



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

I want to thank all the sponsors and contributors who helped to make our first event a success. Also, thanks to all the worker bees that assisted with set-up, registration, ticket sales, clean-up, and all that was done. We look forward to next year and a bigger event. Now on with more golf scenes!

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



This way, right?

David, Summerbrook Golf Pro

NO... we go this way! Doug Lambert just wants to go . . .

Website/Newsletter Ad:

Florida Hotel and Conference Center AD coming in November newsletter issue; see their ad on our chapter website now. Don't be left out - great space is still available!



November Membership Meeting, sponsored by Pyramid Hotels of Florida

Who Wants to be an SGMP Extraordinaire? Presenter: Kristi Griffith, CHSP, CGMP

Tuesday, November 16, 2010, Hotel Duval

RSVP – www.sgmpfl.org

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

Membership Report

As Of Our 8/2010 Report

55.5% Planners

44.5% Suppliers

Planners – 66

Suppliers – 53

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

A Need to Know – Upcoming Programs

November 16, Who Wants to be an SGMP Extraordinaire?

December 14, Holiday Celebration and Charity Drive

January 18, Hotel Safety & Security

February 15, Uncovering Norfolk's Meeting Planning Treasures

March 15, Ten Excel Secrets Every Planner Should Know

April 19, How to Budget Effectively

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.

First Annual Golf Tournament



Are we ready?



Let's roll on out!



We're off!



Bye... See you later



We go now ?



Yes, and we're waiting for you to move



A picture of sweetness!

More GOLF and the WINNERS!



Check out the form. Is this good or what?

Just hanging out, below left to right
Claire Smith, Ellen Sliger, Jackie Rhody



Third Place (left to right)
Chip Minick, Betty Homan, John Read, R. Harmsen



Second Place – Team Richards



Was this a FIX? Our FIRST PLACE WINNERS (left to right)
Edward Saudarski, Krystal Serrano, Michele Thomas, Jonathan LaBarre. Both ladies golfing for the first time!

More Golf Winners!



(left) Jim Durham, longest drive, Hole #18 and (right) Steve Richards, closest to the pin, Hole #17



(left) R. Harmsen, long drive, Hole #4, (right) Edward Saudarski, closest to the pin, Hole #6

**BET (BUYER'S EDUCATION TOUR) EXPERIENCE
SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2010**

**Sponsored by the Sarasota and her Islands Convention & Visitors Bureau and
Anna Maria Island & Longboat Key/Bradenton CVB
By Carolyn Hinson, CGMP and Retha Nero, CGMP**

The BET was a familiarization trip of the Bradenton/Sarasota area for Meeting Professionals from the Tallahassee area. The sponsors did not leave any rock unturned as we began to embark on a very informative adventure filled with good company, excitement and mystery. We were pleasantly surprised at each stop on the tour with wonderful gifts, delicious meals and most of all.....very knowledgeable Sales Directors that introduced us to their properties. Each property had something unique to offer when planning an event at their location. All of the properties were lavishly decorated, had an abundance of amenities and customer service surpassing the norm to meet or exceed your expectations when planning an event in this area.

Our adventure started on Friday, September 10th when a luxury coach picked us up at the Cabot Lodge on Raymond Diehl Road in Tallahassee. After boarding the bus, we left around 9:00 am to start our journey. Each person was allowed to bring a guest at no extra charge to experience the tour as well. The sponsors covered all of the bases when planning this tour. As the lunch hour approached, we made a planned stop at Panera Bread in Ocala, Florida to retrieve our lunches. To our surprise our sponsors had sent beautiful blue lunch bags for our lunches to be put in. Each person had pre-ordered their lunch prior to the trip to save time and stay on schedule. We were pleasantly surprised to see our names on each bag with our order. We got back on the bus to continue our ride arriving at the Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch at the scheduled time. We were greeted by Debra Fasching/Sales Manager and whisked us off to the lounge for cool drinks and snacks. After the introductions and partaking of goodies we took a tour of the meeting space and guest rooms.

After leaving the Lakewood Ranch area we proceeded to our various hotel destinations (Holiday Inn, Hyatt Place and Hilton Garden Inn) to check-in and refuel for a night at the South Florida Museum (SFM) and dinner at Mattison's Riverside Restaurant. The sponsors strategically placed two meeting professionals at each hotel so that we each could experience something different and unique about each property. This was sheer genius!

We toured the SFM and even got a brief lesson on "Teambuilding", visited with Snootie (oldest manatee alive), checked out the artifacts, got a history lesson and so much more. It is a great place to take your attendees after a day filled with meetings for a very rejuvenating evening. Jessica Tacy and Jeff Rodgers/Special Events and Marketing Managers did a wonderful job in showing us what the SFM has to offer for an exciting meeting or event. What a unique venue!

Everyone was having such a great time at dinner that we forgot the time. We dined on seafood, steak and other delicacies. We were all looking forward to getting some rest so we would be ready to go on Saturday for another day filled with more tours/ information, mystery and excitement.

