



Newsletter for the SGMP Houston Gulf Coast Chapter

**Volume 4, Issue 3,
Winter 2010**

Message from the President

**Vickie L. Mason, CMP, CGMP
UT Health Science Center**



Happy Holidays Houston Gulf Coast Chapter members! What a wonderful time of year – colorful lights & decorations, home-baked

goodies, letters and pictures of family & friends arriving in the mail, and spending precious moments with loved ones. I don't know about you, but I turn into the biggest "kid" during the holidays!

The past year has been very eventful for the HGC chapter – community involvement with PBS Channel 8, Komen Race for the Cure & the Houston Food Bank; "changing of the guard" with the installation of a new Board in June; national & regional conference attendance; and a visit from our National President, Melody Kebe, in September.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you who have sponsored the

HGC chapter in any way – by hosting or speaking at a monthly meeting, by contributing to our scholarship fund so we may send members to national & regional conferences, or by contributing prizes for our raffles & auctions. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

I have a very good feeling that 2011 will be a banner year for the HGC Chapter. I am confident we will see a steady growth in membership and much more involvement in chapter, regional & national events. I also hope to see many more CGMP certifications in our chapter, as well.

Thank you for connecting to government meetings in 2010 and for staying plugged into SGMP. My New Year's wish for you all is that you enjoy continued success with your careers and that we see more of you in 2011!!

"Let's have fun in 2011!"

Inside this issue:

Community Outreach 2010..... 2
 Perfect Attendance 2010 3
 Educational Programs 4
 CGMP 5
 2011 PIE 6
 SGMP HGC "Rock Star" 7
 2011 NEC 7
 What's new? 8
 SGMP calendar... 9
 Chapter leaders . 10

Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 13: "Building a Mind That Will Not Fail" at Crowne Plaza Downtown
- Jan. 14: Joint Leadership Conference in Norfolk, VA
- Feb. 10: "The Cost of Doing Business" @ Doubletree Guest Suites
- Feb. 24: 2011 Partners In Education Conference, SPI
- Mar. 2: Newsletter of the Year application due at HQ



www.SGMP.org



www.SGMPHouston.org

"Education, resources & networking for government meetings."



The October 2, 2010 **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure** could not have had more perfect weather for walking! It was a cool crisp morning and I walked the 5K with my stepsister, a 14yr survivor of breast cancer, and about 20,000 other participants. Bruce Banes, a visitor at one of the recent HGCC meetings, also walked with his friends and assisted in the fundraising efforts for our team. Together we raised \$745 for the cause. Next year I plan to walk again and look forward to a larger team of SGMP walkers.

Tammy Tran, the Community Outreach Committee Chair, coordinated a food drive for the **Houston Food Bank** during the December Holiday Event with much success!

Many more outreach programs are being planned for 2011. Stay tuned to see how you can help out!!

houston 
foodbank
Filling pantries. Filling lives.

Chapter Chat

Morlene Peña, CMP, recognized as "Inspiring Texas Woman"

Forty-four Inspiring Texas Women from Houston were recognized on October 26 with yellow roses and framed certificates at Sterling Bank's quarterly Women's Business Initiative luncheon and inaugural Inspiring Texas Women celebration. Four women were selected as Houston winners by a state-wide panel of 13 Sterling bankers.

Morlene says, "It was an honor to be recognized by my peers. I share my story of persistence and determination to encourage others to

pursue their dreams." Morlene is the principal of Alliance Meeting & Conference Management (Alliance MCM), a full service meetings, conferences and events planning company specializing in staging events at any location that exceeds attendees' expectations. She also serves as a Director on the SGMP HGCC board, as well as Program Committee Chair.

Did you get a promotion, a new job, a new car?? Did you get engaged, married, have a baby, or do you have a new grandchild?? We want to know! Please share your news or "toot your horn" via email to sgmhou1@sgmphouston.org.

2010-2011 Chapter Awards

Every June, the HGC chapter awards members for their contribution to SGMP and the chapter. Volunteering just a little means so much, and you could be the recipient of:

Planner of the Year

Awarded to the planner member in good standing who has made the largest impact on the chapter during the past fiscal year.

Supplier of the Year

Awarded to the supplier member in good standing who has made the largest impact on the chapter during the past fiscal year.

