

PonyXpress



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 03

VOLUME 1, No. 94
CHARTERED
JUNE 8, 1988

SACRAMENTO
SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT
MEETING PROFESSIONALS

A Glimpse Inside the PonyXpress...

President's Message
Page 2

2003-04 Board Profiles
Page 3

On The Move
Page 6

Behind the Meeting
Page 7

Planner & Supplier of the Year
Page 9



October Chapter Meeting Reminder

Bring Your Boss Night



Date: Oct 2, 2003
Time: 3:30 pm *Register:* 4 – 5 pm
Program (Networking Immediately following program)
Place: Red Lion Hotel (Behind Arden Fair Mall)
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815

Program:
Hear some local Bosses in our industry give their take on SGMP Membership of their employees. Steve Hammond of the Sacramento CVB and Anne Reed of CSUS guest speakers. Also Donna Carey, SGMP National President to speak about the ROI of SGMP membership.

RSVP: SGMP Website
www.sgmpsac.org

November Chapter Meeting Reminder

Technology Today

Date: Nov 6, 2003
Time: 4:30 pm Registration
5 pm – 6 pm Program
Place: UC Davis Sutter Galleria
2901 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Program: Come hear the latest in Meeting Logistic software from the VP of Client Services, Penni Allan, of Certain Software. Ms. Allan will be speaking on Registration 123 and Meeting Planner Plus, a management software on event logistics.

RSVP: SGMP Website
www.sgmpsac.org



A Look Inside	Page
President's Message	2
2003-04 Board Profiles	3
Treasurer's Report	4
2004 Silent Auction	5
On the Move	6
Member News	6
Behind the Meeting	7
Membership Statistics	7
Planner of the Year	9
Supplier of the Year	9
Board of Directors	10

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Janice Hayden

It's hard to believe that this summer is already gone and we are looking forward to the beginning of the school year and our September SGMP meeting. We held our 2nd Annual Membership Planning Retreat in August. Since I was unable to attend the 1st Annual Retreat last year, I really didn't know what to expect. From all the feedback I heard about last year's retreat, I was a bit apprehensive that we could pull off an event of the same caliber. Especially since this was my first official meeting and I was more than a bit nervous. With the guidance of IPP Wendi Williamson and the rest of the new board, I can proudly say we did it!

We had a great group of volunteers (21 planners and 16 suppliers) that stepped forward and devoted their afternoon to help us plan for the year. Within a two-hour period, and with the participation of the entire group, we had a tremendous list of topics that the attendees wanted to have presented as meeting topics. Something that could have taken a tremendous amount of time for a few people was completed in a snap with the input of everyone.

The second half of the afternoon was devoted to breaking into committees as follows: Monthly Programs/Education Conference; Membership; Registration/Hospitality; Community Service; Silent Auction and

Newsletter. It was gratifying to see each committee represented by a full table of people interested and willing to help. The energy level in the room was unbelievable. I remember as I floated from table to table, all of a sudden all my fears were gone. I really wasn't in this alone.

Within a very short time we had monthly meeting topics assigned through September 2004. The theme and plans well underway for the Education Conference in February. The newsletter committee had all their assignments and new features planned out. The Registration/Hospitality Committee worked on their plans and themes for monthly meeting registration. The Silent Auction Committee was well into the planning stages for their big event scheduled for April, and the Community Services Committee had selected charities they wished to support for the coming year.

As a wrap-up to the day's activities each committee reported on what they had planned out. All I can say is—the power and creativity of 38 people made short work of a number of daunting tasks that have in the past been done by a few.

Since that fabulous day in August, I have been very excited and pleased to see committees meeting for lunch to continue their important work. There is excitement in the air and I think this "Back to Basics Year" has all the potential of being the best ever.

We are all in this together, so if you were not able to attend our August Membership Planning Retreat, I'm sure there is always room for more help on these very important committees. Just ask one of the board members. We would be happy to hook you up with whatever committee you might be interested in helping with.

The most rewarding part of this organization is the cultivation of friendships developed by working together to produce quality educational programs and special events. This in turn makes Sacramento SGMP number one in my book. Thank you all for your support. We all benefit from your participation.



2003-2004 BOARD PROFILES

Janice Hayden

Position: President

Employment: CSU Sacramento – Director,
University Ceremonies and Visitor Relations

Janice has been with the Sacramento Chapter of the SGMP for the past nine years. In 1999 she was elected to the Board as Planner Director then First Vice President, so it was only natural 4 years later for her to rise to the challenge of President. Her vision is to encourage greater involvement of all chapter members. Janice is a firm believer in the power and the benefits of continuing education, personal development of members, personal relationships and teamwork. Her goal over the next year will be to develop the membership, and to have more member involvement.

