

Capital Events



Special Interest Articles:

- Holiday Charity Event
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"Holiday Charity Event"

Children's Home Society submitted by Dr. Gabrielle

Thank you for all of your generous donations at the 16 December 2008 Holiday Charity Event to benefit Children's Home Society of North Florida! SGMP members brought many toys and requested items including clothes for young girls, aged 7-15, who have to give up their clothes to evidence when they are given an exam after being abused. The donated clothes will help them so they can leave the facility in clothes rather than in medical gowns. Christopher Decent, Director of Development for the Children's Home Society of Florida, North Central Division, accepted the gifts and spoke about the thousands of children that the organization serves from adoptions to foster parenting to emergency shelter services to advocacy.



Thank you Jennifer and Joseph for sponsoring our Holiday Charity Event. We look forward to you becoming a member of the Florida Capital Chapter. Everyone enjoyed pasta, chili, cold cuts, veggies, and sweet things during the evening.

Children's Home Society of North Florida
Florida Capital Chapter Charity



"Remember Cookies for Santa"
to you from the mystery writer

Jennifer Dawson (right) and Joseph Wells (left). Sponsors, Residence Inn Universities at the Capitol





President's Message – Ellen Sliger, Florida Capital Chapter President

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! What a year it has been. The chapter has seen several changes. Change is good; it brings in new and fresh ideas and challenges. We will continue to grow and strive for the Best SGMP Chapter!

Thank you to all that have helped the Chapter throughout the year. It is less work with many volunteers. I look forward to next year and getting to know the members better. What better way to get to know someone than to work with them on a committee. So, check the list and see where your interest is and volunteer.

I hope you all have a very Happy Holiday season and be safe wherever your travel brings you. Remember to take time to enjoy yourself and friends/family. See you in 2009!!!

Charity – A Message from President and CEO, David A. Bundy

The following message is from President and CEO David A. Bundy and sheds more light on how your donations will help this compassionate organization:

The children and families we serve are as complex as they are unique. Few require only one service; most need a myriad to help overcome the challenges that brought them into our care. At CHS, we understand the special circumstances each child, parent or caregiver faces, and our caring professionals tirelessly devote their days to ensure every single person counting on us – from infants to grandparents – receives the services he or she deserves.

Never easy, our efforts are often hampered further by complexities of “the system” that seem to be grudgingly accepted by most child welfare organizations. It takes tremendous diligence to push through the barriers that stand between our clients and the resources they so desperately need. Though we’ve learned to navigate complicated bureaucracies and access various funding silos, we still have a long way to go. That’s where our advocacy agenda comes into play.

Ultimately, we’d like to see a change in funding streams to address multiple challenges facing most struggling families. Presently funding is built around individual issues such as homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence and unemployment, making access to resources difficult for trained professionals and virtually impossible for inexperienced individuals. Our long-range goal is to improve the way society cares for our vulnerable children and families by affecting systemic change.

But as Florida endures a tough financial climate, we recognize that maintaining current funding levels is the most pressing challenge today. Though we will not lose sight of the larger goal to ultimately ensure that more children are safe, healthy and prepared for life, we’re presently working on many levels to keep children’s issues in the forefront of the legislative arena.

Through our increased statewide advocacy efforts, we are raising the visibility of CHS and telling the stories of children and families whose lives we’ve changed. Time and time again, our clients have persevered through tough times, risen above challenges and thrived to become productive and successful. They are resilient and inspirational. They just need someone to care...they need an opportunity.

Thank you for caring and for enabling us to create opportunities. With community support and resources, we find more loving families, prepare more teens for independence, and teach more mothers how to care for babies. Our compassionate volunteers and dedicated staff share an unwavering commitment to improve the system. Like you, each has a heart and a passion to serve children and families. I thank you for sharing in our success, for opening your heart to the young ones we serve.

(message from <http://www.chsfl.org/message-ceo.php>)

SGMP Board

Ellen Sliger
President

Arlene Roberts
Immediate Past
President

Amy Brown
First Vice President

Chantale Acacia
Second Vice President

Claire Smith
Secretary

Suzanne Kelly
Treasurer

Directors:

Suzy Keenan
Karen Lambert
Marcia Burks

Committee Reports

There will be a committee list at the meetings for members to volunteer. Please check the committee list to the right and see where you think you would like to assist or be a committee chair. We need more than one or two people on these committees. We need your ideas on how to make things grow and move in the right direction. Contact someone on the board if you have questions regarding these committees. WE WANT YOU!!!

There will also be board positions to fill. Our Nominations & Elections will start soon after the new year for the July 2009 – June 2011 term. Think about becoming a board member. Call and talk to current board members if you have an interest.

We still have a need for our monthly Food For Thought. Submit your favorite recipes for everyone to enjoy.

Committee Chairs

Archives
George Fong

Community Service
Suzanne Kelly

Honors & Awards
Arlene Roberts

Member Services
Marcia Burks

Membership Recruitment
Marcia Burks
Arlene Roberts

Membership Retention
Arlene Roberts

National Conference
Arlene Roberts

Programs
Gloria Marion-Smith

Publications and
Communications
Arlene Roberts

Special Events
Ellen Sliger

Food for Thought

Merry Christmas Cheer!

Take a smile – a hug – a kiss!
Wrap them all and make a wish!
Christmas time is here again!
Bringing cheer to all that's near!

Remember those in your heart!
Your mind – your soul – and your thoughts!
Keep your family safe within!
And friends forever here again!

Merry Christmas Cheer to All This Year!



**SGMP Florida
Capital Chapter**
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Florida 32302

If you have an article
you would like to
submit, please
contact
Arlene Roberts,
Publication
Committee Chair,
According to Policy: The
newsletter will be used to
promote chapter matters only.
The newsletter will not be used
to promote a member's
business or hotel site.



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.sgmpfl.org

National's Web Site

www.sgmp.org

Membership Report

As Of Our 12/9/08 Report
56.7% Planners
43.3% Suppliers
Govt. Planners – 46
Contract Planners – 4
Suppliers – 39
Assoc Suppliers – 1
Educator/Student - 1
Retired – 7
Total Members - 98

Looking Ahead

National Conferences:
May 13-16, 2009
Louisville, KY-The Galt House
May 19-22, 2010
Kansas City, MO -The Hyatt and
The Westin at Crowne Center
June 8-11, 2011
Norfolk, VA -The Sheraton and
The Marriott Waterside

About Our Organization...

The SGMP Florida Capital Chapter chartered June, 1989 with 35 members. The chapter offers a variety of services to its members, including monthly educational programs, leadership opportunities, social activities and a strong code of ethics.

Mission Statement

The Society of Government Meeting Professionals is a national organization dedicated to improving the knowledge and expertise of individuals in the planning and management of government meetings through education, training, and industry relationships.

January Membership Meeting “Conference Support Services”

Tuesday, January 20, 2009
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Ramada Conference Center
2900 North Monroe Street

Sponsored by
Kissimmee CVB

RSVP
Janet Jones
jjones@floridakiss.com

Monthly Board Meetings

The Board meets the same day and place as the membership meeting beginning at 4:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend, and minutes are available upon request.

A Need to Know – Upcoming Programs

January 20 – Conference Support Services
February 17 – Street Management
March 17 – Getting More Done with Less
April 14 – C G M P
May – No meeting due to the National Conference
June 16 – Honors & Awards Banquet
July 14 – Meeting Technology
August 11 – Silent Auction
September 15 – Effective Leadership
October 20 – Fright Night/Supplier Appreciation Dinner



**ELLEN SLIGER, PRESIDENT
FLORIDA CAPITAL CHAPTER**

