



# PonyPress



## A Look Back by Wendi Williamson

I can't believe it has been a whole year since the current Board of Directors was installed. What a year it has been! We have all changed in one way or another over the past year. Whether we have changed because of world events, professional development, personal triumphs or disappointments. We have all learned something about ourselves along the way. I have certainly found out the value of working as a team with the Board of Directors and the general membership. I believe that together we can do just about anything we set our minds to. Over the past year we have continued the dream of all past boards that worked so hard to maintain this chapter. Without their work and guidance, we would not have been able to accomplish so many things. We celebrate the highlights of the year which include: our website, record number in attendance at our Education conference, a visit from the National Board, a successful Silent Auction complete with credit card acceptance! Our membership numbers are at an all time high of

243 members. We have seen many new faces participate in the planning and production of our monthly chapter meetings. We have just experienced another fabulous National Conference in Norfolk VA. The milestone 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated as only SGMP can. I know this next year will be filled with many new opportunities and I hope you maintain your enthusiasm in making this the best SGMP chapter we can be. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our term will be dedicated to membership involvement. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your support and look forward to your increased involvement.

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## Thank you, Suppliers

by Wendi Williamson

I would like to extend a personal thank you to our supplier members that have hosted a chapter meeting, board meeting, or National Board meeting over the past year. We sincerely appreciate the generosity that you and your properties have extended the Sacramento Chapter. We look forward to our continued relationship.

July 2001	Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza
Board Retreat	Anaheim Sheraton, Norwalk Marriott and Holiday Inn Riverside
August 2001	Delta King
September 2001	Elks Lodge
October 2001	Red Lion Hotel
November 2001	La Quinta
December 2001	Marriott Rancho Cordova
January 2002	Sacramento Hilton
Mid Year Board Retreat	Lions Gate at McClellan Park
February 2002	Holiday Inn Northeast
March 2002	CalExpo / Turf Club
April 2002	Radisson Hotel
May 2002	Hawthorne Suites
June 2002	Embassy Suites

I would also like to thank our out of town suppliers for their generous donations to our monthly raffles. The proceeds from our raffles have supported local charities, National charities and our scholarship program. We are truly blessed to have support from Redding to San Diego.

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**"5+5 = 60"**

**No, it's not new math, just ask anyone who attended the *Survival at the Speed of Life* workshop.**

## June and July Meeting Announcements

Topic: Awards and Recognition

June 13, 2002  
Embassy Suites  
100 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Please join us for our Awards and Recognition Celebration at the new Embassy Suites. We will be announcing the Planner and Supplier of the Year and celebrating our accomplishments. We hope to see you all there. Please RSVP by logging on to our website [www.sgmpsac.org](http://www.sgmpsac.org)

*SGMP takes a road trip*

Meeting Topic: "Working with CVB's for Guaranteed Results"

July 18<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 am – 1:30 pm  
USS Hornet  
Pier 3, Alameda Point  
Alameda, CA

Mark you calendars for this not to miss meeting with the San Francisco Chapter aboard the USS Hornet. The Aircraft carrier is a national treasure, having participated in two of the greatest events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – World War II and the Apollo 11 space mission.

We will enjoy refreshments on "TOP" deck enjoying the most fabulous Bay View of San Francisco. The program and luncheon will continue in Hanger 1. The luncheon meeting will feature information on working with CVB's and some of their unique venues.

I hope you will take the day and join us for this adventure. The Sacramento Chapter will provide bus transportation to and from Alameda. We will meet and park our cars at the DoubleTree Hotel. (detail's to follow) Please try and car pool if possible. As a gesture of thanks, the chapter

*Continued on Page 3, column 2*

## Bring The Boss Night

By Melissa LaPorte, Director

It's been six years since the Sacramento Chapter presented a "Bring The Boss Night" theme, so we knew this meeting would be very well attended. Not often do we get an opportunity to introduce our managers to all the wonderful members of our society; to show them how important it is to network and build relationships; and show them how we introduce creative ideas and techniques at each of our monthly meetings. The extra bonus was having the privilege of having the Sacramento Chapter host our National Board Members for the first time.

Cheryl Thompson, President of the National Society of Government Meeting Professionals, spoke to the (standing room only) crowd of about 125, about the benefits of membership. High on that list is the benefits of building relationships. We are such a friendly group with everyone helping each other. Even it means going the extra mile to help find a suitable meeting location for that member. It's all about partnerships! Cheryl also filled us in on the details and plans for the National Education Conference (held in Norfolk, Virginia May 13 - 19<sup>th</sup>). Imagine, an educational event for event coordinators ... put on by event coordinators!

