

*Society of Government Meeting Professionals*  
*SGMP Chicago Chapter Newsletter*



## Making SGMP Chicago Chapter Work For You

SGMP Chicago kicks off its 2011-12 fiscal year on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, a AAA Four Diamond rated full service hotel located on 151 E. Wacker Drive where Jill Megli is the Sales Manager. Join us in exploring what networking, education, and personal development can do for you as a SGMP Chicago member. Our theme for this year is “Globally Outreaching to All Meeting Professionals”. Our educational programming has been revamped and our focus this year will be on Communications, Community Service, Membership and Special Events. Come and meet the new Board of Directors and Committee Liasons and hear about all of the great things we have planned for the upcoming year.



**Mark Your Calendar:**

**September 21, 2011**—Hyatt Regency Chicago—11:30 a.m.—Jill Megli

**October 19, 2011** - TBA

**November xx, 2011**— Silversmith Hotel & Suites—Michael Solis

**December 7, 2011**—Holiday Party  
 The Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Chicago— Ruth Garcia

**January 18, 2012** —TBA

**February 15, 2012**— Hilton Suites Chicago Mag Mile—Eugene Walker

**March 21, 2012**—Silent Auction at the Marriott Mag Mile—Willie Clay

**April 18, 2012**—TBA

**May 16-18, 2012**—NEC in New Orleans, La.

**May 23, 2012** - TBA

**June 20, 2012**— TBA

July and August—Summer Hiatus

*Get more out of SGMP Chapter by participating on one of our committees. You're have the opportunity to investigate the various options at the September meeting.*

**PLAN NOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE COMMITTEE OF YOUR CHOICE.** (See page 6).



**Articles Inside this issue:**

<i>Meet the 2010-2011 Chapter Board</i>	2
<i>Reflections from the Immediate Past</i>	2
<i>Membership Recruitment</i>	2
<i>Reflections re the NEC in Norfolk, VA.</i>	3
<i>About the Speaker</i>	4
<i>SGMP's 7 Core Competencies of Education</i>	4
<i>How to Qualify for Scholarship to NEC</i>	5
<i>The Passionate Chapter</i>	5
<i>30th Anniversary SGMP Cookbook</i>	5
<i>SGMP Mission &amp; Missions</i>	6

## From the President's Desk by Sandra T. Bennett

September is always an exciting time for SGMP Chicago. Our two-month hiatus ends and our Chapter meetings reopen and most importantly, SGMP National has entered its 30th year as the only national organization dedicated solely to government meetings! We will be celebrating this monumental milestone at our October meeting. Stay tuned!

Even though we have many challenges ahead our mission as an organization has not changed. It is still to expand the knowledge of our membership through educational programs, to improve communications between planners and suppliers and to provide guidance and advice to planners on all phases of planning, executing and evaluating meetings. That said, I am confident that this will be one of our most successful years ever.

**Meet the 2011-2012 SGMP Chicago Board**—Installation Ceremony was held on Monday, June 20, 2011 at the Crown Plaza Chicago Metro (Halsted and Madison)

**Sandra T. Bennett**, President

312-575-6883

sandra.t.bennett@ssa.gov

**Phyllis M. Hartford**, First Vice-President - 312-321-0063

phyllis.m.hartford@gmail.com

**Jackie J. Levine**, Second Vice-President—312-768-4874

jackie.levine@whitelodging.com

**Rose Mosley**, Secretary

rose.mosley@ssa.gov

**Therese Hanen**, Treasurer

847-928-7648

threse.hanen@hilton

**Directors:**

**Ethel Crisp**

312-353-1442

crisp.ethel@epa.gov

**Marco Fernandez**

312-276-8377

**Jim Straus**

847-777-6559

jim.straus@westin.com

**Vernon Spears**, Immediate Past Presidents/Nominations & Elections and Liaison: 312-353-0769



## Reflections of the Immediate Past President

by Vernon Spears

It is not often that a person has the privilege, no honor to meet such a wonderful group of people. In my tenure as President of the Chicago Chapter of SGMP, I met with several challenges and, with the assistance and support of the Board and membership of the Chapter, each hurdle was met and successfully resolved.

