

February 2011
Volume 8, Issue 2

Capital Events



Special Interest Articles:

- Norfolk's Meeting Planning Treasures

Website/Newsletter
We have room -
Remember to buy
your AD for the
Web Site and
Newsletter



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REMEMBER
To Mark the ballot
with **YOUR VOTE**
during the
National Voting
Process in
March



"Uncovering Norfolk's Meeting Planning Treasures"

When the upcoming national conference of the Society of Government Meeting Planners is held in June, a pirate's trove awaits for meeting goers. LaNedra Carroll, presenter at the Feb. 15 SGMP Florida Capital Chapter meeting, said Norfolk, Va., the national conference host city is rife in national treasures, man-made treasures and, most certainly, meeting-planning treasures. "They say that 'Virginia is for Lovers,'" Carroll opened. "While I don't feel equipped to speak on *that* subject, I am happy to share some interesting facts about Norfolk -- a 400-year-old seaport is one of Virginia's largest incorporated cities -- has seven miles of beautiful Chesapeake Bay beachfront. It is also considered the cultural, educational, business and marine center of the Hampton Roads area. Norfolk is a city of about 242,803 residents that boasts of more than 100 diverse neighborhoods. The city has a little bit of everything sprinkled throughout the mermaids, the giant ships, lakes, rivers and bay."

Carroll, marketing coordinator for Florida A&M University's Division of Continuing Education, shared details and photographs about Norfolk before asking the body break into groups for just-for-fun quizzes about the topic and a few SGMP facts.

Norfolk, the city that was founded in 1862, Carroll said, grew up to become home to the world's largest naval base and one of the busiest international ports on the East Coast. It is the hangout for more than 130 mermaids, which can be spotted from downtown to the ocean. (The city's logo is a mermaid). She said the city can also boast of having a naval museum, numerous fountains, a Botanical garden, the Crispus Attucks theatre, the Virginia Zoo and so much more.

According to Carroll, Norfolk is also listed as one of the Top 10 markets for business relocation and expansion. She reported that USA Today has called Norfolk one of the Top 10 booming downtowns.

The city is a meeting planner's gem: Norfolk's cruise port is located in the center of the "booming downtown," where the newly constructed, \$36-million, 80,000 square foot Half Moon Cruise/Celebration Center sits on the Elizabeth River. The Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau says more than 3,000 passengers regularly dock at the downtown pier. Additionally, the Waterside Convention Center has 60,000 square feet of meeting space, 45 conference rooms and the capacity for more than 2,000 theatre-style seating.

From tug boats to cruise ship; from an abundance of trees to the Botanical Gardens; from meeting space downtown to nearby universities; and, from memorable views from sunset to sundown with a backdrop of lakes, rivers and beaches, Norfolk's treasures are there for all to see.....in June.



Left, President Amy Brown with our sponsor, Mayelin Reyor (right)

Our host for the evening, represents the Hilton Miami Downtown. Mayelin had a display of food that included a carving of turkey, cheese, crackers, fruit, meatballs, and yummy sweets.

Thank you for your continued support.

"Your VOTE is your VOICE"
to you from the mystery writer



President's Message – Amy Brown, CGMP, Florida Capital Chapter President

I attended the planning meeting for the SE Region Education Conference in Daytona Beach, FL this month. All five chapters had representatives present to plan a truly awesome conference for your region. The conference will be held at the Shores in Daytona Beach and the Theme is "Respect the Past, Embrace the Day, Race to Tomorrow". The event page for the conference will go live soon. I will let everyone know when registration is available.

The March program will be given by myself, I will be presenting "10 Excel Secrets Every Planner Should Know". So bring your laptops, it will be a fun interactive session. You will earn 0.125 CEU Credits and enhance your job skills!

Ms. Jenny Dawson of the Courtyard by Marriot will be sponsoring this meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone there for this exciting event.

Also National and Chapter elections are being conducted next month. Make sure you vote and make your voice heard.

Remember SGMP is here to serve you, so "Connect to Government meetings - Plug into SGMP"!

Please do not hesitate to e-mail me BrownA@doacs.state.fl.us or call me (850) 617-7510 with any of your suggestions, questions or concerns.

Thanks again for your valuable support and encouragement.

SGMP Board
Ellen Sliger
Immediate Past
President

Claire Smith
First VP

Marcia Burks
Second VP

Chris Schuh
Secretary

Joice Ventry, CMP
Treasurer

Directors:
Retha Nero
Janet Roach
Arlene Roberts

Website/Newsletter Ad:

Don't be left out - great space is available!

March Membership Meeting, sponsored by Tallahassee Capital Courtyard by Marriott

Tuesday, March 15, 2011
RSVP – www.sgmpfl.org

Remember to RSVP and pay on-line to save time at the meeting.

Membership Report

As Of Our 1/2011 Report
56.7% Planners
43.3% Suppliers
Planners – 72
Suppliers – 55
Not including retirees or
Educators/Students

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.

