



North Texas Chapter  
Society of Government Meeting  
Professionals

# Meeting Professional Perspective

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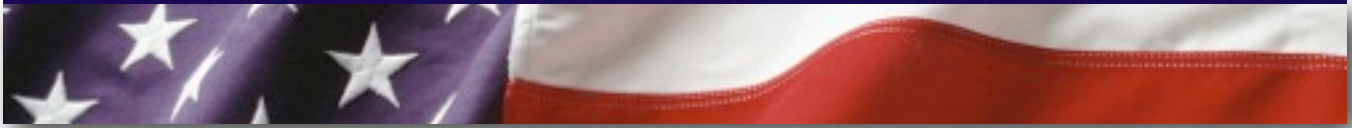
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by C. Sue Thomason



Happy New Year to All!

On behalf of all of the North Texas Chapter Board, we wish to express our appreciation for your support throughout 2011. We're honored to be entrusted with the job of leading this distinguished organization made up of such accomplished and respected members. With your help, our chapter will continue to do great things together.

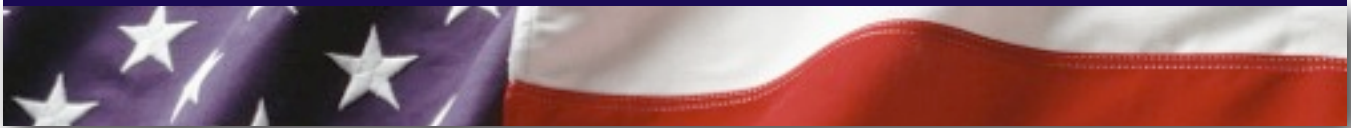
Chapter members stepped up to make our first charity for 2011, Genesis Women's Shelter, a huge success. Gayle Jenkins, Director for Community Service, details your generosity in her newsletter article.

The new year comes with new opportunities for education. The Wild West Chapter will host the Region V, annual Partners in Education (PIE) event "PIE: Ingredients for a Successful Government Event" from Friday, February 10, 2012 through noon on Sunday, February 12, 2012 in Tulsa, OK. You still have time to register for this event and to apply for a NTX Chapter scholarship to attend. Rob Coffman, SGMP National President, will attend PIE as well as other executives from the national office. This is a great opportunity to meet our national board members and national executive officers.

Our SGMP National Education Conference (NEC) is coming up May 16-19, 2012 in New Orleans, LA and looks to be filled with valuable information for planners and suppliers. Education tracks are posted at <http://www.sgmp.org/nec2012/education.cfm> if you'd like more information. Our own Shelley Mann will present a session on "Contract vs. Letter of Intent." On-line registration opened on 1/1/12.

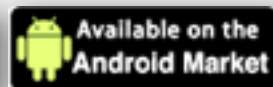
Certified Government Meeting Planner (CGMP) Courses are offered in the 3 days preceding both PIE and NEC. Contact Lisa at [lisa.silverman@sgmp.org](mailto:lisa.silverman@sgmp.org) with any questions you may have about the CGMP course.

We look forward to a successful 2012 for each of you and the North Texas Chapter.



# FEDERAL PER DIEM

by C. Sue Thomason

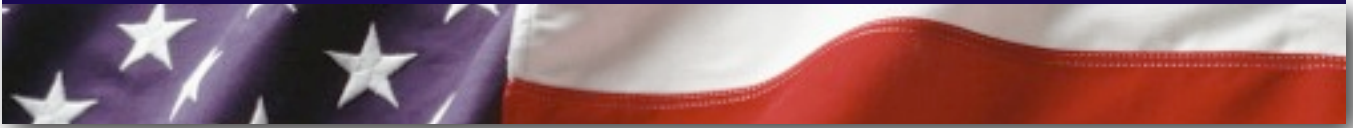


The General Services Administration (GSA) created a free per diem mobile application now available for iPhone, BlackBerry and Android platforms. This app allows travelers to look up Federal government per diem rates by city/state and ZIP code in locations throughout the United States and its territories. Per diem is the daily allowance for lodging (excluding taxes), meals and incidental expenses.