Recruiter of the Year

Awarded to the member in good standing who has recruited the most new planner members during the past fiscal year.

Attendance Award

Awarded to the member(s) in good standing who attended every chapter function during the past fiscal year.

President's Award

The *Janet Heitmiller Award for Outstanding Service* is given at the discretion of the President, based on outstanding contributions made to the chapter.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors or any Committee Chair if you need more information and when you are ready to volunteer!

2010 Perfect Attendance

The following members achieved perfect attendance for our 2010 monthly educational meetings:

Mercedes Dixon

Sales Manager, Hyatt Regency Houston

Vickie Mason, CMP, CGMP

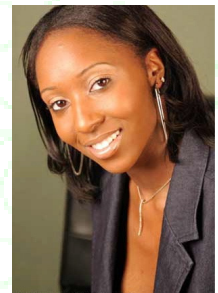
Continuing Education Program Coordinator,
University of Texas Health Science Center

Morlene Peña, CMP

President, Alliance Meeting &
Conference Management

Thanks so much for your continued support!!

Mercedes Dixon,
Finance Chair



Confucius say:

**"SGMP is
what you make it!!!"**

HGC CONNECT Networking Event

Our quarterly **HGC Connect** events are an excellent opportunity to network with chapter members in a less formal environment. If you didn't attend the November Connect event, you missed a great one! The Toyota Center and Dawn Malone, Toyota Center and Houston Rockets Event and Suite Sales Executive, hosted **HGC Connect** during Cirque du Soleil's per-

formance of Alegria. The attendees were treated to garage parking, Skybridge entrance, meeting space tours and food and drinks in a comfortable suite with excellent views of the performance.

For more information about holding events at the Toyota Center, contact Dawn at (713) 758-7758 or dawnm@rocketball.com.

It pays to be involved in SGMP. The "Get in the Game" meeting attendance campaign was held September through November, 2010. Each member that brought guest planners to a meeting received two Continental Airlines one-day Presidents Club Lounge Guest Passes and Continental Currency coupons. At the end of the campaign, the HGCC member who brought the most guests received upgraded elite status on their OnePass account to either Silver or Gold.

Vickie Mason, Continuing Education Coordinator with the University of Texas Health Science

Center, was the winner with five guest planners attending during the campaign. Vickie was awarded her Gold upgrade at the December Holiday Social held on December 9, 2010 at the Marriott South at Hobby Airport Hotel.

Special thanks to Continental Airlines for their generous support and contributions to SGMP HGCC. Contact Ed Pivik, CMP, Sales Manager, at (832) 332-6366 or ed.pivik@coair.com for information about Continental Airlines Meeting, Incentive and Group Sales programs.



A special **Thank You** to the December 2010 monthly meeting sponsor: Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport.

Upcoming Educational Programs

January 13, 2011

Building a Mind That Will Not Fail

Speaker: Dr. Warren H. Chaney, CEO, Mind Technologies, Inc.

Learn from one of the nation's leading behavioral scientists how to practically take care of and better use one's brain in order to more accurately process, store and retrieve information. Understand the dangers facing the brain in today's environment and discover ways to enhance your memory, mood, and problem-solving abilities.

Meeting Sponsor:
Crowne Plaza Downtown

February 10, 2011

The Cost of Doing Business

Speaker: Steve Scott, Hilton Westchase

Meeting Sponsor:

Doubletree Guest Suites Galleria

March 10, 2011

Ten Excel Secrets Every Planner Should Know

Speaker: Linda Hampton

Meeting Sponsor:

Norris Conference Center

Monthly Chapter meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of every month, usually during lunch with some evening programs, and provide a variety of meeting management and professional development topics.

Program Fees

Planners: Members \$10.00 Non-Members \$15.00

Suppliers: Members \$25.00 Non-Members \$35.00

I hear you. You only plan a couple of meetings a year, so why would you need CGMP certification?

For one thing, you never know what the future holds. Take me for example. Nothing about my career path ever led me to believe I would one day be responsible for planning meetings. This responsibility just kind of evolved. Now I plan seven to ten meetings of varying sizes a year. It could happen to you, too. It's better to be prepared than caught off guard with a violation because you just didn't know. You never know, learning more about government meetings might spark a greater interest; and it will definitely make you more useful to your organization.

“Local Government Office Breaks the Law, tune in for more at 10:00p.m.”

