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Chapter Mission and Goals

Our mission is to enhance the knowledge and expertise of government meeting professionals. Our objectives are to improve the quality of, and promote the cost effectiveness of, government meetings. SGMP is the only national organization in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to government meetings.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

GREEN MEETINGS

Location:
Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center
3100 Town Center Trail
Denton, TX 76201

Presentation by Guest Speaker Arielle Rice, Followed by Panel Discussion
A Message from the President…

By: Cymbre Kooker

Celebrating New Members!

As we get ready to enter into the season of celebrating holidays, we also have something else to celebrate – new members to our North Texas Chapter!

I am excited to announce our chapter has gained quite a few new members recently. I love it when people new to SGMP join our membership to learn more about the government meetings industry. Navigating the specific requirements of planning events for government entities can be challenging, especially when each government agency has different processes and policies to follow. SGMP membership helps to understand the DOs to avoid some of the headache and heartache of learning about the DON’TS the hard way.

So the next time you are at our monthly gathering and you see someone you don’t recognize, give a little “whoot-whoot!” and introduce yourself. We want to show our new members we are excited they have joined us and we celebrate the knowledge and input they bring into our chapter.

Speaking of new members…

Our family has been celebrating the arrival of our sweet daughter Gwendolyn Kooker. She was born at 10:30pm on September 4, 2018 (on her due date). She weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces, and she was 21.25 inches long. Just thought I’d share that celebratory news! *giggle*
Are you sweating, and on pins and needles???

Wondering how to fill your banquet space and hotel rooms over the Holidays?

If this is you and your hotel.. I recommend buying an ad to showcase you’re property and any specials you have on our SGMP website. It’s simple and easy to do..

North Texas SGMP Newsletter Advertising Pricing & Specifications

The ad size is based on pricing:
- Full Page $100.00 or $400 per year
- Half Page $75.00 or $250 per year
- Quarter Page $25.00 or $100 per year
- Business Card $25 or $75 yearly

Website Banner Ads
- Full Year $350.00
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- Half Page Horizontal 4.75 x 7.25
- Quarter Page 4.75 x 3.5
- Business card ads 2.25 x 3.5
Planners = 9  
Contract Planner = 3  
Suppliers = 11  
+ Other = 2 (Retirees)  
**Total Membership =** 25

**Prospects:**
Marquis Baskerville: Texas Initiative Program  
David Ramcharan: Crowne Plaza Dallas Near Galleria – Addison  
Matthew Trevorrow: Lincoln Centre

**New Members:**
David Ramcharan – 7/28/2018  
Arielle Rice – 7/9/2018

**60 Days till renewal:**
Robert Williams- 8/31/2018  
Cymbre Kooker- 9/30-2018  
Staci McAllister- 9/30/2018  
Lori Foret- 9/30/2018

**Dropped:**
Nicole Flick- 5/31/2018  
Ryan Russell- 5/31/2018  
Maritess Salazar- 6/30/2018

Planners = 8  
Contract Planner = 4  
Suppliers = 13  
+ Other = 2 (Retirees)  
**Total Membership =** 27

**Prospects:**
Matthew Trevorrow: Lincoln Centre

**New Members:**
Markee Baskerville – 8/30/2018  
Dave O’Lenick – 9/26/2018  
Matthew Trevorrow- 9/14/2018

**60 Days till renewal:**
Lori Lortscher- 11/30/2018  
Kayshu Archangel- 10/31/2018  
Franklin Terry- 11/30/2018

**At Risk:**
Lori Foret- 9/30/2018

**Dropped:**
Maritess Salazar- 6/30/2018  
Robert Williams- 8/31/2018
Chapter Thanks
By: Cymbre Kooker

Words of Wisdom

“Life and business is like the changing seasons. You cannot change the seasons, but you can change yourself. Therein lies the opportunity to live an extraordinary life, the opportunity to change yourself.”