General Services Administration established these rates for destinations in the lower 48 contiguous United States. The U.S. Department of Defense sets rates for locations in Alaska, Hawaii and the U.S. territories. The U.S. Department of State sets rates for foreign travel locations.

Note: Blackberry users must have Blackberry App World installed to download the app. From your BlackBerry smartphone, visit [www.blackberry.com/appworld/download](http://www.blackberry.com/appworld/download).

For more details about the new per diem mobile application and the FY 2012 rates, visit the GSA website at: [www.gsa.gov/perdiem](http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem).



## Board Bytes

By Terry Moore

- If you're looking for great educational and networking opportunities, please plan to attend the Partners in Education Conference (PIE), in Tulsa, OK, February 10 -12, 2012. If you're like me, and have been procrastinating on taking the CGMP course, it's being offered for your convenience on February 7-10, prior to the conference. The early-bird registration dates have passed, but you can still register on SGMP's website, or on-site the first day of the conference.
- We welcome to the board, Lindsey Iles with Crowne Plaza Suites in Dallas as the new Director of Special Projects, replacing Steve Sherman with the Warwick Hotel. Joshua Craft at the Dallas Marriott Suites Market Center has agreed to roll up his sleeves and support the chapter as a newly appointed Committee Chair.

## Community Service

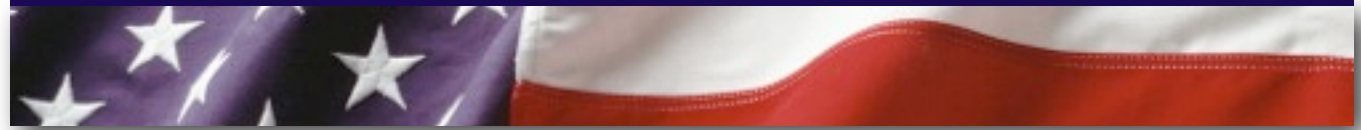
by Gayle Jenkins



Thanks to the generosity of the Dallas Chapter of SGMP, 39 handbags and 71 men's ties for a total of 110 items were donated during our December charity event for the Genesis Women's Shelter. The Shelter Thrift Shop estimates that they will resale those items at an average price of \$13 each, which in turn means our donated items will generate approximately \$1,430 in revenue. This revenue can be used for the Genesis Women's Shelter to aid displaced women and children.

If anyone was unable to participate in the December charity event, please bring your items to the next SGMP meeting and they will be delivered to the Genesis Women's Shelter.

Our next charity event, scheduled for June 2012, will aide the Ronald McDonald House. Information regarding this event will be provided in future newsletters and at the monthly SGMP meetings.



# November Host

## Adolphus Hotel

1321 Commerce Street, Dallas, TX

Year Built: 1912

Renovated: 2011

Amount of Meeting Space: 25,000 Sq.Ft.

S.F of Largest Room: 5,304 Sq. Ft.

Number of Guest Rooms: 422

Number of Suites: 145

Sales Person: Luke Hopkins

Sales Phone: 214.651.3622

Fax: 214.651.3563

Email Address: [lhopkins@adolphus.com](mailto:lhopkins@adolphus.com)

Website: [www.hoteladolphus.com](http://www.hoteladolphus.com)

## What Makes Your Facility Special?

The Adolphus, built in 1912 and splendidly restored to accommodate a new generation of discerning travelers is an architectural gem celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. This is what makes this hotel beyond special... need I say more.



## December Host

**Dallas Marriott Suites Market Center**  
2943 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207

Year Built: 1997  
Renovated: 2011  
Amount of Meeting Space: 5600 Sq. Ft.  
S.F of Largest Room: 3400 Sq. Ft.  
Number of Guest Rooms: 265  
Number of Suites: 265

Sales Person: Joshua Craft  
Sales Phone: 214.842.1572  
Fax: 214.291.5978  
Email Address: [joshua.craft@marriott.com](mailto:joshua.craft@marriott.com)  
Website: [www.marriott.com/dalmt](http://www.marriott.com/dalmt)

### What Makes Your Facility Special?

The comforts of home, including a 42" flat-screen LG TV, surround guests in each of our 265 suites. Recharge in the renovated lobby and take advantage of free wireless Internet access. Groups and teams have plenty of space to network, brainstorm or just relax in eight meeting rooms providing 5,300 square feet of total meeting space. The 250-seat Grand Ballroom is perfect for larger gatherings. At the center of it all, the Dallas Marriott Suites Market Center is across from the Dallas Market Center, a mile from downtown, American Airlines Center, Dallas Convention Center and Victory Park. Our complimentary shuttle service provides transportation within a 5-mile radius of the hotel and to Love Field Airport.



