



CAPITAL EVENTS

Special
Interests
Articles:

Chapter News



**Thank you Kissimmee CVB
For sponsoring our monthly meeting!**



Janet Jones, Kissimmee CVB, sponsored the January meeting which sponsor was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Ellen Sliger, President Florida Capital Chapter.

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Our program for the evening, "Program Support Services" was a panel perspective including our own, Sharon Gray, CMP (*Contract Planner*), Gloria Marion-Smith (*Government Planner*), our sponsor, Janet Jones (*CVB Representative*), and a long time supporter, Tom Klote (*Hotel Supplier Representative*). Each panelist gave a brief overview of their side of the industry. At the end of the presentations the audience had the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session. There were several questions directed to each panelist. Questions asked and answered gave way to more networking before departing for the evening.





President's Message – Ellen Sliger, Florida Capital

I hope your new year is off to a good start. Here are a few items that are going on with SGMP. As you start the New Year, be sure to mark these items on your calendar so you won't miss!

Scholarships for the National Conference is now being accepted by National. The due date is February 16th. If you are interested in going to a National Conference, don't let this opportunity pass you by. This is a great conference with excellent breakout sessions. The Florida Capital Chapter will also be providing scholarships to the conference, be on the lookout for an email with this information.

This year is election year for our Chapter. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please see one of the Board Members for additional information. This is a great opportunity to help the Chapter and gain leadership experience.

Committees – please become involved in at least one committee this year. Try something different, you may just like it! With several people on a committee – there is not much work for one person.

Membership Meetings – check out the SGMP Florida Capital website for meeting dates and programs. There are some good programs scheduled this year.

Look forward to working with you on a committee or at least seeing you at a meeting!

Chapter News – Chris Schuh, Chapter Member

On January 20, 2009 the Florida Capital Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) met at the Ramada Inn North, located at the Ramada Inn Conference Center, 2900 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32303. The agenda for the meeting began with the introduction of guest and possible new members. The Board members were also recognized. There were 27 members in attendance and the chapter's goal is to continue to increase member participation for each meeting. Janet Jones of the Kissimmee CVB was one of the meeting sponsors with a new tag line, "Kissimmee the Heart of Florida". Other sponsors included the Holiday Inn of Lake Buena Vista, Adam Morales Corporate Sales Director and Tom Klote from the Ramada Orlando Celebration Hotel, which has 60,000 square feet of space, 22 meeting rooms and newly renovated guest rooms. Sean Bohanan with the Radisson WorldGate which has 429 rooms and 20,000 square feet of meeting space was also a sponsor.

Retha Nero, is the new membership Chair replacing Arlene Roberts. Ms. Nero introduced the committee members as Arlene Roberts, Claire Smith and Janet Roach. The National SGMP has announced a "Membership Drive" which will begin February 1 and run through March 31, 2009. Ms. Nero discussed the need to increase membership in the organization to benefit the vision and direction of the Planners and Suppliers both of whom need this organization. As a reminder each supplier member applications must be accompanied by two planners' applications. The goal of the membership chair is to make this chapter the number one SGMP organization.

The panel included Sharon Gray of CMP, Janet Jones of the Kissimmee CVB and Tom Klote, Senior Sales Manager at the Ramada Orlando Celebration Hotel and Convention Center, who discussed how to plan a conference, meeting or retreats. Sharon Gray addressed contract development in relation to contract planning for meetings. As small business owners, a different perspective which provides the flexibility needed for government meeting planning is essential. Credentials are very important when seeking to hire a competent meeting-planning professional and must be checked out. Many meeting planners are minority businesses which is helpful to many government entities wishing to contract for their services. Contract planners can save you money and assist in making the meeting financially possible. The other panelists addressed the value of a CVB in locating and narrowing the focus of a search for a site in addition to negotiating your contract with a hotel. Their insight and advice were valuable to all in attendance.

The national conference is in Louisville this year with scholarships from the local chapter as well as the National chapter available. The applications will so be available to the members. Out President is seeking members to serve on the scholarship selection committee. Mark your calendar for the next meeting which is **February 17, 2009 at the Mint Lounge** and will be sponsored by John Read from the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront.

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.

Food for Thought:

CORN CHOWDER WITH BACON

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

-
- 1/2 cup diced bacon
 - 4 medium potatoes, chopped
 - 1/2 medium onion, chopped
 - 2 cups water
 - 2 1/2 to 3 cups cups cream-style corn, 2 (12 ounces each) cans or 1 pound, 4 ounce package frozen
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - pepper to taste
 - 2 cups half-and-half or light cream, scalded

Preparation:

Sauté bacon until browned and crisp; add chopped potatoes and onions. Add water, corn, and seasonings; cover and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in half-and-half; heat through but do not boil. Serves 4.

*****Quote of the Month*****

"If you don't have the time to do something right, where are you going to find the time to fix it?"

-Stephen King Submitted By Ivyb2000

Committee Chairs

Archives

George Fong

Community Service

D. M. Gabrielle

Honors & Awards

Amy Brown

Member Services

Marcia Burks

Membership

Recruitment

Retha Nero

Membership Retention

Retha Nero

National Conference

Ellen Sliger

Programs

Gloria Marion-Smith

Publications and Communications

Melissa Jackson

Special Events

See Web

**SGMP Florida
Capital Chapter
P. O. Box 1563
Tallahassee
Florida 32302**

**If you have an article
you would like to
submit, please
contact:**

**Melissa Jackson,
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

1/9/2009

As Of Our 12/9/08 Report

51.7% Govt. Planners

4.5% Contract Planners

Grandfathered AS 1.1%

Govt. Planners – 46

Contract Planners – 4

Suppliers – 38

Assoc Suppliers – 1

Educator/Student - 1

Retired – 6

Total Chapter Membership 96

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

February Membership Meeting

“Stress Management”

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Mint Lounge (Next door to One on One Restaurant)

230 College Ave.

Sponsored by
Hilton Coca Beach Oceanfront

RSVP

John Read – 321/613/9023

Monthly Board Meetings

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

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.



A Need to Know – Upcoming Events

February 17 – Stress Management

March 17 – Getting More Done with Less

April 14 – CGM 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**