Looking Ahead – National Conferences

June 8-11, 2011 - Norfolk, VA
May 16-19, 2012 – New Orleans, LA

A Need to Know – Upcoming Programs

February 15, Uncovering Norfolk's Meeting Planning Treasures
March 15, Ten Excel Secrets Every Planner Should Know
April 19, The Cost of Doing Business
May 3, Supplier Appreciation
June 14, Honor and Awards Banquet

Committee Chairs

Archives, George Fong
Community Service, Gabrielle
Honors & Awards, Arlene Roberts
Member Services, Melissa Jackson
Membership Recruitment and Retention, Lydia Southwell
National Conference, Amy Brown
Programs, Gloria Marion-Smith
Publications, Arlene Roberts
Special Events, Karen Lambert
Sponsorship, Claire Smith
Fundraising, Joice Ventry
Web, Janet Roach

About the 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.



February Charity

Our January Family Charity Still in Need

Adriane Stephens and her family are still in need of several things. They especially need a couple beds along with all the bedding (sheets, blankets, pillows, etc). They need towels, cooking pots and pans, as well as the many items you and your family are comfortable with every day. Any assistance you can give is greatly appreciated.

If you have clothes you do not need or wear anymore, remember her family when taking these items out of your closet. Here is a list of the children's names and clothes, shoe sizes.

Keyshawn, size 5, shoe size 12.
Rayshawn, size 7, shoe size 13
Markuis, size 12 shoe size 2 ½
Tytianna, size 10, shoe size 3 ½
Tyrell, size 10, shoe size 4 ½
Sharod, size 12, shoe size 6 ½
Kovarious, is 16 years old and wears a shoe size 11 ½

You can drop off item donations to the Adriane Stephens family at the Community Action Partnership office at 309 Office Plaza Drive in Tallahassee.

Thank you for your continued support of our chapter's charity each month.

**Remember to place your ad. We will display this in the
monthly newsletter and on our web site.
We have the space waiting for you!**

Florida Hotel and Conference Center

DISCOVER FLORIDA'S MOST CONVENIENT HOTEL!

LOCATED AT THE FLORIDA MALL, THE 511 ROOM FLORIDA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER OFFERS AMENITIES NOT AVAILABLE AT MOST HOTELS – INCLUDING IN-ROOM SPA TREATMENTS, AND A STARBUCKS IN OUR LOBBY. LOCATED JUST MINUTES FROM THE ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THE ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER, AND WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT, WE ARE AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING THERE IS TO DO IN CENTRAL FLORIDA!

E-MAIL MARCIA BURKS @ mburks@thefloridahotelorlando.com

Florida Hotel and Conference Center

**1500 Sand Lake Road
Orlando, Florida 32809
407 816-5071 direct line
407 855-9863 fax**



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION
Submitted by Retha Nero

The second New Member Orientation followed the membership chapter meeting on February 15th at the Duval Hotel, Tallahassee. It was evident that the participants gained a lot of information after taking the pre-test/post-test. A power-point presentation was facilitated by the Membership Chair, Lydia Southwell. Other committee members played a significant role in sharing information and responded to questions from the participants. The group responded very positively about participating in such a session and being able to update their knowledge of SGMP, both locally and nationally. Beth Butcher, one of our returning members after a long hiatus won the grand prize for having the most correct answers during the pre-test. The new member group consisted of Jennifer Anderson, Heather Brown, Beth Butcher, Maria Theresa Carney, Cheryl Faulk, Zsa Zsa Ingram-Fitzpatrick, Wendy Priesand and Becca Zarcone.

Now is the time to become actively involved in chapter activities and committees. Our PACT Incentive Program (Participation, Attendance, Commitment and Time) will allow you to build points that may be used when applying for a scholarship. We need you, so please GET INVOLVED!

Committee members are: Ray Lowe, James Moran, Arlene Roberts, Janet Roach, Ellen Sliger, Claire Smith, Lydia Southwell, Joice Ventry, Margaret Whitaker and Retha Nero

Below are some fun shots of members eagerly marking the answers, our high score member and high scoring team and their take. Congrats to everyone!



Above left to right; Gloria Marion-Smith, Margaret Whitaker, LaNedra Carroll, and Buenita Lee



Join in to welcome our new members and guests to the chapter, left to right; Keyona Frost, Curtis Odom, Bo Schmitz, Cheryl Hatcher, Ron Dye, Beth Butcher, Becca Zarcone, and Jennifer Anderson.

PACT RECIPIENTS

Your PACT points are acquired through your volunteer work with the chapter.

Joice Ventry receiving her first step with the red dangler



REGIONAL CONFERENCE NOTICE - MORE TO COME AS PLANNING CONTINUES

SGMP
SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

SGMP REGION 2 CONFERENCE

Elevate
To Greater Heights

Educate
With Great Sessions

Motivate
To Greater Goals

Save The Date
SEPTEMBER 11 - 14, 2011
THE SHORES RESORT, DAYTONA BEACH, FL