

Quarterly Newsletter
January - March 2010

UPCOMING 2010 EVENTS

February Luncheon:
2/23 Northfield Center
Jessica Schuyler
Assistive Technology 101

March Luncheon:
3/23 Crowne Plaza
Greg Risberg
*How to Stay Energized
in a Changing World*

April Fundraiser:
4/26 Bennigan's
Movers and Shakers

April Breakfast:
4/27 Hilton Garden Inn
Demetri Malamis
Identity Theft

**5/1 Supplier & Planner
of the Year
nominations due back**

**SGMP National
Convention**
5/18-22
Kansas City, MO

May Luncheon
5/25 Hilton Springfield
Gidget Freeberg
Sandy Leith
The Toolkit

June Luncheon:
6/29 Sangamo Club
Installation of Officers
& Award Ceremony

7/1 No Meeting



THE PULSE

Message from the Chapter President: Gidget Freeberg, MA, CMP

2009 flew by! I am so excited about working with our terrific board and planning new and innovative fund raisers and luncheons. Thank you all for your support this past year and I am looking forward to serving as your president through June, 2010.

It's never too early to consider running for a board position. Besides the friendships that you gain through your involvement, you will get considerable personal satisfaction from taking a leadership position in an organization such as SGMP. Nominations and position descriptions will be sent to all members in April. Elections will be held in May and the installation of officers will be held in June, 2010. Again, thank you all for being such a great chapter!

2009 Planner & Supplier of the Year Recipients

2009 Supplier of the Year: Jenny Conrad. Jenny has been an active member of our chapter for a number of years. She currently serves as the Chapter Treasurer and has done a stellar job keeping track of everything! With Gateway Center for 6 years, she has become an integral part of the Gateway Center family. Jenny never stops impressing us with her ability to juggle several types of projects at one time. She truly enjoys networking within the industry and she has become well-known among her peers for her "get the job done" work ethic!

2009 Planner of the Year: Victoria Martin. Victoria has played a key role in the success of the Heart of Illinois chapter. She has served on the Fundraising Committee for two years, and joined the Board of Directors in February filling the vacant Secretary position. Victoria has taken her SGMP roles very seriously and has been instrumental in the success of the various chapter fundraising events. Victoria is the PAT Training Coordinator for the Ounce of Prevention Fund. Congratulations Victoria!

Nominations for 2010 Planner and Supplier of Year: Our June luncheon will be held tentatively on June 29, 2010. At that meeting, we will be installing the new officers and announcing the recipients of the Planner and Supplier of the Year. Please take a few minutes to submit the form and recognize a fellow SGMP member for their efforts and commitment. You may also nominate yourself! Nomination forms can be found on our web site at: www.sgmp-illinois.org and are due **May 1, 2010**.

We thought it would be great to look at a countdown of reasons you will want to stay connected to government meetings by remaining plugged into SGMP in the coming year.

The Top 10 Ways SGMP Provided R.O.I. and Met Membership Needs in 2009

10. Education: We joined, we participated, we learned. SGMP provides members with immediate take-away career and work tools at monthly chapter meetings, enabling you to learn the skills you need to meet the pressures of today's work environment. Whether you are a planner or a supplier, we cover all the professional angles for you.

9. Resources: SGMP is your one-stop resource opportunity to get information, training and face-to-face connections with professionals in the government meetings market.

8. Networking: SGMP provides the best industry opportunity to meet government meeting professionals and those in the industry who know how to do business with the government. From monthly chapter education meetings to the SGMP National Education Conference & Trade Show, you are guaranteed to make viable business relationships.

7. Connections: SGMP members can connect with other members through our Online Membership Directory and Online Buyers Guide. Both connection tools are new ways to gain business partners through SGMP.

6. Members-Only Resources: SGMP members have exclusive access to valuable content on the SGMP website.

5. Professional Certification: SGMP provides members the opportunity to enhance their professional standing by obtaining their Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) designation. At the end of 2009, SGMP has 290 members who have earned their CGMP designation.

4. News and Information: SGMP's new Government Connections magazine provides members with news on the latest trends and issues of our industry. In addition to its printed form, Government Connections can also be viewed in a digital version on the SGMP website.

3. Increased Membership: SGMP is one of the few national associations that experienced membership growth in 2009!

2. Expanded Member Services: SGMP has expanded its headquarters staff to meet the targeted needs of individual members and to execute specialized programs.

1. Being a Part of Something Much Bigger: SGMP is the only national organization in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to government meetings. We enhance the knowledge and expertise of government meeting professionals—and improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of government meetings—by delivering member benefits through education, resources, and networking.

CONNECT TO GOVERNMENT MEETINGS - STAY PLUGGED INTO SGMP

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee had a very successful year! The 1st Annual Movers & Shakers fundraising event was held at Bennigan's at the Hilton Springfield on May 18, 2009. Our own Gidget Freeburg and Maria Rutter were our guest bartenders. All of their tips went towards scholarships to attend the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in May. A very successful raffle and silent auction were also held contributing to the success of the evening. It was a great evening to network with all of your SGMP friends while earning more than \$1600.00 for a great cause.