Carl Thompson, Executive Director, (no relation to Cheryl) brought us information about St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children in Norfolk, the only home of it's kind in the State of Virginia. The proceeds (\$300) from our chapter's monthly raffle were donated to this worthy charity, again proving the generosity and compassion of our members.

Our monthly chapter meetings provide convenient networking opportunities for government planners who are researching site locations for upcoming meetings as well as for suppliers who are trying to fill those rooms! It is our custom each month to go around the room and introduce ourselves to each other; bold ones taking advantage of an opportunity to make a quick announcement. This time, we were somewhat preoccupied by the honor of introducing our boss.

The first "Bring The Boss" meeting I attended was so impressive. I recall thinking how beneficial it would have been to have my boss attend so that she could see, first hand,

how we are able to accomplish so much business with the format that we have adopted. It's much more than just networking; it is the sharing of information and finding meeting spaces (saving hundreds of phone calls); negotiating contracts; saving time; and building relationships ... that's what we are all about.

This year, I was honored that my boss, John Dodson, Manager of the Human Resources Training and Development Department and esteemed President of the American Society of Training and Development for 2002, was not only present, but actually took the floor to sing praise to SGMP. John recognized the value-added to our organization by SGMP membership and actually created a position of "Employee Events and Training Coordinator" to fulfill these event planning duties for our office. We were really honored to have John attend this meeting as he "moonlights" as the Sacramento King's statistics person for all home games, and they were in the middle of playoffs that night! Nice to see he has his priorities straight!

The best part about this meeting was the way Cal Expo Turf Club hostesses Shauna Allison and Heather Berg of Cal Expo, made it all work. Shauna was such a delightful associate for this event. She remains poised, calm, organized, professional, positive, happy, healthy and fun! And that's just how the meeting went ... with the addition of exciting and thrilling (once the harness racing began). Shauna had to miss that part as she had to leave early that evening.

*Continued on Page 4, column 1*

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## BOARD MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

- \*Five National Conference scholarships were awarded
- \*2002 Board retreat in August will be open to members
- \*Board voted to support Sacramento CVB in their bid to bring the National Conference to Sacramento in 2005

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*Continued from Page 2, column 2*  
will cover the cost of lunch and transportation for our current planner and supplier members. There will be a charge for non-members. You **must RSVP** on line [www.sgmpsac.org](http://www.sgmpsac.org). Please check the website for details on this meeting. We hope many of you take advantage of this great opportunity to meet with our sister chapter in San Francisco.

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When we did the first walk-thru, Shauna actually made the magic of the evening happen right then and there! As Shauna walked us through the empty meeting room, we saw it come alive with the "green theme" for the Turf Club, and the "Luck of the Irish" for March 17<sup>th</sup> (which was right around the corner) that led right into the lucky horse shoes ... racing ... boom! We were all right there! All we needed was a potato bar and some horses! "How much fun was this going to be?" we thought.

It was an enchanting evening indeed: parking was a breeze (literally); registration was organized and methodical; tables were cleverly decorated (how about that GoodBoss Candy bar?); exciting raffle prizes (have YOU ever won a ride in a pace car?); souvenirs provided by Capitol Racing at Cal Expo were extraordinarily special, the food was great (how clever to have the potato bar, eh?), we accomplished a great deal of business; we raised a very generous amount of money for the National charity; the night was pure SGMP magic and this meeting was divine!

Very special thanks to Tammy Giglio of the Riverside Mission Inn and Reneé Alexander of the California Student Aid Commission for doing such outstanding jobs as moderators. We very much appreciated the contributions of Joanna Barker of the California Department of Education and Janeen Mennealy of the Norwalk Marriott for their captivating perspectives from meeting planner and the supplier viewpoints. And big kudos to Reneé Alexander for her hard work on those Mr. & Ms. GoodBoss candy bars! Weren't they clever?

Thank all of you for bringing your boss. We know how valuable their time is, and felt it important enough to show them the value they can expect from our meetings.

## **Thank you to our host for the March 14<sup>th</sup> Bring the Boss Night**

By Melissa LaPorte, Director

On behalf of the local SGMP membership, our bosses and our National Board of Directors, we would like to let Shauna Allison and Heather Berg know how much we appreciated their hosting the March 14<sup>th</sup> Bring The Boss Night meeting. Shauna delivered the best customer service in setting up this meeting! She has such a pleasant, professional demeanor and just makes it all so much fun!