## November Program

By Sue Thomason

November – Adolphus Hotel



### Let's Play CGMP Jeopardy!

*I'll take Meeting Planning for \$500, Rhonda.*

*Answer - Offer versus Binding Agreement.*

*Question – What is the difference between a proposal and a contract?*

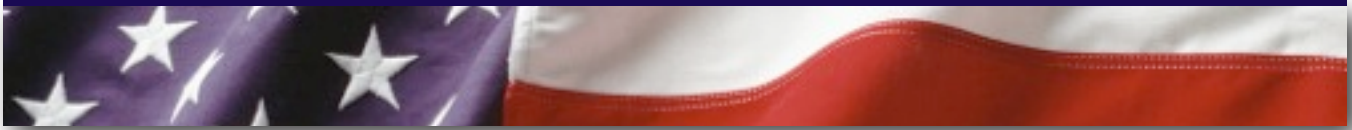
Our November meeting, held at the beautiful Adolphus Hotel in downtown Dallas, provided lots of fun and education at the same time as Rhonda Wise led the attendees in a fast-paced game of CGMP Jeopardy.

Each table became a team to provide "question responses" to 25 answers, all of which are a part of the Certified Government Meeting Professional exam. Each team fought to ring the bell first and shout out the correct response. A wrong answer would start the bell ringing frenzy all over. Rhonda managed to stump the audience quite a few times with her CGMP Jeopardy game.

The team with the highest total score took home loaves of Rhonda's famous banana bread!

Rhonda briefed the audience on the importance of obtaining their CGMP and encouraged everyone to consider one of the opportunities to take the course and test offered by SGMP's Education and Training Manager, Lisa Silverman. Visit the SGMP web site at [www.sgmp.org](http://www.sgmp.org) to see the location and date for the next CGMP class.

Kudos to Rhonda as SGMP approved her program as a part of the Education and Programming Core Competency. CGMP Jeopardy is now available for all 33 chapters to access from the SGMP Programming link to use in their own monthly chapter meetings.



## December Program

By Danielle Flud

December – Dallas Marriott Suites Market Center

Our December monthly program was presented by Dena Rambo with the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau. Most CVBs are nonprofit membership organizations bringing together companies that rely on tourism and meetings for business. The Dallas Convention and Visitor's Bureau takes full responsibility in representing the city of Dallas in the best possible light, while enhancing the long-term development of communities through a travel and tourism strategy. It is, in fact, the city's biggest cheerleader, liaison, and partner. In many ways, the success of Dallas hinges on its representation and hospitality of the DCVB. They represent the gamut of visitor-related businesses, from restaurants and retail to rental cars and racetracks. Therefore, they are responsible for introducing planners to a full range of meeting-related products and services the city has to offer. Basically, they match the needs of the client to Dallas' resources.

In what ways is this accomplished?

The DCVB is a "first responder" of sorts for inquiries of all sizes into the City of Dallas. From pebble sized meetings, to boulder sized events, the DCVB handles all with the same tenacity. Their priority is to represent the city's hotels, vendors, businesses and attractions in a way that is tailored to each individual meeting planner and organization. By coordinating site visits, fielding questions, collecting bids, presenting hotels and working between the City and clients, the DCVB ensures the best representation for us all. It is not only the City of Dallas that benefits, but surrounding cities and CVB's from other cities as well. The economic impact that a successful or unsuccessful CVB has on its city is measured and reported to the City Council. They want to develop future business for the area, and they work with local government and the chamber of commerce to draw up a marketing plan that promotes the area.

Creating jobs for local residents is just another avenue the DCVB takes in bringing events to Dallas. In securing business for Dallas, the DCVB lends to its overall growth and image. The DCVB is here to market and sell Dallas. They want every single client to be happy. It is going to do everything it can to match every client with the perfect setting and services for its meetings. The bottom line — the DCVB is working for you.

