May 2010 Volume 7, Issue 5

# **Capital Events**



# "How to Grow a Creative/Innovative

Workforce - presented by Tom Laughon

Our presenter, Tom Laughon is the President and Founder of Catch Your Limit Consulting. The program based around creativity was very informative, how to abandon everything to move into the future, and the roll models for creativity as we grow and what happens. He had us all stand and wiggle around, the clasping of hands and folding of arms to see what is normal to us and what seems odd. We walked through the "New Thing" as a must to have value, be unique or rare, and the element of change. Creativity changes the way we think. He took us through the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunity, and Threats "SWOT", and working on an action plan to accomplish becoming more creative. We all had our own little fish to curl around in our hand. He brought a lot of fun time into the program. A building exercise with a box had teams inventing something they could produce and survive from. The ending was the Six Thinking Hats and the way we think; 1) blue/facilitator, 2) white/information and data, 3) red/ emotions - feelings and intuition, 4) green/creativity - creative thinking, 5) yellow/benefits - why it may work, and 6) black/concerns -why it may not work. Everyone participated and enjoyed the program.

We want to mention our sponsor as well, Jenny Dawson, Residence Inn Universities had tables set with beautiful flowers supplied by England Florist & Events, Inc. A simple setting of delicious foods included rolls, deli meats and cheeses, salads, pita chips, veggies, fruit, and cheeses cake, all too good to pass up. We want to thank Jenny for her continued support of the chapter.

We had two unexpected guest from the Atlanta Chapter visit our meeting; Ruth Harris and George Hansen. Thank you for taking time to stop in Tallahassee for our meeting.



Amy (left), Gloria Marion-Smith (center) with our speaker, Tom Laughon (right)



Tom Laughon having fun with the audience (above) and Janet Jones (above/right) trying to do the normal thing!



Jenny Dawson, Residence Inn (left) Amy Brown (right)



The entire group trying to do the normal thing!

#### Special Interest Articles:

- How to Grow a Creative Innovative Workforce
- 28<sup>th</sup> National Conference

#### Individual Highlights:

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"What is NORMAL" to you from the mystery writer



### **Capital Events**

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

Remember to RSVP for the June 15 Honors & Awards Banquet. This is a sit down dinner so your head count is very important to our host, Hilton Worldwide. There is a charge for this event and will be collected at the door. We will honor those who have gone above and beyond in their volunteer work for the chapter. Plan now and send in your RSVP, rsvp@sgmpfl.org.

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.

#### National Conference Sam Gilmer Awards Banquet Claudette Farris, National Board (left) presenting to Amy Brown (center) and Marcia Burks (right) for Chapter Operations



SGMP Board Ellen Sliger Immediate Past President

Suzy Keenan First VP

Marcia Burks Second VP

Chris Schuh Secretary

Joice Ventry, CMP Treasurer

Directors: Retha Nero Janet Roach Arlene Roberts

#### **Membership Report**

As Of Our 1/2010 Report 55.8% Planners 44.2% Suppliers Planners - 67 Suppliers - 53 Not including retirees or Educators/Students

#### June Membership Meeting - "Honors & Awards Banquet"

Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 5:30 - 7:30 pm Sponsored by - Hilton Worldwide

#### Looking Ahead – National Conferences June 8-11, 2011 - Norfolk, VA

**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

July 20 - Another Meeting? August 17 – Annual Silent Auction September 14 - So you have to plan a meeting -The Meeting Planning Timeline October 19 - Golf Tournament

#### **Committee Chairs**

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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.

RSVP - rsvp@sgmpfl.org

## 28th National Conference News

The National Conference this year was another exciting experience. I have enjoyed every year since my first in 2002. The two keynote speakers were absolutely fantastic. Our opening general session's keynote, Keith Harrell, is known as America's attitude coach. His approach to a positive attitude is a dynamic humor that keeps you on your toes. His focus for SGMP was fueled by understanding the human technology and having attitude being everything.

Our closing keynote, Erik Wahl was just as exciting with his unique way of inspiring attendees to understand the importance of expanding their traditional thinking into becoming more creative in with their own vision and purpose. His personal technique for spreading joy with his video's while painting leaders throughout the years was an exhilarating experience I have not seen in past presentations. His defining way rethinking your vision and purpose was the root for his inspiration to others.