Shauna's many years in the industry lends to the creative ideas that she brings to events such as this. There are just so many opportunities out there at Cal Expo ... if you are looking for an imaginative way to hold your event, no matter how large, this is the place!

We also must thank the Capitol Racing folks for their hospitality as well. They provided all of us with a special commemorative glass and melodic key chains as keepsakes! We even received personal instructions from actual drivers of the harness races. And then, there was the unbelievable opportunity for some lucky participants to experience a ride in the pace car ... in a race that was named just for us ... the Pony Express.

Thank you all for allowing us to experience the magic of the March 14<sup>th</sup> Bring The Boss Night meeting!

## **2002 PLANNER / SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR**

by Raquel Correa

Every year the Sacramento Chapter recognizes one of our Planner and Supplier members who exemplify the highest qualities of leadership and professionalism in the meetings industry, and dedication to the principles and purpose to SGMP. This year the following members have been nominated for this award:

### **Planners:**

**Joanna Barker**, Conference Planner, California Department of Education  
**Kit Gonzales**, Executive Secretary, State Mining & Geology Board  
**Marie Ziegler**, Meeting & Conference Specialist, Department of Employment Development

### **Suppliers:**

**Brad Charlesworth**, Director of Sales, Red Lion Redding  
**Josh Gibson**, Senior Sales Manager, Doubletree Hotel  
**Janeen Mennealy**, Director of Sales & Marketing, Norwalk Marriott. Please attend the awards meeting on June 13, 2002 at the Embassy Suites, Sacramento to congratulate the winners.

## Newsletter of the Year Awards

by Kit Gonzales

I had the pleasure of serving as co-Chair for the 2001 Newsletter of the Year Competition Committee. After a slow start because of the nation's tragedy in 2001, an enthusiastic panel of Newsletter of the Year Competition Committee members was solidified. There was much anticipation among us to get started. We aimed to break the record (for number of entries) and got excited when we got so close, and were pleased that we ended up tying the record at 13 entries. If just one more chapter enters next year, we can break the record! The "judging" started the same time as the Winter Olympics, and after voicing sympathy for those Olympic ice-skating judges, this committee quickly learned about subjectivity. We also claim a spot for being part of the evolution for judging newsletters distributed electronically.

In Norfolk, a video was filmed to entice conference attendees to attend the awards ceremony at the "Business Meeting." This video introduced the Accounting Firm of "SGM&P" (committee members). Then representatives of each chapter that entered the Newsletter and Program of the Year competitions arrived on the red carpet via limo, and were interviewed by Honor and Awards Chair, Kristi Griffith. Even a passerby joined in the fun and hopped in the limo on one side and out the other side and spoke to Kristi as if he was a nominee...after introducing himself he just walk on down the sidewalk. This video was a hoot!

### THE AWARD GOES TO...

Coinciding with the first-ever Conference Business Meeting, a first-ever Honorable Mention Award was given to the San Francisco Chapter. Their much improved newsletter scored SOOOO well they almost tied for third place. However, the \$100 and Third Place award went to the Texas Lone Star Chapter. \$200 and the award for Second Place went to the Atlanta Chapter, and \$300 along with the award for THE BEST newsletter, went to the National Capitol Chapter. Congratulations to all that entered, and keep up the great work!

After the formal scoring was complete, the committee had fun selecting outstanding

articles to honor with special awards. The Emeral Lagasse "BAM" award was given to the Atlanta Chapter's Peach Beat for their regular feature "Chef's Corner." The Best Use of "Bovines" was awarded to the Old Dominion Chapter's Commonwealth Connection June 2001 issue highlighting the Cows on Parade event from last year's conference in Kansas City. And the Best Use of Industry Humor Award was given to the Great Lakes State Chapter's the Lakesview for a cartoon in their January 2001 issue. Tokens of our delight, relevant to the honored articles, were given.



As Committee Co-Chair, I did not want to miss the opportunity to present these Newsletter of the Year awards to the winning chapters, so I solicited, and was awarded scholarship funding from the Sacramento chapter to facilitate my attendance in Norfolk. As a tangible benefit, my national committee participation earned me valuable points toward this scholarship. While there are several other tangible benefits of serving on a committee, either national or local, the intangible ones are just as valuable: new friendships, personal and professional growth, and satisfaction of contributing to these worthwhile activities which adds to the pride of ownership in SGMP. Volunteering for SGMP is easy, especially when it involves something you believe in. Chapters AND members will benefit from our "donations" and volunteering helps make SGMP a continued success! Give it a try!