It is no easy task meeting deadlines, and adopting national changes, and also maintaining a very complex position with the Federal Government. But, with the knowledge and talents of the Board and the full membership, we were able to make our Chapter one of the best in the nation.

There are still more hills to climb, but I know that with the New Board and the positive attitude of the membership, the Chicago chapter will excel!

I can truly say from my heart...I love you guys.

## Membership Recruitment: We Need Your Help by Phyllis Hartford



In addition to recruiting new members into the Chicago SGMP Chapter, the Chapter needs your assistance in this area as well. What you can do: When you receive your membership renewal each year from National SGMP Headquarters, we need you to process your renewal as soon as possible and get your paperwork and payment to SGMP National immediately. When we have a planner lapse, our Planner/Supplier ratio goes down. Right now our Supplier/Planner ratio is 48.5% and since we have been below the 50/50 ratio for 3 consecutive months we are considered to be in a freeze. This means that for every supplier that we add to our roster, we must add 2 planners. Once we regain our 50/50 ratio, we must be able to sustain it for a minimum of 3 consecutive months before the freeze is lifted. I need your input on how to recruit new planners and what can be done to ensure that we continue to grow strong in our membership. Thanks for your support! **Please email me at: [phyllis.m.hartford@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.m.hartford@gmail.com).**

## Reflections of the SGMP National Conference in Norfolk, Virginia June 8-11, 2011 by Cathy Piowar



This was one of the most memorable and enjoyable Conference's I have attended in years!

The Conference opened with Colonial Williamsburg "fifes and drums". This truly made for a Grand kick off! This included "Patrick Henry" educating everyone on the history of Virginia.

The opening speaker, Rear Admiral Marty Evans had many "words of wisdom". Just to mention a few:

- resolve to be the best you can be, never be 2nd best
- be a mentor, pass along your wisdom
- have a vision, know where you're going and have passion about it!
- humor is fabulous and a quote, i.e., "It's a dog eat dog world, and I feel like I'm wearing milk bone underwear"
- remember you get back what you reflect

Thursday night was the "black tie" Gilmer Awards Banquet sponsored by New Orleans, Louisiana, the site for the 2012 Conference. Our National President (now Immediate Past), Melody Kebe, honored all SGMP members with the President's Award in recognition of the support and commitment given to her during her 4 year term as National President. This was indeed a great honor and all attendees received Presidential Award certificates.

After a long, but great evening, Friday morning opened with humor. Speaker, Rebecca Pace motivated and energized a very tired breakfast audience. She had a gift of making people laugh when there is a communication breakdown or a language barrier and to always make the best of unfortunate situations.

**I highly encourage all members to consider attending a Conference soon!**

### ***Let's Get Hungry: SGMP's 30th Anniversary Cookbook!***

We are excited to tell you about a new project for SGMP – a cookbook in honor of SGMP's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary that will be distributed to all attendees at the 2012 National Education Conference in New Orleans! What better place to offer a cookbook than the city of amazing food.

This cookbook will have recipes from chapters around the country and a brief history of each of the chapters. Our SGMP Chapter history can be found on our website, [www.sgmppchicago.org](http://www.sgmppchicago.org) on the "About Us" resource page. The 30th Year Anniversary Committee will be responsible for gathering short SGMP memories from our members that will make this cookbook, not only about recipes, but also about the SGMP Chicago Chapter family. Additionally, there is a goal for each chapter to submit a minimum of ten recipes per chapter – I know that we will receive many more than that! The Survey Monkey link, which can be found on our website on the "Committees" resource page can be used to submit your recipes. ***The person who submits the most submissions by our deadline of October 28, 2011 will be recognized at our November meeting and will receive a small token of our appreciation.*** We encourage you to submit family recipes that you are willing to share as well as recipes that are local favorites – Chicago Deep Dish Pizza, Chicago Hot Dogs, Italian Beef Sandwich, Steal and other recipes, for example. ***We ask that this task be completed no later than October 28, 2011.***

