeta sorority. At the February 10th awards ceremony, Sherry was recognized for continued commitment and dedication for service in the sorority.

Lauren Fouke has joined *Y.O. Steakhouse* in the West End as Sales Manager. Lauren is the daughter of chapter member **Sandie Fouke** (*Mansion on Turtle Creek*).

Congratulations to **Diane Steele, CMP, Experient, Inc.** on receiving the "2006 Top National Account Manager Award."

A Note from Leah:

Our industry certainly does present unexpected experiences! While I was attending the wedding festivities of my niece March 9-11 at the *Wyndham St. Anthony* in San Antonio, I was in the hotel lobby greeting who I thought were members of the groom's family...But, surprise to me! Turns out I was welcoming catering executives who were in town to attend a NACE Regional weekend retreat, hosted by the St. Anthony's Sonya Villareal, Director of Catering and John Rowe, Director of Sales. Since Sonya was handling my niece's wedding weekend and knew I had a fast-paced agenda, she was gracious to invite me as her guest to the only NACE event I had time to attend, which was the Saturday afternoon wine tasting, sponsored by Jerry Edwards, CPCE of Centerpiece Wines NAPA. In turn, I invited some NACE wedding planners to "peek" into my niece's events! My thanks to Sonya and John for providing such awesome services and making me feel at home away from home!

To submit member news and information, please contact:
Leah Belasco • 972-818-4811

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Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Kristas Baird.....Medtronic Neurologic Technologies
Karen Beck.....NCH Corporation
Mark Brown.....The Summit Ballrooms
Jenny Burnside.....Cisco Systems, Inc.
Elysse Burrow.....1st Global
Katie Day.....Meritage Events
Tierney Epstein.....SDMS
Michelle Grissman.....Amerisuites HHistoric
Erika McMinn.....Northeast Tarrant
Richard Mitchell.....etc group inc
Barb Reynolds.....Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Amy Shackelford.....City Club of Fort Worth
Holly Swanzy.....Eventlink International, Inc.
Joe Vanden Heuvel.....Hyatt Regency Dallas
Rashida Williams.....Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.



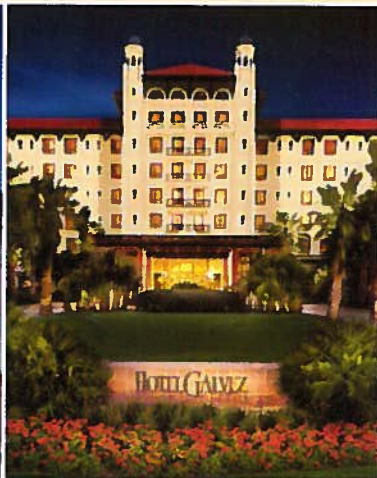
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