



# GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONAL

SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT MEETING  
PROFESSIONALS

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## Site of 2002 SGMP Annual Conference, May 15-19: Colonial Virginia Seaport Enjoys Regeneration & Rebirth



*Scenic view of Norfolk's waterfront.*

The rebirth and regeneration of the historic downtown Norfolk waterfront has drawn national attention.

The colonial port city is ideally situated in the Mid-Atlantic region. Long known as home port to the US Atlantic Fleet and the world's largest naval base, Norfolk has added the world's largest battleship-the USS Wisconsin-as a major tourist attraction this year.

Norfolk is not a sleepy navy town any more. Independent gourmet restaurants continue to open downtown on a monthly basis. MacArthur Center, also a short walk from the major meeting hotels, offers a million square feet of five-star shopping, including a Nordstrom and the Dillard's East Coast flagship store.

The Waterside Festival Marketplace overlooks the river and offers dining and entertainment venues. Granby Street, the city's main downtown thoroughfare, leads

from the Elizabeth River to the Chesapeake Bay, where Norfolk boasts seven and a half miles of beachfront. Free electric trolleys service much of the downtown waterfront area.

Cultural amenities include the Chrysler Museum of Art, with 5,000 years of art and a world-class collection of paintings, sculpture, and Tiffany glass. The MacArthur Memorial is the burial site of WW II hero General Douglas MacArthur and his wife, and traces America's history during the first half of the 20th Century following his career.

Norfolk's Ghent neighborhood is home to trendy eateries, boutique shops, and tree-lined streets, similar to Georgetown and Greenwich Village. The city has Virginia's only zoo, the Virginia Opera, Virginia Symphony, Virginia Stage Company, and Virginia Ballet.

Two new performing arts theaters have added to a growing downtown theater district that includes the Harrison Opera House, the Chrysler Theater, and the Wells Theater (home of the Virginia Stage Company). The NorVa is a newly renovated 1920's movie palace and vaudeville house located across from the MacArthur Center. Adjacent to the NorVa is the Backstage Café, featuring a rock and roll theme. New this season is the Roper Performing Arts Theater, which recently showcased the Royal Shakespeare Company.

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## President's Message

By Cheryl Thompson, CMP

If I told you to expect great things from the SGMP National Board, you might yawn and say, "So What's New?" It's an exciting time to be at the helm of this great organization, and I commit to you that you'll see even more great work by the 2001-2003 National Board. Keeping the positive movement that SGMP has gained over the last year will be a priority, while ever increasing the awareness of our organization at all levels of government.

Returning and bringing experience from the 1999 - 2001 Board are Donna Carey, Connie Elliott CMP, Kristi Griffith, Charles Sadler, and Lynette Schick CMP. Adding new perspective and energy are Ruth Harris CMP, Roger Schlatter, and Stacy Janecka CMP. Each of these committed meeting professionals brings experience, leadership, and passion for the organization to the Board. Watch this publication for more information on each of them and the role that they will play in SGMP's future.

Many of you were able to join us in Kansas City for "Education and All That Jazz," where you heard me speak of the voices from our past that helped bring us to where we are today. I encourage you to talk with your National Board members to insure that your voice is one we hear, as SGMP soars to reach new heights.

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*The Victory Rover* is a new and exciting way to tour Norfolk's Harbor and Naval Base. Stationed at Nauticus-The National Maritime Center, cruises depart several times daily. A narrated commentary features the naval base and other sites. Also featured on the 150-passenger ship is a snack bar and souvenir shop, an air conditioned enclosed deck and an

open upper deck. The Sprit of Norfolk, The Elite, and the Carrie B are other cruise vessels available.

Norfolk has come a long way since its bawdy WW II days. With Southern charm, big-city amenities, and a slower pace of life, the city combines the best of the past with an eye on the future.

## Newly Elected National Board Meets in Baltimore

By Carl Thompson, Executive Director, SGMP

The newly elected National Board members met in July at the Wyndham Baltimore Hotel, in Baltimore, Maryland. The two-day meeting was jammed with exciting plans for the future of SGMP, as well as putting closure to many projects from last year. An exhausting review of the evaluation responses from the SGMP members who attended the Annual Conference held in Kansas City this past June, and a discussion on the upcoming 2002 Annual Conference were two of the priority issues that were covered. National Board tasks were assigned along with committee liaison/chair positions.