No way that situation could ever apply to you? Ok, how about having the skill to save your organization from a regulatory violation related to your meeting? I can hear the news teaser now. “Local Government Office Breaks the Law, tune in for more at 10:00 p.m.,” (you know the lead-ins are always sensationalized)—complete with a picture of you running to your car with your jacket over your head. Sound dramatic? Maybe, but ask anyone who has been the subject of an expose if they ever saw it coming, or if the big bosses go down alone.

Go ahead, take the course. You know you want to. It couldn't hurt, but it will definitely help!

CGMP Benefits

From **SGMP.org**

The Certified Government Meeting Professional designation (“CGMP”) is designed for planners and suppliers whose work is governed by the rules and regulations of the federal government. In addition to demonstrating your commitment to enhancing your government expertise and to improving the quality of your meetings, earning your CGMP has numerous benefits for your career and for your employer:

- you will earn the highest designation available that is specifically for government meeting professionals
- you will have a clear and thorough understanding of the rules and regulations that affect government meetings
- you will stand out against your peers without the designation for your knowledge of government meetings
- you will bolster your career advancement opportunities
- you will increase the exposure/importance of the government market within the meetings profession

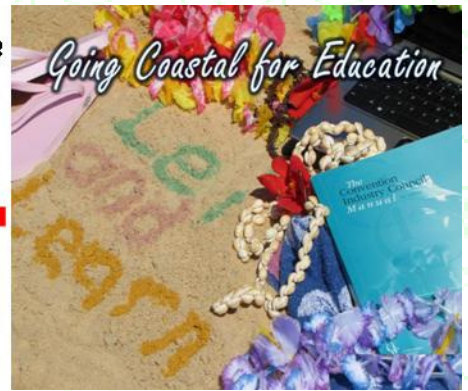


GC is SGMP's flagship publication and is the only national magazine for government meetings professionals. Access the latest edition online at

<http://www.sgmp.org/magazine/index.cfm>

SGMP's Partners in Education Conference

Texas Lone Star Capital Chapter ★ Wild West Chapter
North Texas Chapter ★ Houston Gulf Coast Chapter



**Isla Grande Beach Resort
South Padre Island, Texas
February 25-27, 2011**

Location ✓

Education ✓

Networking Opportunities ✓

Transportation ✓

Golf Tournament ✓

The Texas Lone Star Capital, Wild West, North Texas and Houston Gulf Coast Chapters invite you to the SGMP 2011 Partners in Education Conference, February 25-27, 2011 at the Isla Grand Beach Resort in South Padre Island, Texas. Angelia Johnson, Conference Chair and the planning committee have been hard at work to plan a great conference full of education and networking opportunities. Now it is time for you to take advantage of Early Registration, available through December 31, 2010 with rates starting at \$35. During a recent site visit, we were able to tour the renovated Isla Grand and Grand it is! We also had the opportunity to visit the South Padre Island CVB, Laguna Madre Humane Society and the South Padre Island Golf Course, all of which were gracious hosts.

Conference Sponsors

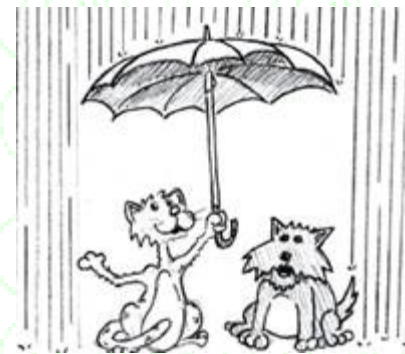
If you would like to be a sponsor, contact Bob Nichols at (512) 475-8101 or buffalobob@mail.utexas.edu.

If you commit to sponsorship early, we can include you as a sponsor in the next Lone Star News and your logos can be part of our announcements.

Make your commitment today!

Community Involvement Project

Laguna Madre Humane Society



Visit www.sgmpaustin.org for more information and to register!

Scholarship Anyone?

Scholarships to the SGMP Partners in Education Conference **AND** National Education Conference are awarded to HGCC planner and supplier members. All members are encouraged to participate. Need more information? Look for PIE scholarship applications at the monthly meetings and on the HGCC website, and pick up a Rock Star flyer at the monthly meetings.