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*Some quotes heard throughout the conference:*

- *"The more skin you show, the less powerful you look" heard at the Secrets of Professional Image workshop.*
- *"Y-M-C-A" the Village People, performing at the welcome reception.*
- *"Don't attend all the arguments you've been invited to." heard at the Survival at the Speed of Life workshop.*
- *"Your attitude determines your altitude." Willie Jolley, speaker*
- *"SGMP is the BEST professional organization in the meetings industry."*



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## **Thank You Sacramento CVB**

By Janice Hayden, 1st VP

A grand thank you to Thom Pelham and the Sacramento Visitor and Convention Bureau for all their support in helping the SGMP Sacramento Chapter host the SGMP National Board of Directors meeting in Sacramento March 14-17. In addition to their help in securing hotel and meeting space at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, the CVB provided transportation and a guided tour of the Downtown Sacramento area. Upon the National Board's arrival at the Convention Center, the SGMP Sacramento Board of Directors joined them for a wonderful reception and dinner hosted by the Sacramento CVB. To top the night off, following dinner, the National Board was treated to a wonderful performance of Guys and Dolls at the Convention Center. A wonderful time was had by all.

Thank you again to Thom and the CVB for helping the SGMP Sacramento Board to showcase the Sacramento area.

## **Reflections**

By Carla Slink, Meeting Planner

I would like to first of all thank the Sacramento SGMP Board for the opportunity to attend this year's National Education Conference. Every year I come back from the conference excited about a class, a new way to do business, or new acquaintances. This year my inspiration was a speaker, her name is Ruth Gilmore. During dinner on Friday night, they were presenting the Sam Gilmore awards for planner and supplier of the year. Prior to the announcement of the awards, Ruth Gilmore was asked to talk about her husband Sam Gilmore. For those of you who have never heard of Sam, he started SGMP 20 years ago.

Ruth Gilmore was introduced and

brought on stage. As she came on stage, my thoughts were "what a classy lady." She was dressed in an elegant dress that looked wonderful on her. She had no notes, just her memories. In the middle of her speech, she informed us that her children said she couldn't use a written speech. As I sat there listening to her memories of this wonderful man, I recalled this award at the last couple of National Conferences and remembered thinking; "this man just started this organization, why was he thought so highly of"? After Mrs. Gilmore told us of Sam's life and dreams, I was in tears. I looked over at Gloria Anderson and Pam Corona and all three of us had tears in our eyes and a warm smile on our face. I kept thinking, "When I grow up, I want to be a class act just like Ruth Gilmore."

I have enjoyed SGMP and this organization has truly helped my career as a meeting professional. However, after Mrs. Gilmore's story of Sam and the insight she gave us of the dad, the father, the businessman, I can safely say, I am extremely proud to be part of such a professional and well-rooted organization. Thank you Ruth, Sam, and to all the members in this organization that have touched my life.

## **So You're New To SGMP!!**

By Angela Frank

This year I was on the panel for the So You're New To SGMP at the national conference. There were about 100 people in attendance. Kristi Griffith was the moderator and Carrie Spencer from the Texas Lone Star Chapter was also on the panel. I was able to share all of my great SGMP experiences locally and nationally with all of the new planners and suppliers. The group seemed very excited. As the week went by, many attendees came up to me and told me I was right by saying SGMP is one of the greatest groups and they were having the time of their lives.

I can't wait until Orlando!

**Sacramento SGMP**

## **CMP Study Course Recap**

By Janeen Mennealy

I attended the CMP Study Course, which was held in Norfolk, Virginia prior to the SGMP National Conference. This three day intensive workshop provided the information, resources and study outlines for preparation to take the CMP Exam. The class had over 30 participants. Pamala Corona, CMP was the organizer for the class and Tricia Hall, CAE, CMP was the facilitator. In all my years of attending training's and workshops, I have never attended a more organized, informative and beneficial class.

For anyone who is interested in participating in a study group or class, I recommend the three-day course offered prior to the SGMP National Conference. It is a valuable experience from which you will benefit professionally and personally.

I want to thank the Sacramento SGMP Chapter and my fellow Board of Directors for the opportunity to participate in this class.