The National Liaison Committee/Chair appointments are: Donna Carey, CPR Liaison; Connie

Elliott, CMP, 2002 Conference Education Chair, Liaison of the 2nd Vice Presidents Roundtable, and Co-Chair of the Marketing Initiative; Roger Schlatter, National Membership Chair; Kristi Griffith, National Honors and Awards Chair, and Liaison of the 2nd Vice Presidents Roundtable; Ruth Harris, CMP, National By-Laws Chair; Charles Sadler, CHSP, Educational Services Chair, 2002 Conference Logistics Chair, and Liaison of the 2nd Vice Presidents Roundtable; Lynette Schick, CMP, Nominations and Election Chair, Chapter Formation Chair, and Co-Chair of the Marketing Initiative; Stacy Janecka, CMP, CMP Liaison and Education

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Foundation Liaison; Cheryl Thompson, CMP, Headquarters Liaison, and National Ethics Officer.

Two other very important appointments that were assigned to members other than the National Board were: Steve Hilberg, Web Site/Technology Coordinator; and Jan Thor, CMP, National Policies and Procedures Chair.

This is a very ambitious board. Specifically, the 2001-2003 National Board is committed to the membership of SGMP to continue on the path to elevate SGMP to the most professional organization in the industry. Make sure to keep your eyes on this board. Their talents will move SGMP to new heights.

## Sharon Harrison: An SGMP Member Not Forgotten

*By Loretta Terry*

On Sunday, March 4th, we lost a dear and valuable member of our chapter, Sharon Harrison, after a brief battle with cancer.

Sharon started her government career with the Department of Defense in Killeen, Texas, where she met her husband, Dr. John (Jack) Harrison. For the past 17 years, she worked for the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) in Dallas. She started with VETS as a Secretary and steadily progressed to a Veterans Program Specialist and eventually became the Assistant Regional Administrator (ARA) for that agency. Sharon was the first female, non-veteran to serve as ARA for VETS and was very proud of that accomplishment. Last year, Sharon was recognized as one of the outstanding women within the U. S. Department of Labor during Women's History month. She had 26 years of government service.



*Sharon Harrison*

On October 8, 1987, the SGMP Dallas Chapter was chartered with 25 members; Sharon Harrison was one of those members. In 1988-89, Sharon served as 1st vice president for the chapter. She became the second President to lead our chapter in 1989-90. She again served as chapter president in 1990-91 and in 1995-96. During her first term as chapter president, she elected to change our chapter luncheon meetings to evening functions. By doing so, the chapter was able to increase our budget by over \$2,000. Sharon was responsible for having National SGMP Board members Lynette Schick, CMP, Johnna Meyer, CMP, and Sandy Lynn, CMP, come to our chapter meetings to install our newly elected officers. During her 1995-1996 term as president,

the chapter hosted SGMP's National Education Conference in Dallas, which was a great success. She contributed a great deal to the Dallas Chapter, as an officer and as a member.

Sharon will not only be missed by the Dallas Chapter members. She was well known throughout SGMP. For the last few years, she chaired the fundraising efforts for the Dallas and Texas Lone Star Capital Chapters' Joint Education Conference. Sharon had a winning personality and a knack for making people laugh. She met and touched many people in her 51 years.

Sharon received many distinguished awards from both SGMP and VETS throughout her career. Among those were the SGMP Dallas Chapter's President's Award and a Distinguished Career Service Award from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Sharon had many passions in her life. She loved to ride her Harley Davidson motorcycle. Several years ago, she had a motorcycle accident where she

suffered broken ribs, a punctured lung, a concussion, and an injury to her arm. Just two weeks after her motorcycle accident and in spite of her injuries, Sharon attended the National SGMP Educational Conference in Florida. If we didn't know it then, it became evident that SGMP was another one of her passions. Sharon also enjoyed her extensive travels throughout the world with her husband Jack.

Sharon will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Her friends and co-workers, however, will always remember a dynamic presence that was forthright and candid about her feelings and opinions; lived and loved life to its fullest; and was a compassionate and generous human being.

## Kansas City: The Second Time Around

By Ruth Harris, CMP, CTAS

As I returned to Kansas City last week for this year's Annual Education Conference, I had *deja vu*. In 1993, the conference theme was "Education: Getting to the Heart of the Matter" and this year's theme was "Education & All That Jazz."

I went back in time to 1993, February 18-21, to be exact and my first SGMP Education Conference. My CDC colleague, Carmen Walker-Momon, introduced me to SGMP. My first meeting was the 1992 Silent Auction and Holiday Party at the Ritz-Carlton. There I was introduced to an Atlanta board member, Robin Ware, who promptly solicited my assistance collecting monies. I WAS HOOKED!

I was very excited as I arrived in Kansas City in February 1993. That is until we walked out of the KCI airport to brave the 9 degree temperature and snow.