SGMP HGCC "Rock Star" Scholarship Program

The SGMP Houston Gulf Coast Chapter has launched a program to earn complimentary registration, travel and/or lodging for the annual SGMP National Education Conference (NEC). The **"Rock Star" Scholarship Program** gives you the opportunity to earn stars (points) toward receiving a full or partial scholarship to attend the annual SGMP NEC by participating in Houston Gulf Coast Chapter activities.

Program participants must be a HGCC member in good standing. The **Program** begins on July 1 and ends on March 31; participants must submit earned stars to the HGCC President or designee, in person or via mail to the HGCC PO Box, no later than the April chapter meeting. Scholarship winners will be notified by April 30.

Program participants will earn stars for participation in chapter activities; stars will be

awarded by the HGCC President or designee. Each participant will collect/maintain their earned stars in the **Program** brochure.

The HGCC will award one (1) full scholarship (registration, travel & lodging) to attend the NEC to the Planner member who earns the most points by March 31.

The HGCC will award one (1) full scholarship to attend the NEC to the Supplier member who earns the most points by March 31.

Additional awards of registration, travel or lodging to attend the NEC will be at the discretion of the HGCC Board of Directors.

Program brochures with full details will be available at every monthly meeting. Don't miss out on this opportunity to earn a "free ride" to the SGMP NEC June 8-11, 2011 in Norfolk, VA.

**Do you have
what it takes
to be an
SGMP HGCC
Rock Star??**

2011 NEC in Norfolk, VA



The next annual conference will be the 29th annual NEC in Norfolk, VA, on June 8-11, 2011. The NEC – the biggest annual event in the government meetings industry – is where government professionals from across the country come together for one-stop and non-stop education, resources and networking.

If you need information now to help you plan and/or budget for your participation, go to our one-page NEC Primer at <http://www.sgmp.org/conference/primer.cfm>.

All the details you will need – planner registration, supplier exhibitor information, education session descriptions, day-to-day schedule – is available at www.SGMP.org.

You can visit Norfolk today at www.visitnorfolktoday.com.

Our host hotels are the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside and the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

What's New From HQ

- **SGMP Planner Profiles.** All SGMP Planners should update their meetings profile on the national website. Go to www.sgmp.org and login (or create a login and password if you haven't done so already). Click on the "Update your Profile" link (in blue) then click on "Edit Information" (in red) and complete the profile at the bottom of the page.
- **NEC Registration.** The 2011 National Education Conference Exhibitor Registration information and forms are available at www.sgmp.org. Registration for Conference Attendees will begin on January 26, 2011.
- **Happy New Year!** As 2010 comes to a close, your SGMP headquarters staff and national board would like to commend you for your commitment to the government meet-

ings industry and congratulate you on your success over the past year. In 2011, you can count on your national headquarters staff to continue to put members and mission first. You can also count on your national board next year to continue building a partnership with all members by communicating openly and effectively, by convincing you to take ownership, and by working together to promote our Society internally and externally. Thank you for connecting to government meetings in 2010 and for staying plugged into SGMP in 2011. Have a festive and safe holiday.

"Thank you, HQ, for being such a valuable resource!"

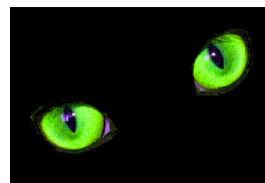


SGMP Mission & Objectives

Our mission is to enhance the knowledge and expertise of government meeting professionals.

Our objectives are to improve the quality of, and promote the cost-effectiveness of, government meetings. SGMP is the only national organization in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to government meetings. SGMP delivers our membership value of education, resources and networking to nearly 4,000 members and through 31 chapters nationwide.

Get connected to government meetings — plug into SGMP!



Feature your business here! Contact Sanaa' Taylor at 713-209-4081 to display your ad in the next SGMP HGCC newsletter!!!



The "**Gulf Coast Express**" newsletter is published by the Houston Gulf Coast Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals, a national organization of meeting professionals. Send all suggestions and inquires to SGMP Houston Gulf Coast Chapter, P.O. Box 130746, Houston, TX, 77219-0746, sgmphou1@sgmphouston.org.

All members are encouraged to submit articles for publication; send to Sanaa' Taylor, Chapter 1st VP, at Sanaa.Taylor@irs.gov.

Copyright © 2010 by the SGMP Houston Gulf Coast Chapter. All rights reserved. No part hereof may be reproduced in any form without written consent of the Chapter.