**You will be able to sign up for the "30 Year Anniversary Committee at the September meeting.**

## About our Speaker

**Rose Mosley**, who is currently serving as Secretary on the SGMP Chicago Board, is the Supervisor of Labor and Employee Relations and prior Chief of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity at the Social Security Administration, Chicago Downtown. Deeply involved in her beloved, Maywood, Illinois community, Ms. Mosley is the Immediate Past President of the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates and Friends and Foundations (ALTFF) and the Illinois Library Trustee Forum, past Chairperson of Specialized Outreach Services (SOS) for the Association of Library Trustees and Advocates, past District 30 Secretary for the Toastmasters International and sponsor of the Maywood Public Library Toastmasters Club #687683 and the Batmasters Toastmasters Club #7353 at the Great Lakes Program Service Center. In 1995, Ms. Mosley was elected as the first African American to the Board of Trustees for the Sub-

urban Library System. She is currently serving her fifth six-year term as Trustee at the Maywood Public Library. She has led or played a major role in four successful referenda to support the Maywood library's operating budget and building program. As a result, the library, which was originally 950 square feet, is now a 42,000 square-foot facility. Ms. Mosley has been nominated for and has received numerous awards including the Library Trustee of the Year Award in 1998, Maywood Rosa Parks Community Service Award in January 2002, the "Distinguished Toast Master" award in 2004 and the Trustee Citation Award in June 2011 from the Maywood Public Library and the American Library Association. She was also a finalist for the 2010 Federal Employee of the Year, and a nominee for the 2011 Federal Employee of the year award. A favorite quote of Ms. Mosley's is "In every



Caption describing picture or graphic.

choose to be happy no matter what.  
M.J. Ryan.

single moment, we have a choice to be happy or not. No matter what is going on, we can choose to focus on what is right, what is good and whole in ourselves and our lives, and what options we have in any given situation. In other words, we can

## SGMP's Core Competencies of Education by Jackie Levine



We have new procedures in place for our educational programming. SGMP National has really done an outstanding job in nailing down 7 core competencies that really speak to what SGMP is all about: Education & Programming, Facilities & Services, Logistics, Financial and Contract Management, Technology and New Media, Financial and Contract Management and Ethics. Under each category there are specific topics under each of the 7 core competencies. For example, under Education & Programming we have Evaluations, Marketing and Diversity to name a few and under Ethics we have value, dignity respect and acceptance. We have very talented members in SGMP Chicago. ***Therefore, I would like each one of you to take a look at this list and let me know which program you would like to present.*** This gives each of you an opportunity to get more involved in SGMP. You can call me at 312-768-4874 or you can e-mail me at: [jackie.levinne mie.levine@whitelodging](mailto:jackie.levinne mie.levine@whitelodging).

### How to Qualify for an SGMP Chicago Scholarship to the National Education Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana:

1. Be a current member of the Chicago Chapter of SGMP.
2. Attend a minimum of 5 of the 10 monthly Chapter meetings scheduled for this fiscal year.
3. Actively served on a committee during the fiscal year and agree to chair a committee next year.
4. Agree to share your experiences from the workshops you attend at the National Education Conference (NEC) by writing an article for the Newsletter and/or seek to mentor new members for committee leadership.
5. Prepare a brief essay addressing the following criteria:  
Explain how you contributed to the Chicago Chapter, i.e. committee participation, newsletter articles written, staff the monthly registration table, etc.

Explain why you would like to attend the NEC, i. e., job skills enhancement, working toward your CHSE, CMP or other professional certification, etc.

Explain how the Chicago Chapter will benefit from your attendance at the NEC, i.e., serve on the Board, Chair a major committee (specify what committees you are interested in working with), and etc.

### The Passionate Chapter By Ethel Crisp, Chicago SGMP Chapter Director

Passion is (a) any strong feeling such as love, hate, etc.; (b) enthusiasm, intense desire or (c) object of intense feeling or interest. **PASSIONATE** means being filled with strong feeling or eager desire. What does it take to have "Passion and Purpose"? It takes **PASSIONATE** and **PURPOSEFUL** members; members who are engaged in the chapter and life itself.