And last, but not least, one of our own presenting at the national conference, Gabrielle Gabrielli of Gabrielle Consulting. Gabrielle presented on "Digital Marketing in the Global Economy". She spoke on how marketing is being transformed due to the evolving technologies in our digital world, our spending patterns and the influence of the global workforce and economy. Next year we hope to see Gabrielle back at national for all chapters to enjoy and take advantage of her skills.

# The Florida Capital Chapter had a few people new to the national conference this year!

Below from left to right, Marcia Burks, Chris Schuh (new), Karen Lambert, Buenita Lee and Gloria Marion-Smith (both new)



## **Capital Events**

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The Crew of the Florida Capital Chapter waiting for the Live Auction to start! Below left to right – Joice Ventry, Ellen Sliger, Arlene Roberts, Ray Lowe, Retha Nero, Amy Brown, and Buenita Lee







Above left to right – Joice Ventry, Ray Lowe, Amy Brown, and Mary Jo Ortiz enjoying their time at the Gilmer Banquet

## Janet Roach, Board Director, first time National Conference attendee and I had a great time.

Being able to attend SGMP National was exciting and informative with over 900 attendees. It was great to meet people from all over the country. This year's attendance grew from last year and there was evidence that SGMP Chapters all over the US are growing their membership just like ours. The National Office even announced the formation of the 31st SGMP Chapter in Pittsburgh, PA. There were many other highlights to the trip especially our chapter winning the Chapter Operations Award. Not to mention going to the historic Midlands Theater located in the Power & Light District for our opening reception.

The education sessions were informative and we had great Key Note Speakers. One of which was Erik Wahl whose presentation was titled, The Art of Vision. Erik is a business consultant and speaker with a unique ability to translate art into a greater business performance. During his presentation he not only educated and motivated the audience but created three painting on stage one of which was painted upside down. This painting in particular demonstrated his message of Art of Vision and how art takes your vision to the next level and beyond.

Attending SGMP National and representing Tallahassee and the Capital City Chapter was an honor. I plan to attend again next year and hope many of you will join me in Norfolk, VA representing our chapter and growing our knowledge of government meetings.

## Chris Schuh, Secretary, and another first time attendee's view of the SGMP 2010 National Education Conference.

Kansas City is old in an American's view of the world, the bend in the Missouri River which led to St Louis, the gateway to the west. Many of the nation's Easterners settled in the prairie states rather than the high percentage of death for those traveling West. We did have a courageous group of ancestors. Although attendees did not have many opportunities to view the city as the opening sessions began at 8:30 AM central time, the weather was a bit gray, cold and rainy outside. The lights and the personalities inside the Hyatt Regency Crown Center and Westin Crown Center lit up the keynote address and the sessions. The first address was from a motivational speaker, Keith Harrell who was that, in addition to be a dynamic human being. The second day we heard and saw Erik Wahl, a talented artist whose words of unleashing your talents and focus were inspiring.

The speakers addressed a host of relevant issues related to the planners and the hoteliers. Those issues included contract negotiations, must haves" and "items not to include", the first timers orientation, "Getting a Grip on Negativity" by Craig Price of Price Points, James Goldberg, Goldberg & Associates, PLLC "Contact in Today's Economy" in addition to several pages of other presentations.

There were over 900 individuals in attendance, with pomp and circumstance for each of the keynotes and the Gilmer Awards Banquet. It was quite the event, an opportunity to learn what SGMP, the organization has to offer you as a planner or a supplier. The Capital Chapter is worthy of national attention in addition to awards. Plan to attend next year, when we will be on the award dais.

# **2010 National Charity**

The Cancer Action Center was the special charity of our National Educational Conference. This non-profit organization is local, with three offices providing services to the Kansas City Metro area. They provide rides for patients to doctor visits, chemo therapy, and radiation. They provide financial assistances to those in need. They provide a hand-made comfort item to each new cancer patient that walks through their doors. We are proud to announce that a total amount of \$220.00 has been raised through the Florida Capital Chapter, as well as the contribution of yarn from members. Thank you to everyone for your support, and to Gabrielle (below) for heading this task.

The total amount raised by all chapters for the national charity was \$14,000 and almost 1500 skeins of yarn...



#### **General Information and Notes of Interest**

George Nero was presented his first of three danglers in the PACT program. There are three stages of PACT, red, blue, and white. George reached his 125 points and received the red dangler. The board thanks you George (below) for your continued support and participation in the chapter.