We appreciate Dena taking the time to show how our planners and suppliers can work with the CVBs in all cities.

## Planner Profile – Bonnie Buchanan

By Stephanie Thompson

An SGMP member since 1995, Bonnie Buchanan was born and raised in Greenville, Texas. She has lived in Dallas and Desoto as well.

For the past 20 years, Bonnie has served as the Associate Head Start Director for Head Start of Greater Dallas. Prior to that she was at St. Paul High School where she worked as a teacher. She has also served the Dallas Independent School District as a caseworker and Supervisor of Family Service, Training, Education, and Substance Abuse with Head Start of Greater Dallas.



As the current President of the Texas Head Start Association, Bonnie is involved in the planning of board meetings and conferences for the associations. Special assignments in her present job include provide management training and parliamentary procedure training for Policy Council members.

Bonnie is very active in professional organizations. In addition to being a member of SGMP and President of Texas Head Start Association, she is currently a member of the National Notary Association; Dallas Association for the Education of Young Children (DAECY); National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); Region 6 Association, and the National Head Start Association (NHSA).

One of her goals is to continue to bring high energy, dedication and commitment to the organizations that she is currently affiliated with including SGMP. When asked about her greatest accomplishments, Bonnie said, “One of my greatest accomplishments has been the opportunity and the ability to work and make a difference in the lives of families and children.”

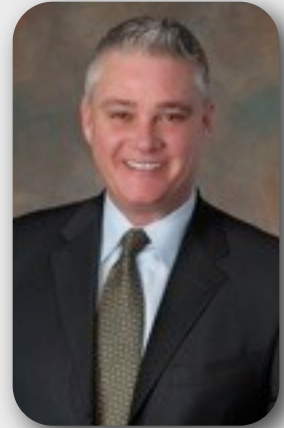
Bonnie is married with one son, and one grandson. Her hobbies include reading, shopping and spending quality time with her family. Bonnie’s favorite quote is, “To err is human; to forgive, divine.”- Alexander Pope . Please say hello to Bonnie at the next chapter luncheon.

## Supplier Profile – Blake Harrison

By Fannie Smith

The supplier spotlight is on our newest supplier member, Blake Harrison, Sales Manager for the Sheraton Dallas North Hotel. He has been a part of their sales team for one year and is responsible for government, state and national association markets.

Blake's career in the hotel industry began in 2008 where he served as Sales Manager for Holiday Inn Market Center. Customer service has always been his niche. His first job was Operations Manager for a golf company. He later served as a Flight Attendant and new-hire trainer for America West Airlines. He has been a realtor for 15 years and currently works with Keller Williams Elite Real Estate Agency, Dallas – Park Cities. Blake is passionate about helping people buy and sell real estate, especially the joy of working with first time home buyers. Blake states, "It's great because it fits well into my schedule".



Although Blake has been a member of the North Texas Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals for only two months, he immediately became involved in the chapter's operations. Recently, he was the presenter for the January luncheon and did an outstanding job on the training topic "Goals and Objectives". He also participated on the 2011 Charity fundraising committee for Genesis Women's Shelter and helps with registrations for monthly luncheons. Blake is also a member of the Greater Dallas Association of Realtors, Texas and National Association of Realtors.

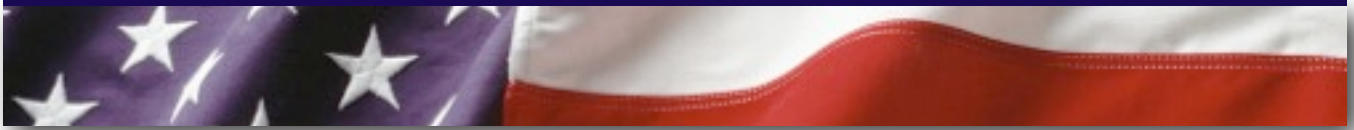
Blake was born in Louisville Kentucky; however his family is from Denver, Colorado. He considers Dallas as home where he attended Selwyn Prep Boarding school in North Texas at the age of 13 staying after graduation. He has also lived in Oklahoma, Nebraska, Los Angeles and Phoenix. He is the second of three children; he has an older sister who lives in Shawnee Oklahoma and a younger sister living in Denver.