## **Software Choices**

By: Debbie Davidson  
California Attorney General's Office

Events Pro, Event Master, Event Source, Catermate, Caterease, Caterware . . . the list goes on and on! Today's meeting planner has a wide selection of event management software from which to choose — which is wonderful because productive software can make life easier. And, the large number of meeting planning software products now on the market points to the complexity and challenges of our work. But variety also makes selection difficult. Members, can you tell me what type of meeting planning software you use . . . are you happy with it . . . would you recommend it? Thank you for your time; any comments will be appreciated, and you may direct them to Debbie Davidson, California Attorney General's Office, 327-9037, e-mail: [deborah.davidson@doj.ca.gov](mailto:deborah.davidson@doj.ca.gov).

## **Silent Auction & Casino Night** by Sal Bonnello

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support this years Silent Auction and Casino night at the Radisson Hotel on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2002. The event received extremely positive double down reviews, critiques and feed back. This event was a tremendous success generating over \$11,000.00 in revenue for the Chapter.

This money will be used for educational scholarships and opportunities which benefits the entire membership. Additionally it gives us the resources to continue to provide stellar monthly educational programs and events that feature top industry professionals.

The silent auction had a much different feel and format to it this year. Based on the feed back we received last year, many members of the chapter felt it would be nice to try the silent auction separate from the awards banquet, this way people would feel more comfortable in bringing guests. By the looks and sounds of at the Black Jack and Craps table it was apparent everyone was having a great time.

One of the many goals of SGMP Sacramento is to enhance the value of your membership. If you are a member that would like to be more active or involved in the Chapter, it is greatly recommended you volunteer for a committee.

If there are any questions, comments or concerns or suggestions on how to better improve this event, please do not hesitate to share them. You can forward them to SGMP, P.O. Box 188204 or email them to [sal@sheratonanaheim.com](mailto:sal@sheratonanaheim.com). We welcome your feed back and that's not CRAPS!!

Once again thank you so very much for taking your valuable time to come out and support the Sacramento Chapter of SGMP's annual silent auction. *Suppliers list follows on Page 9.*



## Silent Auction Suppliers List

Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys	Marriott Hotel & Marina, San Diego
Anabella Hotel, Anaheim	Marriott Los Angeles Airport
Anaheim/Orange CVB	Marriott Laguna Cliffs
Anaheim Vagabond Plaza Hotel	Marriott Mission Valley
Best Western Hacienda Hotel, San Diego	Marriott Newport Beach
Best Western Lighthouse Hotel, Pacifica	Marriott Norwalk
Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills	Marriott Rancho Cordova
Biltmore Hotel & Resorts, Santa Clara	Marriott Rancho Santa Barbara-Buellton
Canterbury Hotel, San Francisco	Marriott San Francisco Airport
Century Plaza Hotel & Spa, Los Angeles	Marriott San Mateo
Clarion Hotel San Francisco Airport	Marriott Santa Clara
Country Suites by Ayres, Ontario	Marriott's Desert Springs Resort & Spa, Palm Desert
Delta King Hotel, Sacramento	Mission Inn, Riverside
DoubleTree Club San Diego	Monterey Peninsula Inns
DoubleTree Hotel, Sacramento	Piccadilly Inn Hotels, Fresno
DoubleTree Resort (Fess Parker's) S. Barbara	Plaza Suites, Santa Clara
Embassy Suites, Buena Park	Quality Resort Mission Valley
Embassy Suites Hotel, Lake Tahoe	Radisson Hotel, Sacramento
Embassy Suites Hotel, Sacramento	Radisson Hotel at LAX
Embassy Suites Hotel, San Luis Obispo	Radisson Hotel, Berkeley Marina
Embassy Suites Hotel, Santa Clara	Radisson Hotel, San Francisco Airport
Flamingo Resort Hotel, Santa Rosa	Radisson Los Angeles Westside
Forest Suites Resort, Lake Tahoe	Radisson Wilshire Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles
Four Points Hotel Sheraton, Ventura	Red Lion Hotel, Eureka
Hawthorn Suites, Sacramento	Red Lion Hotel, Redding
Hilton, Anaheim	Renaissance Esmerelda Resort, Indian Wells
Hilton, Costa Mesa	Renaissance Long Beach Hotel
Hilton Garden Inn, Anaheim/Garden Grove	Residence Inn, Sacramento
Hilton Palm Springs Resort	Residence Inn, Sunnyvale
Hilton, Pasadena	Resort at Squaw Creek
Hilton Port of Los Angeles/San Pedro	Riviera, Las Vegas
Holiday Inn Long Beach Airport	Riviera, Palm Springs
Holiday Inn, Los Angeles Downtown	San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau
Holiday Inn, Monrovia	San Jose Convention & Visitors Bureau
Holiday Inn, Sacramento	San Mateo Convention & Visitors Bureau
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