



Message from the President

by Jeanne Burris

It just amazes me how quickly time flies. The holidays are over and the new year has begun. Hope your celebrations were happy and that 2005 will be a prosperous year for all.

January kicks off 2005 with a program at the Marriott Overland Park Hotel that promises to be both fun and provide us with very practical information. We are honored to have an MPI Platinum Speaker, Mr. Robert Pennington, who will help us understand why people behave the way they do. Be sure to join us for this special program.

As you look at the coming year, I ask that you make time on your busy schedule for KCMPI. Being an active part of this great chapter has many wonderful rewards. I can tell you from experience that those rewards, both personal and professional, far outweigh the time that I have invested.

Your board and committees have worked hard to provide our members with a good ROI on your time. We have used your input from the Needs Assessment Survey that you filled out last year to put together the programs, as well as membership & networking opportunities for the chapter.

In the next few months you will be receiving this year's KCMPI Needs Assessment Survey so that we can again use your input to plan for the future. Your participation will help ensure that we are on target in meeting the needs of our members.

The Education Conference Committee has also been hard at work to provide us with yet another exciting conference in April, so be sure to check the web site for updated information on this and all upcoming chapter events.

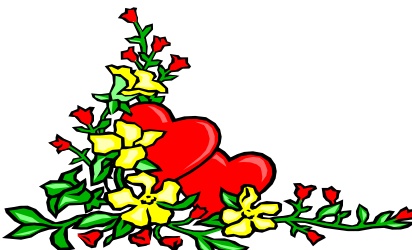
I look forward to seeing you all soon!!!!

CMP Study Questions

by Brad Plumb, CMP

- 1) For a meeting room set up theater style, the planner should estimate ___ square feet per person.
a) 7-8 sq. ft.
b) 8-9 sq. ft.
c) 9-10 sq. ft.
d) 10-13 sq. ft.
2) For banquets, if 72" tables are used, allow ___ feet per person if using 60" tables and ___ square feet per person.
a) 12 & 13
b) 11 & 12
c) 13.5 & 13.5
d) 13 & 14.5
3) If the group has large persons, or uses spread sheets, charts and 3 ring binders, allow ___ inches of table space per person in school room settings.
a) 26
b) 28
c) 30
d) 24
4) Hollow square should be ____
a) used for symposiums
b) have angled or rounded corners for longer sight lines
c) should be used for fishbowl sessions
d) should not be used for sessions with AV
5) People in meetings always seem to need to drink. In a schoolroom or conference setting with tables, ideally, a water pitcher (with ice) should be on each table with a glass for each person attending. As a guideline, you need to figure on one pitcher for each ___ participant.
a) 2
b) 4
c) 6
d) 8

Answers on page six.



January/February 2005

2004-2005 Officers

- Jeanne Burris, President
Melody Thuss, Immediate Past President
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Diane Wolfe, CMP, VP of Finance
Tanya Zuckerman, CMP, VP of Membership
Kathy Stipek, CMP, VP of Education and Programs

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Carolyn McClure
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Claire Turner
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Sue Heley, CMP



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Awards Update

by Patti Gaughan, CMP

The Awards Committee has been busy preparing for the spring's Awards Banquet. Due to some new guidelines from MPI headquarters, the Awards Committee is now officially the Recognition and Awards Committee. In addition to the Annual Awards Program in May, the committee is also responsible for the Committee Member of the Month Award (nominated by KCMPI Committee Chairs and voted on by the Board) and other areas of chapter recognition.

Based on input from you, the members and the KCMPI leadership, we have made some actual award changes. This year we will be adding an award for Event of the Year. We will now be distinguishing between programs and more social events. This will allow Program of the Year to be based more on education and content, rather than theme & décor. Programs for the Event of the Year award will be more social in nature, such as the Golf Tournament, the December Holiday Social and Dine-A-Rounds, etc.

As many of you already know, the program evaluations scores determine the Program and Catering of the year awards. In addition to changes mandated by MPI headquarters, we have made changes to the evaluation in order to differentiate scoring for the Program versus the Event of the year.