On Saturday, September 11th we began our day with breakfast at the Courtyard Marriott which had gone through a very intense renovation in 2009. Robyn Price/Director of Sales welcomed us to her property with a French toast/strawberries and sausage breakfast, scented gift candles in a u-shaped setting while looking out in the gardens. As you know, this was the Anniversary of 9/11 and to honor those we had a moment of silence. After breakfast, we took a tour of the gardens, guest rooms and meeting space. Prior to the renovations the hotel was a Holiday Inn with a Spanish theme. This hotel went through an extreme makeover and looks amazing. I am sure your meeting attendees would love to have an annual conference at this site which is in a great location.

After leaving the Courtyard Marriott, we ventured over to the Manatee Convention Center where we were greeted by Sharon Kingston/Sales Representative for the center. She had a room set-up with ice cold water and mint iced tea to cool us from the hot weather outside. After the introductions, Sharon proceeded to give us a tour of the facility. We went upstairs to get a birds-eye view of the exhibition hall which was having a crafts show. After looking at the various meeting

rooms and the specifications, we returned to our waiting coach to be taken to the Longboat Key Hilton. By the way, we did get a chance to meander around the arts and craft show before leaving.

We left for Longboat Key Hilton for a brief stop where Jessica Stevens/Catering Manager did the honors of showing us the meeting space, guest rooms and restaurant. We also got a treat under the Kapok Tree sitting in chairs sipping Mimosa's and enjoying the ocean view. This is the life. By now it was time to head over to the Ritz-Carlton Beach Club for lunch. Jessica did a great job substituting for Jan.

After a short drive from Longboat Key, we arrived at the Ritz-Carlton Beach Club for lunch and even more surprises. Hotel staff greeted each one of us with a refreshing virgin Pina Colado adorned with a pineapple slice. It was oohs and ahhs for the first few seconds. This really hit the spot.....it was so cool, delicious and refreshing. We proceeded up the stairs to get a view of the pool area and ocean.....it was breathtaking. Peggy Brogan/Senior Group Sales Manager

and Kim Pate/Director of Sales told us about the offerings at the club for members and guests. We soaked up a little sun and headed down stairs for our lunch. We were amazed at the lovely table that was fit for Kings and Queens. Our hostess, Caroline did an exceptional job at pleasing our every wish while we ate a scrumptious executive lunch. I think when lunch was over everyone was thinking about taking time for a "Siesta". We were just about ready to ride over to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel for a tour of the rooms and meeting space. I am sure you all know how exquisite the Ritz is inside and out. Well, maybe you don't! We had the ultimate surprise that left each one of us speechless. The top nine floors are privately owned by residents and no one is allowed in this area. It is like CSI.....you need clearance to be in this area. We were escorted to the elevator by the attendant who took us to the top floor.....are you curious yet? We had gone to the rooftop to get an aerial view of the city. As we approached this small covered area out pops a waiter with champagne with a strawberry slice for each one of us. It was simply phenomenal.....no one would have ever guessed this was going to happen. The Ritz really overwhelmed us with this added touch. Just think what your attendees would think of you as their meeting professional. You would be the talk of the town! This is the WOW factor that we all want at our meetings/events.

All aboard! Next stop.....Hyatt Regency Sarasota featuring the split level suite! Suzanne Anderson/Sales Manager showed us all the Hyatt had to offer for our events.....spacious rooms, multiple meeting areas and the dockside grill out by the pool. This hotel was decorated throughout with Lily Pulitzer signature pink and green colors. Needless to say, it was very chic looking.

As you can see, we had an action packed weekend filled with fun, excitement, education and information about the area. The BET did not end with this. We had a lovely dinner hosted by Karen Rangel at Lido Beach Resort on Saturday evening. We did not take our usual coach that evening but was picked up by trolley instead. We spent a short period of time at St. Armands Circle eating macaroons, shopping and having drinks at Tommy Bahama's before heading to the resort.

The Grande Finale was on Sunday when we visited the Crosley Mansion for an educational session with Dr. Gregory Dunn, Assistant Professor in the School of Hotel/Restaurant Management, University of South Florida, Sarasota Campus about travel trends. We dined on a fabulous lunch prepared by Chef Shaun.....which left us begging for more and more. Although, we were short on time we were able to take a short tour and get some background information about the original owners. We learned some amazing facts about the Crosley Mansion and how this venue can be used when planning events.

Kerri Alderson/Sales Representative and Kelly Defebo/Sales Manager have been voted the "Hostess' with the Mostest"! These ladies spent hours away from their families to give us all a wonderful trip to learn about what the Sarasota/Bradenton area has to offer. We appreciate all of planning, time and attention to detail that went into this incredible trip and we all came away with something to share with our colleagues. If you want the WOW factor take this area serious when thinking about meetings/events.

Florida Capital Chapter members participating in the BET experience were: Cheryl Faulk, Carolyn Hinson, George Nero, Retha Nero, Alveria Redding and Chris Schuh.