-Jim Rohn

A fantastic thank you goes to the Holiday Inn Tyler - South Broadway in Tyler, TX for FULLY SPONSORING our July Retreat and board meeting on **July 7, 2018**!!! We truly appreciate the reduced room rate offered to attendees because of the distance from DFW. We are thankful for the last minute accommodations and the delicious breakfast and buffet lunch. Thank you for so generously supporting our chapter!

SGMP is all about making connections, and this one is a special one. Because of the focus of their business, this property is a member of one of our sister chapters within our SGMP region. However, this property is geographically closer to our chapter, so their Sales Manager has become an active participant in our meetings and efforts. We appreciate the opportunity to get to know members of sister chapters and be an outlet of connection for fellow SGMP members.

We extend a hearty thank-you to the Embassy Suites by Hilton Dallas Love Field in Dallas, TX for hosting our September 13, 2018 meetings! We appreciate the great food, service, and amenities offered to our chapter and our meeting attendees. Way to excel!
North Texas Board Bytes

By: Staci McAllister

July Meeting
This is our Annual Board Retreat in Tyler, Texas. Cymbre will be adding the upcoming meetings to the calendar on our website. We will continue to have members give a 5 minute “testimonial” during networking time before chapter meetings, explaining how SGMP membership is valuable to them and their employer. Those members will be given 6 raffle tickets as an incentive. As a Board, we decided to increase the fee for the monthly meeting by $5.00 making it $15.00 for Planners and $25.00 for Suppliers.

August Meeting
During the August meeting, it was discussed with National our Chapter’s financial trouble. Cymbre created an email that we asked Michelle Milligan and Carolyn Barrett their thoughts in order to present to our Chapter to inform them as well.

September Meeting
Shamillian Mathis “stood in” for our Chapter President, Cymbre Kooker, as she is on Maternity Leave. Our Chapter ratings are “Meeting Expectations” and “As successful.” A winner was chosen for the fundraiser of “Ride in a Racecar.” Ruth and Shamillian will continue with the “call blitz” to push membership.
September 2018 Meeting Recap

By: Rhonda Wise

SGMP Mystery Theater —
Grace Nied, CGMP, was our speaker and did an excellent job, as usual. Listening to everyone talking, I think we all learned something during the meeting. Grace showed us how to maneuver through the National SGMP website and the local chapter website, giving us lots of information about our organization.

These are some of the things we learned, just by looking at the national website:

- SGMP’s national organization was founded in 1981.
- The purpose of the organization is to improve knowledge and expertise of individuals in the planning and management of government meetings through education and industry relations.
- There are 22 chapters across the country.
- The 2019 SGMP National Conference will be held June 25-27 in Detroit, Michigan.
- The Gilmer Institute of Learning is the educational arm of SGMP, providing training, resources, certifications, and scholarships to the national conference.
- CGMP stands for Certified Government Meeting Professional. There are currently 4,730 CGMPs nationwide!
- Topics for monthly programs are selected from nine government meeting categories or core competencies.
- At least six of the monthly programs each year must be on meeting planning topics; the remainder can be personal or career development.
- The requirement that the organization have more planner members than suppliers is stated in the national bylaws.
- You can get a membership application form from the chapter or national websites.
- Current annual membership dues for government planners is $55.00 and for suppliers is $400.00.

If you log into the website with your login and password, you can search through the entire membership for any member within the organization.