Raquel Correa

Position: First Vice President

Employment: Public Defenders Office

The spark plug of this year's board. Raquel has been involved with the Sacramento Chapter for the past 7 years. Not being one to not be involved, Raquel was named to the board in 1998 and has been involved in all aspects of the organization. When you need something done, Raquel is most definitely the one to go to, as she is always early to the meetings ensuring everything is ready.

Brad Charlesworth

Position: Second Vice President

Employment Red Lion Hotel Redding –
Director of Sales

Brad is fairly new to the organization, being involved for only three years. He remembers when he first received his association pin, and Raquel said, “now you want a blue or a red stone for recruiting five new members or joining the board.” Who said

Continued on next column

an old dog can't be taught new tricks. Brad has been involved in several aspects of the chapter including meeting facilitator and being a co-chair for this year's Education Conference/ Tradeshow in February. Brad believes that in order to get the most out of any organization one must become involved. The more you are involved, the more that you will learn and will benefit.

Marie Ziegler

Position: Secretary

Employment: Employment Development
Department – Meeting and Conference
Specialist

Having been a member of the Sacramento Chapter for the past 11 years, Marie brings a sense of calm to this years board. Marie has been employed with the government for the past 25 years, the last 12 plus years being with EDD. Marie is a fourth generation Sacramentan, and enjoys traveling locally and abroad. The position of Secretary involves someone that is able to multi task, and Marie is more than capable.

Gina Westbury

Position: Treasurer

Employment: Coast Anaheim Hotel – Director
of Sales

Gina is also new to the Sacramento Chapter being a member for the past three years. She was involved in the Educational conference and has been involved with several other aspects of the organization. Her goal is to be an integral component of the board and to be more hands-on, and to continue to build relationships with the members. Gina wants to give something back to the chapter. This is a great opportunity for her and the chapter to have a strong individual involved with the financial side of the organization.

James Lynton

Position: Director, Supplier

Employment: Doubletree Hotel Sacramento—
Director of Sales

James is the kind of person you want around. His infectious smile and positive

Continued on Page 4, column 1

Continued from Page 3, column 2

attitude will bring a great addition to our board. James became active with the chapter right away. Working with registration each month, writing a few articles for the newsletter, moderating during the monthly meetings and at the National Conference in Orlando, his first one, assisted with the Silent Auction. His goal is to keep Sacramento as one of the best Chapters to be a member of. "In order to make a difference, you have to make your presence felt" is what James works and lives by.

Teri Onorato

Position: Director, Supplier
Employment: The Los Angeles Athletic Club – Director of Sales

After being with the Chapter for the past six years, Teri felt it was time to take on greater responsibility and rose to the challenge of Director. Teri has been involved with both the Sacramento Chapter and the LA Chapter. Her goal this year is to give back to the organization. Some of Teri's accomplishments include serving on the educational committee for the past four years, as well as working Registration and Hospitality for the monthly meetings. Teri brings experience and enthusiasm to this year's board.

Carla Slink

Position: Director, Planner
Employment: Caltrans, Conference Coordinator

This former Chapter planner of the year brings drive, enthusiasm and a team philosophy to this year's board. Being a member for the past six years, Carla has been involved in all aspects of the organization. For the past two years she has been involved with the silent auction, the educational conference and has written articles for the chapter newsletter. After six years, Carla decided it was time to become more involved in the chapter (not like she didn't already do her fair share) by helping to make the decisions and shape the organization over the next year.

Wendi Williamson

Position: Immediate Past President
Employment: California Department of Aging

Wendi has been an active member of the Sacramento Chapter since 1997. She served as Chapter Secretary from 1999-2001 and Chapter President from 2001-2003. Wendi's commitment and enthusiasm for the Sacramento Chapter will continue as she fulfills the role of Immediate Past President. She brings experience to the board through her active participation at the Chapter Presidents Roundtable.

As you are able to see this year's board is driven to giving back to the Chapter. They all believe in being available to discuss any matters with its members, and are looking forward to the challenges that lay ahead for the following year.

