

Capital Events



Special Interest Articles:

- ADA Act
- Chapter Charity



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Thanksgiving



"Survival in Today's Workplace"

Federal and State ADA Accessibility Act
Thomas J. Schmokel ADAAG Expert and ADA Consultant

We were treated to a mini Thanksgiving dinner by our three sponsors; Karen Lambert, Cabot Lodge-Thomasville Road, Kristi Griffith and Janet Roach, Doubletree Hotel Tallahassee and Emily Johnson-Truitt, the Tallahassee Convention and Visitors Bureau. There were 30 members in attendance and a number of guests that we hope join our growing SGMP Chapter.

Our guest speaker, Thomas J. Schmokel is an expert on the Americans with Disabilities' Act and works as a consultant helping to improve accessibility and identifying problems in new and existing construction. In addition to general information about the ADA Act, Thomas said that meeting planners needed to be especially aware that transportation issues and the number of handicap accessible rooms in a hotel need special attention when planning an event or conference. SGMP members were surprised when he said that if transportation is provided complimentary for attendees between venues or the airport, accessible transportation needs to be provided complimentary for those with disabilities too. In addition, many hotels with parking garages can not accommodate a van with a topper and don't have a large number of accessible parking spots close to meeting locations.

With regards to handicap accessible rooms, Thomas said meeting planners should ask guests with special needs what kind of accessible room is required. Hotels have a small number of these rooms with varying levels of accessibility. He recommended that attendees with the greatest disabilities and those who can not travel well between venues be assigned first.

Interestingly enough, Thomas was hired as a consultant when the Doubletree Tallahassee was renovated in 2007. He recommended that the hotel pay special attention to accessibility into meeting rooms and at check in. He said he was pleased that most of these recommendations were implemented. Most importantly for wheelchair bound guests is a lower desk at check in.

We gained some great knowledge from Thomas' presentation about ADA and particular details planners and suppliers need to know. This information will be useful to all in the future.

Submitted by Janet Roach
DoubleTree Hotel Tallahassee

From left to right; Kristi Griffith and Janet Roach from the DoubleTree Tallahassee, Emily Truitt with the Tallahassee CVB, our president, Ellen Sliger, and Karen Lambert with Cabot Lodge Thomasville Road. Thank you to our three co-sponsors this month.



"A Time for Sharing"
to you from the mystery writer



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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! This is the time of year to reflect back on the last year. It has gone by way too fast and I hope to catch up soon! There are several things I am thankful for; family, friends, health, job, and SGMP to name a few. I believe that giving back to the community is one of the best gifts you can give yourself. The rewards you will receive are priceless. I would like to thank all the members that have made Florida Capital Chapter what it is today. This is a volunteer organization and I know that we all have extremely busy lives, so I do appreciate the support you have given to the Chapter this past year and look forward to working with you in 2009. Thanks to all of you for all you do.

Remember to bring an item for our holiday charity; The Children's Home Society of North Florida. Any little bit, can make a big difference for a child with so little.

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:
Marcia Burks
Suzy Keenan
Karen Lambert*

Meeting Sponsors

We still have a couple open months for sponsorships; August and September 2009. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these months, please contact Ellen Sliger, Claire Smith, or Arlene Roberts for the RFP. Remember, you can do this as a co-sponsor. Our August meeting is our Silent Auction and in the past has been sponsored by several hotels. If you have questions, please contact one of the above.

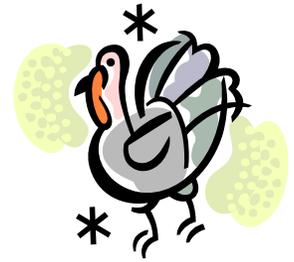
Newsletter Articles

We consistently ask for articles from members, and the well usually runs dry. If you have an interest in writing, please let us know. We need meeting industry issues that might affect our state agencies and how they plan and work a meeting. We need good food recipes to share with everyone.

Member Profiles

We need members who would like to share their life with SGMP. How did you become a member, what do you receive from SGMP as a member, your learning and sharing of SGMP and what it means to you. You can tell us where you work, about your family, hobbies, and interests. Let your fellow SGMP members know more about you.

Take the time to be more active in the chapter. We all know this is volunteer work and that we all have our real jobs that need daily attention. Take a small portion of your own time to help keep our chapter alive and well. We need all of you as a team to work together. Make a phone call or send an e-mail to a board member and let them know where you would like to help out. Thank you to all.



Committee Reports

New Members – We need everyone to shop around for new planner members. Share SGMP with those you work with and plan meetings!

Committees – We need volunteers to take over committee duties. Please step up for the chapter and carry out the duties from those who have served for years on various committees. The following are those that will be vacant at the end of the year: Membership Recruitment and Retention, Sponsorship, and Publications and Communications.

Community Service – Our charity this year – submitted by Gabrielle Chris Decent of the Children's Home Society of North Florida will be attending the December meeting to speak briefly about the organization and accept gifts. The organization was happy to hear that we selected them as our charity this year. They have a child protection team there and they provide assistance and exams to victims of sexual and physical abuse. The children have to remove their clothes as part of the evidence. As a result, they could really use clothes, workout pants, t-shirts, baggy clothes, etc., (most are girls ages 7-15). He said this would help them a lot so they don't have to further lose their dignity by leaving the place in a robe. They also need toys. They serve 1,000 children. They also need volunteers to play Santa's helper for a day, stuffing toys in bags for the kids around the holiday that case workers will bring to the children. Please bring your donations to the December meeting. If you are not able to attend and want to present something to the charity, call one of your board members to assist with collecting items. We hope everyone will be able to attend. Thank you for your support of this charity and our chapter.

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

ZIPLOC OMELET

Have guests write their name on a quart-size Ziploc freezer bag with permanent marker. Crack 2 eggs into the bag (not more than 2) shake to combine them.

Put out a variety of ingredients: cheeses, ham, onion, green pepper, tomato, hash browns, salsa, etc. Each guest adds prepared ingredients of choice to their bag and shake. Make sure to get the air out of the bag and zip it up.

Place the bags into rolling, boiling water for exactly 13 minutes. You can usually cook 6-8 omelets in a large pot. For more, make another pot of boiling water.

Open the bags and the omelet will roll out easily. Be prepared for everyone to be amazed.

Nice to serve with fresh fruit and coffee cake; everyone gets involved in the process and a great conversation piece.

Suzy Keenan, CGMP
United States Marine Corps



SGMP Florida Capital Chapter

P. O. Box 1563
Tallahassee
Florida 32302

If you have an article
or recipe 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 11/12/08 Report

57.8% Planners
42.2% Suppliers
Govt. Planners – 47
Contract Planners – 4
Suppliers – 38
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

December Membership Meeting

“Holiday Charity Event”

Tuesday, December 16, 2008
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Residence Inn Marriott
600 W Gaines Street

Sponsored by
Residence Inn Universities at the Capitol

RSVP
Jennifer Dawson
Jenny.dawson@marriott.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.

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 Programs and Events

December 16 – Holiday Charity Event, Children's Home Society of North Florida

2009

January 20 – Conference Support Service

February 17 – Stress Management

March 17 - Getting More Done With Less

April 14 – C G M P

May 13-16 – National Conference, Louisville, KY

June 16 – Honors & Awards Banquet

July 14 – Meeting Technology

August 11 – Silent Auction

September 15 – Effective Leadership

October 20 – Fright Night and Supplier Appreciation Dinner



**ELLEN SLIGER, PRESIDENT
FLORIDA CAPITAL CHAPTER**