Wow, was it cold!! I immediately thought, *Why would anyone plan a meeting in Kansas City in February?* Surely the person who wrote in the conference brochure that comfortable wool blends and sweaters should be sufficient was not from Kansas City. It was so cold that we didn't want to go outside to board the buses that would take us to a reception sponsored by the Doubletree in Kansas. Can you believe that?

You know how SGMPers love a great reception like this year's reception at the Marriott. We were content to frequent the Crowne Center shops because we could walk through *The Link* without facing the bitter cold.

The temperature outside was brutal, but there was a warm and friendly atmosphere inside the Hyatt, the 1993 host hotel. As a new member, I felt right at home. The workshops were new and exciting. My favorite was "Expanding and Retaining Your Membership." Sue Vos of the Heart of Illinois Chapter moderated. I was so motivated that I went back to Atlanta and immediately volunteered to work on the membership drive.

I remember sitting at the opening luncheon and the Saturday night banquet and being so impressed with then immediate-past president, Sandi Lynn,

CMP. She was so poised and confident. I was impressed by directors, Lynette Schick, CMP, and Peter Regner; first vice president, Johnna Meyer, CMP; president, Rance Willis; and of course, our own Sadie Rogers who was national board secretary.

I dreamed of one day serving on the national board. I would love to be up on that stage as a national board member, I said to myself, "I can do this!!!"

**"A special thanks to the Atlanta Chapter who has been the wind beneath my wings and without whom my dream would not have come true."**

The rest is history, well-known by most Atlanta Chapter members and familiar to those who read my profile on this year's national board election ballet.

So the second time in Kansas City was very different and special to me.

The weather was warmer when I walked out of the airport. There was no snow. As I walked around the Hyatt and the Westin (two host properties), there was still that warm and friendly family atmosphere. There was something new. There were words of congratulations from some members and promises of help from others.

It hit me that I had come a long way in SGMP. I was a newly elected national board member. While I dreamed of serving on the national board, I never thought I would come back to Kansas City to be sworn in as a director planner. The pinnacle was Friday night when I walked on stage for the swearing-in ceremony!

I am deeply grateful to those who helped me reach my dream, particularly, those who pushed me and encouraged me to run for secretary of the Atlanta Chapter, vice president, president, and director on the national board. I am grateful to those who served on the Atlanta board with me and those who agreed to work on committees when I asked (drafted) them. I am grateful to those who helped me produce newsletters, supplier appreciation functions, and those chapter presidents who served with me on the CPR. I am grateful to all who supported my candidacy for the national board by giving me their vote of confidence. I am humbled and honored!

**THANK YOU!**

## All the Stars Came Out in Colorado for Awards Banquet

By Claudette M. Ferris, CPS

What an award-winning night for the Rocky Mountain Chapter as we celebrated our 12th annual awards banquet on Tuesday, June 26, 2001.

The Grant-Humphreys Mansion, built in 1906 and part of Colorado's historical society, was the magnificent setting for such a momentous occasion. Guests of honor included Colorado Representative Debbie Stafford and television/movie personality, John Ashton. You may remember him as Officer Taggart in *Beverly Hills Cop I and II*.

Thanks to our Fundraising Committee chairman, Roxie Crow, we had a \$10 business card drawing for a gift basket filled with wine, cheese, liver pâté, and crackers, which was donated by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. The Chapter raised \$530 toward our scholarship fund so we can send our planners to the national conference next year. The lucky recipient of the basket was Crystal Carter.

The evening started off with a hosted cocktail reception, followed by a welcome from President Claudette Ferris and a spectacular dinner. As volunteerism is an integral part of this professional organization, our committee chairmen and committee members were recognized for their superb efforts throughout the year; certificates were awarded to all volunteers.

John Ashton presented the Outstanding Awards. Nominees were judged on their involvement in SGMP. The prestigious honor of the 2001 Chapter President's Award went to the totally surprised and almost speechless Lynette Schick CMP.

In recognition of Lynette's term as National President and to show her how much she is appreciated, the Chapter presented her with a plaque with the front cover of the inaugural issue of SGMP's *Government Meetings Advantage* magazine. She said she would proudly hang it in her new office.

President Ferris paid a special recognition to Pennye McFarland and Sonja Hernandez with Catalyst Meetings and Conferences, their management company, to let them know how much they appreciate their efforts in helping the Rocky Mountain Chapter grow to new levels of professionalism. The chapter would truly be lost without them.

**Out with the old.** President Ferris presented diamond-shaped acrylic desk plaques to each of the 2000/2001 board members and thanked each of them for all their hard work and support this past year.

**In with the new.** The Rocky Mountain Chapter was very fortunate to have Representative Stafford give the official oath of office to the 2001/2002 Board of Directors: Claudette M. Ferris CPS, president; Stephanie Samano, first vice president; Shannon DeBus, second vice president; Kay Bothwell, secretary; Sydney Hoskins, treasurer; Crystal Carter, director; Christine Huffington, CHSP, director; Kelly Wilson, director; Linda Schmitt, past president.