Moving on to the chapter website, we learned:

- The North Texas chapter was chartered in 1987.
- The North Texas Chapter meeting is held the second Thursday of the month unless announced otherwise.
- The meeting registration fee for planners is $15.00 and for suppliers is $25.00.
- Registration for chapter meetings can be done by clicking on the link in the email notification or through the chapter website. The chapter’s website address is www.sgmpnorthtexas.org.
- The chapter’s newsletter, the Meeting Professional Perspective, is published quarterly.
- Typically, the raffle drawing is the last even of our meeting.
- When a supplier fully sponsors a monthly meeting, they cover expenses for the meeting space, parking, all food and beverage, and audio-visual equipment.
- We currently have 28 members.
- The national organization returns a portion of the chapter members’ membership dues to the chapter, which is known as revenue sharing.
- At the June meeting, we present awards to chapter planner and supplier of the year.
- As a community involvement project in February, we sign Valentine cards that are distributed to Veterans at the VA Hospital.
- Planners and suppliers are urged to donate items for the silent auctions held in June and December and for monthly raffles.
- Money collected through monthly raffles and silent auctions goes toward educational programs and scholarships to assist our members attend the national conference.

Board members serve a two year term and the next election will be held in 2019.

Did you know the chapter and national websites were so full of information? Most members don’t. Take a look and see what you can learn! Learning more about our organization and our chapter and getting more involved will be a greater benefit to you as an individual and to your organization.
You will soon see a few “honorary members” at our meetings who will be seated in prime spaces for maximum visibility. They have agreed to attend our gatherings to assist in our current financial situation. We do not know how long they will be attending our meetings, but we do know the more we interact with them and feed them, the shorter their stay will be.

Who are these mystery individuals?

[Que spotlight] Ta dah!

These piggy banks are hungry for tidbits of change. All it takes to keep them content is checking change bowls, vehicle consoles, coin pouches, and pockets for a few morsels to drop in their backs. A few coins or small bills here and there may not seem like much, but if we all pitch in to keep these pig-gies fed, they will be oinking happy thanks and our chapter will once again grow financially strong.
A Note From National

By: Jackie Fenwick, Membership Manager

SGMP is launching two membership initiatives with some great incentives for individuals and chapters!

Expand Your Circle This Year
SGMP’s Superheroes Circle is back this year, and we hope to have even more Superheroes join the ranks! It’s easy to join; simply refer a friend or colleague!

After they type your name into the membership referral field, we’ll be able to add you to the Superhero ranks AND send you this year’s commemorative Superheroes Circle pin to wear to SGMP meetings and events. We had 96 Superheroes Circle members last year. Help us exceed that record this year!

In addition, the top supplier and top planner with the most new member referrals will each receive a complimentary NEC 2019 registration, Superhero cape, and more. Learn more.

Drive Momentum with SGMP
Recruiting potential members also will help your chapter! Building on the success of last year’s fall chapter recruiting campaign, we have a new theme this year: “Drive Momentum with SGMP.” Chapters that recruit new members and/or submit their best retention idea by December 30, will be in the running for one of four prizes.

Prizes will be available for the top three chapters with the highest net percentage membership gain by December 30. They include a NEC registration for a planner ($405 value), $300 stipend for chapter programming, and $150 stipend for chapter programming. New this year, a “Best Membership Retention Initiative” Award will be offered to one chapter which will receive $500 for chapter programming.

Connect with Us
Help us drive momentum with SGMP and connect fellow government professionals to our Society. Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter and #JoinSGMP #DriveMomentum #GovernmentMeetings. Thank you for your partnership and please be in touch with us at membership@sgmp.org or 703-549-0892 if we can be of service to you and your chapter.

Jackie Fenwick
Membership Manager
Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP)
membership@sgmp.org
Semi-Annual Silent Auction: Dec. 13, 2018  
By: Ruth Bilbo, Special Projects Chair

Plan on joining us Thursday, December 13th for the meeting of the North Texas Chapter of SGMP; along with networking and education we will have a Silent Auction. Donations are appreciated: hotel stays, home baked items, creative home decorations, wine, and baskets. All money generated at the silent auction go towards supporting the chapter and providing scholarships to SGMP educational conferences. Plan on attending and donating! Support your Chapter!

If you have an item or items to donate, please contact Ruth Bilbo at rbilbo@magnoliahotels.com or call 469-587-3741. Donation forms will be sent out via e-mail soon.