From the Treasurer

By Gena Westbury

Sacramento Chapter of Society of Government Meeting Professionals

Reconciliation With July 2003 Bank Statement

July 2003 Treasury Report Ending Balance

\$24,583.25





**TUNING UP
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER'S
2004 SILENT AUCTION**

By Kit Gonzales

Under Head Wrangler Carla Slink's leadership, the 2004 Silent Auction Committee is hard at work planning an EXCITING Silent Auction event. There will be music, dancing, contests, and lots of items on which to bid.

A sharp-shooting good time will be had by all-so mark your calendars for **April 1, 2004** and keep your eyes on the "*Tuning Up*" banner on the SGMP Sacramento Chapter website (www.sgmpsac.org) to find out location, time, who is already supporting this event, and any other pertinent information.

If you want to help on the Silent Auction Committee and haven't had the time or opportunity to volunteer yet, or just have a question, contact Carla Slink via email at carla_slink@dot.ca.gov or by phone at 916-227-9126.

On the Move

By Wanda Headrick

This is the start of a new Board and a new Pony Express Newsletter committee. We are here to shake things up to see where they land. One of the new items to be included in each publication of the newsletter is the column "On The Move."

This column will be about the members of the Sacramento Chapter of SGMP. We want to get acquainted with everyone in the Chapter. One way we want to do this is to announce when members change jobs, change to a new location on their existing job, get married, have babies and get awards.

If you have information for the column please email it to Wanda Headrick at wheadric@water.ca.gov

I would appreciate it if you could get the information to me by the 1st of each month.

Thanks for all of your help.



Member News

By Brad Charlesworth

Our Chapter has grown by seven new members. We would like to welcome them to the organization and hope to see them at our next meeting.

Ms. Andrea Deighton
U.S. Geological Survey
Western Ecological research Center
Andrea_deighton@usgs.gov

Ms. Sandra Machado
CALTRANS
Office of Structure Construction
Sandra_machado@dot.ca.gov

Ms. Twylia Findlay
CALTRANS
Office of Structure Construction
Twylia_Findlay@dot.ca.gov

Mr. Luis Sepulveda
California Children and Families Commission
lsepulveda@ccfc.ca.gov

Mrs. Phyllis Banks
Department of Water Resources
pbanks@water.ca.gov

Mr. Stephen Foerstler
USDA, Risk Management Agency
Stephen_foerstler@rma.usda.gov

Mr. Paul Stark
Chancellor's Office, CA Community Colleges
pstark@ccco.edu



Behind the Meeting!

By Priscilla Gandy

In an effort to bring our members to the forefront, the *PonyXpress* will provide readers an opportunity to better know our planner and supplier members through the “**Behind the Meeting!**” personality profile article. In each addition of the *PonyXpress* you will find information on one of our planner or supplier members. This article is intended to bring our shining stars into the light and promote even more camaraderie in our exciting SGMP Sacramento Chapter!

This edition’s “**Behind the Meeting!**” article features **Karen Nichols** who is a Conference Planner with the California Department of Education in the Travel, Cashiering & Conference Planning Unit. Karen has been a member of SGMP since 1999 and enjoys sharing information with and meeting other people in the meeting planning industry. Her favorite SGMP activities are the Silent Auction and the New Officer Installation Awards Dinner.

Karen has been planning meetings for approximately 4 years and appreciates the opportunities her position offers for networking and meeting industry representatives. She plans approximately 25 meeting per year, ranging in size from 50 - 1300 attendees. Her favorite location for hosting a meeting is San Diego or Monterey, California; although she notes the South San Francisco and Los Angeles Airport areas may be more realistic for the type of events she plans.

Although Karen was born in Chico she currently resides in Antelope. In 1986 Karen lived in Hawaii and claims it’s her favorite place she’s lived, visited, or vacationed! I think if SGMP were looking for volunteers to open a Chapter in Hawaii,

Karen would be the first in line!

On a personal note, Karen has an amazing partner that she’s been dating for the past 10 years. She has two fabulous nephews who live in Arkansas with her sister, and her mother, who resides in Chico, recently married her high school sweetheart whom she hadn’t seen in 45 years! Shopping, traveling, and visiting new restaurants are some of Karen’s hobbies...sounds like she’s a perfect meeting planner and SGMP member!

At the next SGMP event, remember to introduce yourself to Karen Nichols, this edition’s “**Behind the Meeting!**” personality profile!

If you have suggestions on a planner and/or supplier that you’d like featured in the next edition of “Behind the Meeting!” please email Priscilla Gandy at gandyp@csus.edu.