This entire evening would not have been possible if it wasn't for the splendid efforts of our Awards Banquet Committee Chairman, Amy Rezvani, CHSP, and Board Liaison, Susan Cecere-Fisher, CHME. Many thanks to them and to all who attended.

### Education Foundation

- **Chair:** Johnna Meyer, CMP (Phone: 916-322-0788)
- **Vice Chair, Fund Raising:** Robin Wilson, CMP (Phone: 650-329-4403)
- **Vice Chair, CMP Certification & Professional Development:** Stacy Janecka, CMP (Phone: 512-475-4600)
- **Vice Chair, Chapter Assistance:** Karla Starkweather (Phone: 512-206-4742)
- **Vice Chair, Leadership:** Harriett Edmunds (Phone: 804-692-3727)

### THANK YOU!

The SGMP National Board would like to thank Kerry Eyring and the Wyndham Baltimore Hotel for hosting the July 20-21, 2001 National Transitional Board Meeting. The facility and service was a wonderful experience that helped make our board meeting so successful.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank other sponsors for making our stay so enjoyable: Jackie Harding of the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Baltimore; the Hyatt Regency Baltimore on the Inner Harbor; the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association; the Holiday Inner Harbor Hotel; the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel; and the Performance Hospitality Management Company.

## SGMP bids Another Member a Sad Farewell: In Memory of Jim Booty

By Robin Wilson

Jim Booty died this past June in Sacramento, Calif. Jim worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; he was a member of the Sacramento Chapter and then the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter for many years. His coworkers considered Jim their Champion Boondogger. They remember fondly how he would take the karaoke microphone and sing; "I did it my way." He could always be relied on to crack a joke in his gravelly British accent, know the travel and ethics regulations to the last period, and to support SGMP with a smile and a can do attitude. Last August he contributed fresh ideas and helped with planning this year's programs at the annual board retreat. He enjoyed attending the SGMP national conferences to learn all he could about meeting planning and best of all, to schmooze. Jim was a good man lost far too soon. Here is a last toast to you, Jim; we miss

you. Condolences may be sent to Jim's oldest son, Kevin Booty, 8660 Oldwoods Way, Sacramento, CA 95828.

### ORDER PHOTOS

Great News! We've been able to contract with a photo company with great prices for you to order pictures from the 2001 SGMP Annual Conference held in Kansas City. Photos are no longer available at [www.primeshot.com](http://www.primeshot.com). They are available, however, to view and to order at [www.ofoto.com](http://www.ofoto.com) and sign in as [carriesgmp@aol.com](mailto:carriesgmp@aol.com), using SGMP 2001 as the password. Enjoy your photos!

## Take the Professional Leap: Prepare for the CMP Exam

By Stacy Janecka

At the sixth annual "Take the Professional Leap" Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) review course – offered just prior to the National Education Conference – 34 meeting industry professionals took a giant leap together and enjoyed a great learning experience. Ten speakers shared their knowledge and expertise to prepare attendees to take the CMP exam offered by the Convention Industry Council. Candidates must complete the exam successfully in order to obtain the CMP designation. To ensure achievement, the seminar ended with a mock exam, including a proctor overseeing the multiple choice test.

The Westin Crown Center was the site for this year's seminar. There was a dinner sponsored by the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau featuring members of Comedy Sports City who entertained everyone with improvisational skits on meeting planning!

Make your plans now to attend the seventh annual "*Take the Professional Leap*" seminar next May in Norfolk, Virginia! And if you have any questions regarding the CMP certification process, please call Stacy Janecka at 512-475-4600.

### CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS CALENDAR

#### Rocky Mountain Society of Government Meeting Professionals

- September 25, 2001: Four Points Barcelo, monthly luncheon.

#### Missouri State Capital Chapter Calendar of Events

- September 13, 2001: Best Western Capital Inn, Jefferson City; CMP Games People Play
- October 11, 2001: Quality Inn, Columbia; Judge Judy: A Case of Cancellation

- November 9, 2001: Ramada Inn, Jefferson City; MSAE, MTC, & SGMP Joint Luncheon
- December 2001: Holiday Extravaganza, Location and Date TBA
- January 10, 2002: Location TBA, Ins & Outs of Hotel Contracts
- February 14, 2002: Best Western Capital Inn, Jefferson City; Ins and Outs of a Pre-Con
- March 14, 2002: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City; Bosses Appreciation Luncheon
- April 4, 2002: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City; Joint Tradeshow with MSAE & MTC

## SGMP National Board

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