Blake describes a memorable event in his life as being a survivor of the Northridge Earthquake on January 17, 1994 in the Los Angeles area. He states "It threw me out of my bed and I had to crawl out my bedroom window and drop two stories because the front door was jammed and blocked." He and his neighbors lived in a tent in a nearby park for the first three days until their building was approved as safe and habitable.

When asked about his proudest moment or accomplishment he states, "I was asked to be the team leader on the first Saturday of each month for BACH (Breakfast at the Cathedral of Hope). We serve 200-300 meals for those in need each Saturday, restaurant style."

Blake's favorite quote ---- "I'll take a Slow Yes, over a Fast No!"

Please join me in welcoming Blake to the chapter!



# Membership Report

by Andréé Taylor, CGMP

## New Members:

Ms. Patricia Bassett – FDIC  
 Ms. Danielle Flud – Holiday Inn, Market Center  
 Ms. Josie Johnson – Hotel Indigo  
 Ms. Brittany Callahan – Tampa Bay and Company  
 Ms. Shanika Davis – Dallas County District Attorney Office  
 Mr. Blake Harrison – Sheraton Dallas North Hotel by the Galleria  
 Ms. Meghan Maguire – The Ambit Group  
 Ms. Rebeca Perez – Crowne Plaza  
 Ms. Cynthia Pigeon – Event Source Professionals

## February Anniversaries:

Ms. Mae Rowlett  
 Ms. Deena Story

## Current Membership:

Total Members – 66  
 Planners – 32  
 Suppliers – 30  
 Other – 4  
 Ratio – 51.6%

## **Upcoming Anniversaries**

### January Anniversaries:

Ms. Lynn Armstrong  
 Ms. Bonnie Buchanan  
 Ms. Sybil Collins  
 Mr. Terry Coppinger  
 Ms. M.T. Hickman  
 Mr. Luke Hopkins  
 Mr. Steve Sherman  
 Ms. Lesa Spangler  
 Ms. Andree Taylor  
 Ms. Rhonda Wise

## **Interested in Advertising?**

- Full Page \$250
- 1/2 Page \$125
- 1/4 Page \$75
- 10% off your first month

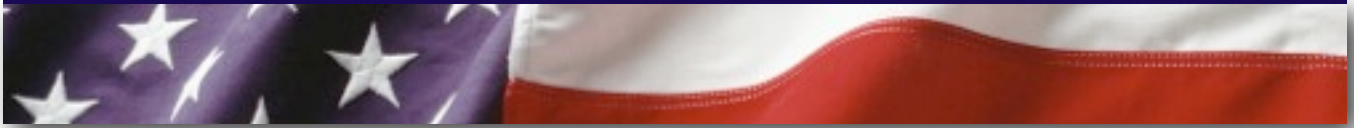
# Chapter Chat

by Kelly Roche, CGMP

President Sue Thomason “Grandmothered” again! Mavery Ella Creager, born at 4:22am on December 5th weighing in at 8lb, 3 oz and 20 inches long. Sue was there for her birth. She's grandbaby #7 and granddaughter #5 for Sue.



GOT NEWS? New job, new baby/grandbaby, got married or general juicy gossip about yourself or another SGMP member? Please contact Kelly Roche @ 972.401.7715 or email [kroche@irvingtexas.com](mailto:kroche@irvingtexas.com)



## SPECIAL EVENTS

by Lindsey Iles



As we start a new year I am looking to make it a successful one for the Special Events Committee. I am asking for help on the Special Events Committee as well as any ideas you may have for fundraising. In addition, I am also asking everyone to reach into their box of giveaways and please bring something for the bi-monthly raffles. In 2012 we will change it up a bit and start doing a 50/50 raffle every other month. In this type of raffle the money raised is split between the chapter and the winner.

Don't worry; we will have our normal raffles as well. This will start again in February and we want to make it fun and exciting. We will take any donations. If you bake, we all love the baked items. If you have a gift for crafts, bring one. It doesn't matter what the items are. Of course, we all love the hotel stays and promotional items. We appreciate your participation and support of the chapter.