Advertising Prices

Business Card: \$25
Quarter Page: \$50
Half Page: \$75
Full Page: \$125

Contact Sanaa' Taylor to advertise in the **Gulf Coast Express**. Prices subject to change.

Graphic design by Vickie Mason, Chapter President.

SGMP Calendar

January 2011

- 13 11:30a chapter meeting @ Crowne Plaza Downtown, "Building a Mind That Will Not Fail" Speaker: Dr. Warren Cheney
Board of Directors meeting
- 14 Joint Leadership Conference in Norfolk, VA
- 18 Newsletter of the Year & Program of the Year application forms available on SGMP website
Sam Gilmer Award nomination form available on SGMP website
- 26 2011 NEC Planner Registration form available on SGMP.org

February 2011

- 10 11:30a chapter meeting @ Doubletree Guest Suites Galleria, "The Cost of Doing Business" Speaker: Steve Scott, Hilton Westchase
Board of Directors meeting
- 24 2011 Partners In Education Conference, South Padre Island

March 2011

- 02 Newsletter of the Year application due at HQ
- 10 Chapter meeting @ Norris Conference Centers Town & Country, "Excel Secrets" Speaker: Linda Hampton
Board of Directors meeting
- 11 Program of the Year application due at HQ
- 31 NEC sponsorship due at HQ
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE FOR SPRING ISSUE

April 2011

- 06 Sam Gilmer Award Nominations due at HQ
- 14 11:30a chapter meeting @ Hilton Clear Lake, "Develop a Risk Management Plan" Speaker: Jean Johnson
Board of Directors meeting

May 2011

- 12 Chapter meeting @ Magnolia Hotel, "The Government Meeting Toolbox" Speaker: Grace Neid
Board of Directors meeting

June 2011

- 8-11 NEC in Norfolk, VA**
- 16 5:30p Supplier Recognition & Chapter Awards @ Hyatt Regency, Silent & Live Auctions
- 30 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE FOR SUMMER ISSUE

July 2011

- 14 5:30p Chapter meeting @ Sheraton IAH, "Art of Negotiation" Speaker: Brad Freyer, Sandler Training
Board of Directors meeting

August 2011

- 11 5:30p Chapter meeting @ Crowne Plaza Reliant
Board of Directors meeting

September 2011

- 08 5:30p Chapter meeting @ Omni Riverway
Board of Directors meeting

October 2011

- 13 5:30p Chapter meeting @ Marriott North Houston
Board of Directors meeting

November 2011

- 10 5:30p Chapter meeting @ Marriott Westchase
Board of Directors meeting

December 2011

- 08 5:30p Chapter meeting @ Hilton Southwest
Board of Directors meeting

Dates, times, locations & topics subject to change!

2010-2012 Chapter Leaders

Board of Directors

President

Vickie Mason, CMP, CGMP
Vickie.L.Mason@uth.tmc.edu

1st Vice President

Sanaa Taylor, CGMP
Sanaa.H.Taylor@irs.gov

2nd Vice President

~ VACANT ~

Secretary

Andrew Davis
ADavis@hpnglobal.com

Treasurer

Michele Moura
Michele.Moura@hilton.com

Director

Mercedes Dixon
Mercedes.Dixon@hyatt.com

Director

Tiesha Lampkin
Tiesha.Lampkin@Hilton.com

Director

Morlene Peña, CMP
Alliancemcm@sbcglobal.net

Committee Chairs

Communications

Sanaa Taylor, CGMP (newsletter)
Andrew Davis (website)

Community Outreach

Tammy Tran
Tammy.Tran@Hilton.com

Educational Programs

Morlene Peña, CMP

Finance

Mercedes Dixon

Fundraising

~ VACANT ~

Hospitality

Russell Harris
Russell.Harris@Hilton.com

Membership

Tiesha Lampkin

Scholarships, Honors, Awards

Sanaa Taylor, CGMP

Special Events

~ VACANT ~

Region 5 Liaison

Claudette Ferris
Claudette.Ferris@state.co.us

SGMP Houston Gulf Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 130746
Houston, TX 77219-0746
www.SGMPHouston.org
SGMPHou1@SGMPHouston.org



**To: Very Valuable SGMP Member
Houston Gulf Coast Chapter**