Membership Statistics

By Wendi Williamson

Govt Planners:	118
Contract Planners:	4
Retired:	2
Suppliers:	109
Total:	233

Government Planners: 51%

Suppliers: 47%



Thank you to the Holiday Inn for their great support of the SGMP Second Annual Membership Planning Retreat held on August 7th. The setting was perfect, and the production was high. Thank you also for the wonderful reception afterwards.

The venue was perfect, and the topic even better - Survivor. This was a great opportunity to review different issues facing all of us. Thank you to the staff at the Hilton on Arden Way for helping us make the perfect event on September 4th.



SGMP Sacramento Chapter

A NEW BOARD, A NEW YEAR AND A NEW PLANNER OF THE YEAR

By Wanda Headrick

This year's recipient was Emily M. Young-Schroeder. She has volunteered for numerous committees including: Silent Auction 2001-2003, Education Conference 2002-2003, Newsletter Editor Assistant 2002-Current, 2002 Membership Planning Retreat, etc. She has enjoyed every committee, it has given her the chance to work with many people and hone her meeting planning skills.

Since receiving the award for 2003 Planner of the Year, Emily said, "I have looked back at all the past time spent and smile; I loved every minute. I feel thankful that there is this organization out there for people like myself to learn new skills and improve on skills already acquired. Our chapter meetings and conferences give people in our industry the opportunity to meet, mingle and strike up new business relationships. SGMP helps to create business connections; the people in the organization take those connections and create friendships and we become loyal to one another. SGMP has become my other family in the business world."

As for her future plans in SGMP? Emily will continue to work on various committees. She said her hope for the future of our Chapter is continued success in scholarship fund raising, helping our community by supporting local charities, and an exciting, fun, interesting and overall the most successful National Conference ever in 2005. Also, perhaps Sacramento Chapter could be the driving force behind the nationwide use of one meeting planning database (I.e. Peopleware Pro) for all chapters.

With a new baby, Emily will be

Continued on next column

cutting back somewhat, but she will still be active and has plans to attend the National Conference in May 2004 for the first time.

Brad Shows His Worth

By Lulu Ramos

On June 19th at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza. we celebrated our 15th Anniversary as a chapter. The evening's agenda included the installation of the 2003-04 Board of Directors, announcement of the Planner and Supplier of the Year and we traveled back through time during a power point presentation covering the past 15 years.

It was a special evening for one Supplier who was sworn in as 2nd Vice President of the Board and later in the evening was awarded the Supplier of the Year Award. Brad Charlesworth from the Red Lion Hotel, Redding has been a member of the Sacramento Chapter for almost four years. He has served on the SGMP Membership Committee, was the co-chair for 2003 Educational Trade Show, has narrated a number of our meetings and will go down in our chapter's history as the baggage boy for nine of the members who attended the San Francisco chapter's 11th Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show in March.

Brad has been in the Hospitality Industry for over 30 years, yes thirty years! His parents ran a hotel and Brad got involved at an early age. He is active in the Exchange Club of Redding (with focuses on Child Abuse and Special Olympics).

Brad stated, "I am very honored to receive this award from such a great

Continued on Page 10, column 1

organization. I can think of several other people that have truly earned this award. It shows that my peers recognize dedication and hard work, and that gives me a feeling of accomplishment and success.”



Sacramento SGMP Board of Directors:

President: Janice Hayden
Committee Board Liaison:
Awards / Recognition

**1st Vice President:
Raquel Correa**
Committee Board Liaison:
Membership

**2nd Vice President:
Brad Charlesworth**
Committee Board Liaison:Newsletter

Secretary: Marie Ziegler
Committee Board Liaison:
Community Service

Treasurer: Gina Westbury
Committee Board Liaison:
Registration/Hospitality

Director: James Lynton
Committee Board Liaison:Monthly
programs/Education Conference

Director: Carla Slink
Committee Board Liaison:
Silent Auction

Director: Teri Onorato
Committee Board Liaison:
Registration/Hospitality

**Immediate Past President:
Wendi Williamson**
Committee Board Liaison:
Membership



The PonyXpress Newsletter is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Articles are due the 15th of each month preceding the publication month.

Editor: Brad Charlesworth
Director of Sales
Red Lion Inn
Redding, CA

Chairperson of the Newsletter Committee:
Lulu Ramos
Department of Conservation



Published by
Oak Publishing Company
SGMP Sacramento Chapter Webmaster -
Guy Bennett