In December, we were able to raise \$796.00 in the Silent Auction. Thank you to all for making this a success by either donating or buying an item.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to join my committee or if you have any new ideas! I can be reached at 972-246-1083 or [Lindsey.Iles@IHG.com](mailto:Lindsey.Iles@IHG.com).



## **DO YOU KNOW ANY SHINING STARS IN THE NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER?**

by Brenda Welborn CGMP

Have you seen someone doing an extra special job for the North Texas Chapter? Keep in mind that they must be a chapter member. If so, please call for a form and show your appreciation for their hard work.

Thanks,  
Brenda Welborn

972-808-5381

E-mail: [brenda.welborn@hilton.com](mailto:brenda.welborn@hilton.com)





## Signature Savings for SGMP

### SAVE 15% ON THE DALLAS LANDMARK

Book your next event at Hyatt Regency Dallas and save up to 15%. Our talented team will work with you to create your own signature meeting. With 160,000 square feet of function space and 60 individual meeting rooms we have the space, and the culinary options, for every possibility. Enjoy the excitement created by our newly transformed open-air atrium featuring a 42-foot multimedia bar. Take advantage of being close to the Dallas Convention Center, the largest urban arts district in the United States and DART light rail service. Come and experience the signature hotel of Dallas.

Book a qualifying meeting by 12/31/2011 and receive up to 15% off the master bill when you mention this ad.

Call 214 712 7255 or visit [hyattregencydallas.com](http://hyattregencydallas.com)



YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME.

Offer is valid for new events booked at Hyatt Regency Dallas prior to 12/31/11. Visit [hyattregencydallas.com](http://hyattregencydallas.com) for full terms and conditions. © 2011 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.



# Calendar of Events

**February 9, 2012**

**Logistics**

**Host: Holiday Inn Market Center**

**March 8, 2012**

**Technology**

**Host: Westin Galleria**

**April 12, 2012**

**Financial**

**Host: Hyatt Regency Dallas**

**May 10, 2012**

**Ethics**

**Host: Crowne Plaza , Addison**

**June 15, 2012**

**Chapter Awards Banquet**

**Host: American Airlines Conference Center**

**July 14, 2012**

**Planning Retreat**

**Host: TBD**



## **NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OF SGMP**

PO Box 214834

Dallas, TX 75313-4834

2010 Newsletter of the Year

2007 Newsletter of the Year

1999 Chapter of the Year

1998 Newsletter of the Year

1998 Program of the Year

1997 Chapter of the Year

## **2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Sue Thomason

214-253-5203

[sue.thomasan@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:sue.thomasan@fda.hhs.gov)

1st Vice President: Vacant

2nd Vice President: Andree Taylor, CGMP

817-956-6242

[andree.taylor@aa.com](mailto:andree.taylor@aa.com)

Secretary: Terry Moore

972-850-4669

[moore.terry@dol.gov](mailto:moore.terry@dol.gov)

Treasurer: Carol Abbott

972-404-4927

[cabbott@ci.mesquite.tx.us](mailto:cabbott@ci.mesquite.tx.us)

Director for Awards & Recognition: Brenda Welborn

972-882-1804

[dkbw1@verizon.net](mailto:dkbw1@verizon.net)

Director for Community Service & Hospitality: Gayle Jenkins

972-850-4629

[jenkins.gayle@dol.gov](mailto:jenkins.gayle@dol.gov)

Director for Special Projects: Lindsey Isles

972-246-1083

[lindsey.isles@ihg.com](mailto:lindsey.isles@ihg.com)

Immediate Past President: Theresa Nelson

214-413-5479

[theresa.j.nelson@irs.gov](mailto:theresa.j.nelson@irs.gov)

Other Chair Persons:

Publications: Lynn Armstrong

[lynn.armstrong@hyatt.com](mailto:lynn.armstrong@hyatt.com)

Programs Chair: Joshua Craft

Webmasters

Theresa Nelson and Rhonda Wise, CGMP

National Board:

Rhonda Wise, 1st Vice President

Shelley Mann, 2nd Vice President

Kelly Roche, CGMP, Supplier Director