Just what is **PASSION** and how can we be **PASSIONATE** about the Chicago Chapter and SGMP? So, you ask, what does that have to do with me as a member of the chapter? Just how can I show that I am a **PASSIONATE** member of Chicago Chapter? Try the following:

**PARTICIPATE** in the activities of the chapter and organization by attending meetings and other events;

**ACKNOWLEDGE** the accomplishments of the chapter and members through a simple thank you, a note or e-mail (you never know whose day you will brighten);

**SERVE** wherever needed by stepping out of your comfort zone and joining a committee, taking on the chairman's role, or (Oh No! What a thought!) serving as an officer of the chapter in the future;

**SUPPORT** one another by attending the events other members and the chapter have organized;

**INSTRUCT** each other – seasoned members training newer members; newer members teaching new ideas to seasoned members;

**ORGANIZE** activities of the chapter to benefit all members, such as working on a committee;

**NETWORK** with other members in the chapter – what better way to meet new people and learn something new;

**APPRECIATE** each other for our differences and diversity—each of us has special, God-given gifts and talents (or charismas) which we bring to the chapter;

**TEAMWORK** – Your former Officers and Chairs ROCK at this; the teamwork exhibited to accomplish all we have so far in the 2010-2011 year is something for which all members should take pride; and finally,

**ENCOURAGE** each other not only in the chapter but in our daily lives and challenges by sending 'thinking of you' cards or notes – something to let others know you are there for them.

You see, it isn't hard to be a **PASSIONATE** member of the chapter. For those of you who have been active, thank you for being **PASSIONATE** members of the chapter. For those of you we haven't seen for awhile, come on back and join us. We miss you and would welcome your **PASSION** to help us grow.



**SGMP Chicago Chapter**  
**P.O. Box A3249**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60609**

*We're on the Web.*  
*Visit us at :*  
***www.sgmppchicago.org***



*About SGMP National: **Mission & Objectives***

Our mission is to enhance the knowledge and expertise of government meeting professionals. Our objectives are to improve the quality of, and promote the cost-effectiveness of, government meetings. SGMP is the only national organization in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to government meetings. SGMP delivers our membership value of education, resources and networking to nearly 4,000 members and through 32 chapters nationwide. *Get connected* to government meetings — *plug into* SGMP.

SGMP which was started in 1982 has entered its 30th year as the only national organization dedicated solely to government meetings! I invite you to connect to SGMP by reviewing our web site and discovering the benefits we offer through unparalleled education, networking and resources.

**SGMP Chicago Committees:**

Go to [www.sgmppchicago.org](http://www.sgmppchicago.org) for more information

**Membership:**

Phyllis M. Hartford—Board Liaison

**Program and Education:**

Jackie Levine & Ethel Crisp—Board Liaisons

**By-Laws:**

Marco Fernandez— Board Liaison

**Holiday Party & Charity:**

Demetra Collins—Chairperson

**Silent Auction:**

**Community Service:**

Willie Mae Jordan, Chair

**Scholarships Committee:** Sandra T. Bennett—Board Liaison

**Honors and Awards Committee:**

**Newsletter and Website Committees:** Sandra Bennett Board Liaison

**Meeting Policies:**

**Meeting Policies:** Any guest attending an SGMP meeting and is a prospective member may attend meetings as follows:

First Meeting: No charge

Second Meeting:

Planners: \$10.00

Suppliers: \$20.00

Third Meeting: an application must be completed with the appropriate dues.

All other guests—\$20.00

**Membership Report:**

Membership Ratio as of 7/30/11: 48.5%

Government Planner: 32

Contract Planner: 0

Other Members: 3

Suppliers: 34

Total: 69

Membership Fees:

Government Planner: \$55.00

Contract Planner: \$140.00

Supplier: \$350.00

Education/Student/Retiree: \$25.00