On September 28, 2009 the Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser was held at Caitie Girls in downtown Springfield. The event was attended by over 80 members and friends of the Heart of Illinois Chapter. The food and drinks were fantastic and the atmosphere was terrific. Everyone was having a great time bidding against their friends for over 40 great auction items. The proceeds were over \$3200.00 to go towards scholarships to attend the National Convention in Kansas City in May of 2010.

Community Service Projects

On behalf of Jan Sescliefer, Judie Spudick, Teri Hamel and I, we would like to thank all of you for so generously supporting the efforts of the Community Service Committee for 2009.

Together, we were able to supply gently worn winter coats to women and children of **Sojourn House** in Springfield. Sojourn offers a safe haven for women and children who are victims of physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Here they find peace, safety and comfort away from their abusers.

Open Heart Prison Ministries asked for our help to provide gently worn purses and wallets to women inmates who would soon be given another opportunity upon being released from prison to make a new life for themselves. Once again, you all gave unselfishly.

The Hope Institute for Children & Families provides educational, recreational and health services to children aged 5-21 who have multiple developmental and physical disabilities.

We were asked to provide socks for these young adults and the response was overwhelming! Gidget & I had the pleasure of personally delivering hundreds of pairs of socks to Dr. Nyre, President & CEO of The Hope Institute for Children & Families. In return, he has written Gidget thanking all of us for our efforts! Congratulations SGMP!

In 2010, we will continue our efforts by including another opportunity with Hope Institute as well as Open Heart Prison Ministries and the addition of "anysoldier.com".

Thank you all for making our community service projects fun and rewarding!

Judi Elliott, Chairperson – Community Service Committee

Membership Update

SGMP Heart of IL Chapter WELCOMES our new members. We are thrilled to have you as part of our chapter:

- Robert Perry, Marriott
- Ashland House Best Western Morton
- Amy O'Neal - Eastland Suites and Conference Center - She's back!
- James Dearing - Alzheimer's Association
- Maggie Shaver - SIU School of Medicine
- Cathy Houghtby - IL Department of Aging
- Michael Baker - IL Dept of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Steve Elkins - IL Department of Aging
- Julie Baker - Hope Institute

We have been working hard to increase our chapter's membership. On January's Membership Report, it shows that we are up to 40 Planners and 39 Suppliers.

Remember the National membership challenge! If you are working on recruiting members, please make sure they put your name on "their" application SOMEWHERE so you get credit to go towards a chance for a scholarship to the National Convention.

Remember, if you are a supplier, and you are signing up a planner, they MUST be sent in to National within the same month that you are. The Supplier WILL NOT get credit for the planner that doesn't arrive at Nationals the same month as the Supplier.

Lisa McWard and myself are always available to answer any questions you may have. For further information please see our chapter's website: www.sgmp-illinois.org

Maria Rutter and Lisa McWard
Membership Co-Chairs

SGMP National Conference Charity Drive

SGMP will be hosting a "yarn drive" during the National Convention, as well as collecting monies which will help toward our fund raising goal. Cancer Action needs our help to maintain all of their services. The Yarn drive is simply, collect skeins of yarn – like you would cans of food. Any colors, sizes, etc. Cancer Action Center has many volunteers who knit blankets for each new client that walks thru the door. The volunteers work very hard to make sure there are enough blankets to go around, but the cost of yarn has become an issue. If everyone of our members donates one skein we could have thousands to donate! This would go a long way to making sure every client of Cancer Action goes home with this wonderful comfort item.

Our chapter will be collecting yarn at each of our meetings and events before the National Conference. If you would like to donate, please bring your yarn to a meeting and we will make sure it gets to Kansas City!

2010 National Conference Information

Registration is now open. We would love to have several of our chapter members attend! You can register online at: www.sgmp.org

Scholarships to attend: Please visit our chapter website at: www.sgmp-illinois.org
Depending on how many applications we receive, we will then determine what items will be covered by the scholarships. Generally covered expenses include: conference registration, lodging and transportation. **Scholarship Deadline: March 23, 2010**

Conference Location:

Hyatt/Westin Crown Center, Kansas City MO, May 19-22, 2010

The awards we received at last year's conference were:

1. **Chapter Merit Award:** states that the national board recognizes your diligent leadership in meeting the chapter operations standards.
2. **Membership Performance Award:** for achieving a membership retention rate of 84.7% for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

Future Education Conference Dates/Locations:

May 19-22, 2010-Kansas City, MO-Hyatt and Westin Crown Center

June 8-11, 2011-Norfolk, VA-Sheraton and Marriott Waterside

2012-New Orleans, LA

S.G.M.P.'s Mission Statement

The Society of Government Meeting Professionals, Inc. (SGMP) is a national organization dedicated to improving the knowledge and expertise of individuals in the planning and management of government meetings through education and industry.

Officers

President - Gidget Freeberg, CMP

Planner Director - Lisa Kienzle, CMP

First Vice President - Becky Rinozzi, CMP

Planner Director - Sandy Leith

Second Vice President & Co-Membership Chair -
Maria Rutter

Supplier Director - Victoria Martin

Secretary - Victoria Martin (Planner)

Immediate Past President - Gwenn Eyer

Treasurer - Jenny Conrad, CMP

Co-Membership Chair - Lisa McWard

Community Service Chair - Judi Elliot