CHAPTER CHALLENGE

SGMP requires chapters be as close to a 1:1 ratio of planners to suppliers. We currently have quite a few more suppliers than planners, so your chapter board is issuing a CHAPTER CHALLENGE for our November and December meetings!

Register your guest by the deadline and bring the non-member Planner to the November 8th or the December 13th meeting and receive the following incentives:

November 8th—6 free raffle tickets  
December 13th—a tasty treat homemade by your Chapter President
WANT TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?

BENEFITS:
• Shows involvement in your chapter.
• Helps with eligibility for awards such as New Member Award, President’s Award, etc.
• Helps your chapter members know you better.
• Adds one more positive notch in your resume.

If you are interested in writing an article for one of our newsletters, please contact Communications Chair Staci McAllister at staci.mcallister@fda.hhs.gov.

The Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) was founded in 1981 and is the only national organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to government meetings. SGMP is a non-profit organization of nearly 3,000 members in 30 chapters who are involved in planning and executing government meetings. Our mission is to enhance and promote the expertise of government meeting professionals. We accomplish our objectives—to improve the quality of and promote the cost-effectiveness of government meetings—through education, resources, and networking.

For more info, visit www.sgmp.org.
CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

2017-2018

Cymbre Kooker is a Consumer Safety Technician with the U.S. FDA. She has been a North Texas Chapter member since September 2013, and Chapter President since June 2015.

Cymbre enjoys posting photos from chapter meetings on the chapter’s Facebook page to promote SGMP through social media. Her goal is to promote the SGMP North Texas Chapter in DFW and in the SGMP community to spread the SGMP mission of Education, Networking, and Resources for increased benefits to planners and suppliers.

Franklin Terry has resigned from the position of 1st Vice President.

This position is currently vacant.

If you are interested in becoming an officer/board member of the North Texas Chapter, please send an e-mail to Cymbre.Kooker@fda.hhs.gov. You will receive information about the duties and approximate time involvement required for this position.

Shamillian Mathis is an Account Executive for Hilton Worldwide Sales. She has been a member of the North Texas Chapter since December 2013 and 2nd Vice President since June 2017. She currently oversees the Hospitality and Membership Committees. She is looking forward to continued growth, networking, and development through her involvement with SGMP. Her goal is to help promote our chapter locally and nationally, to grow our membership, and to serve our community.
CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

Ruth Bilbo works for the Magnolia Dallas Park Cities and has been a member of the North Texas Chapter of SGMP for over 10 years, serving in various board positions. Currently she handles Special Projects as well as the Membership Committee. Her goal is to support the efforts of the chapter to grow our membership, remain financially strong, and enhance the quality of education at the monthly meetings and to serve the community where we live. Serving the SGMP chapter has been very rewarding both professionally and personally.

Staci McAllister is a Consumer Safety Technician for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in Dallas District Office, Investigations Branch. She started her FDA career in January of 1992 at the Center for Devices and Radiological Health in Silver Spring, MD and transferred to the Dallas Office in September of 1995. She has been a member of SGMP since August of 2013 and Secretary since June 2015. Some of the goals she would like to see within our Chapter would be to increase in member size and more participation in

Rhonda Wise has been a member of SGMP since 1995 serving in various capacities on the local chapter board and has served on every committee within the chapter. She served as a Trustee on the Gilmer Institute of Learning as well as serving on several national committees. Rhonda was the 1st Vice President on the National Board from 2011-2013. She has received the following awards:

- SGMP Sam Gilmer Planner of the Year – 2010 (national award)
- Chapter Planner of the Year – 2005, 2003
- Chapter Shining Star Award -- 2000
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- Business card ads 2.25 x 3.5

Distribution
- 3rd Quarter
- 4th Quarter

Advertising Artwork deadlines
Please contact Staci McAlister, 214-253-5259, staci.mcalister@fda.hhs.gov