This is where you can help our committee – it is crucial that you continue to take time to complete and submit an evaluation after each program. Your input determines the winners of these awards. Please take time to really think about the program and the questions being asked. This will also help the Program Committee to deliver programs to fit your tastes and needs. As committees we are here to serve you - but we need your input.

Listed below are the awards that will be presented in May. The nomination process for awards will start in February. We will be counting on you to help recognize our outstanding members and programs. If you have any questions, input or need more information, please contact me at 816-941-2122 or pgaughan@kc.rr.com. For a complete description of the awards visit the Recognition/Awards Committee information on the KCMPI web site (www.kcmpi.org).

2004 – 2005 KCMPI AWARDS

Rising Star Award

This award recognizes KCMPI's newest members who have contributed extraordinarily to the chapter with their dedication, vision, enthusiasm, willingness to participate in the chapter, volunteer efforts and commitment. Committee Chairs nominate a member of their committees. Awards Selection Committee reviews the nomination forms and profiles and selects a winner.

Creative Catering Award

Awarded from monthly meeting evaluation forms for highest catering score for programs May 2004 – April 2005. Evaluated on menu selection, service, and creativity of presentation and food quality and over all F&B impression. (Programs & events both eligible.)

Program of the Year Award

Awarded from monthly meeting evaluation forms for highest program score for programs May 2004 – April 2005. Evaluated on speaker skill and ability to keep attention and knowledge of subject, extent to which learner outcomes met, usefulness of knowledge acquired and educational value. This is to recognize programs with educational content.

Event of the Year Award

Awarded from monthly meeting evaluation forms for highest event score for a program May 2004 – April 2005. Evaluated on presentation, creativity, etc. This is to recognize special events that are social in nature, such as golf, socials & Dine-A-Rounds.

Supplier of the Year Award

This award recognizes a supplier member who has helped KCMPI by their existing commitment to the organization and continues to propel the chapter forward to meet the ever-changing challenges of the meetings industry. Winner possesses the ability to motivate others, gives a sense of direction and acts as a catalyst to effect exceptional results that benefit KCMPI. Members nominate suppliers or self-nominations are accepted. Nominees complete the nominee profile. Awards Selection Committee reviews the nomination forms and profiles and selects a winner. (Last year's winner and Board members are not eligible.)

Planner of the Year Award

This award recognizes a planner member who has helped KCMPI by their existing commitment to the organization and continues to propel the chapter forward to meet the ever-changing challenges of the meetings industry. Winner possess the ability to motivate others, gives a sense of direction and acts as a catalyst to effect exceptional results that benefit KCMPI. Members nominate a planner or self-nominations are accepted. Nominees complete the nominee profile. Awards Selection Committee reviews the nomination forms and profiles to select a winner. (Last year's winner & Board members are not eligible.)

Board Brilliance Award

This award recognizes a current Board member who has helped KCMPI by their outstanding commitment and service to the chapter. Members nominate a current board member. Nominees complete the nominee profile. Awards Selection Committee reviews the nominations forms and profiles to select a winner. The President and president-elect are excluded from this award.

Employer Appreciation Award

This award recognizes an organization that has generously supported KCMPI. Members nominate companies rather than individuals. Awards Selection Committee reviews nominations and suggests a winner. The Board approves the winner.

Committee Chair of the Year Award

This award recognizes a current committee chair who has helped KCMPI by their outstanding commitment and service to the chapter. This person will have shown an ability to meet his/her committee's goal and displayed extraordinary leadership. Members nominate a committee chair. Awards Selection Committee reviews nominations and suggests a winner. Board approves the winner.

2004-2005 Presidential Appreciation

Awarded to the outgoing president, on behalf of the membership, in appreciation for his/her contributions.

President's Award

Awarded to member(s) who provided behind the scenes assistance and/or was relied upon heavily throughout the year, went beyond the call of duty. President chooses the recipient(s).

CMP & CMM Awards

KCMPI members passing CMP test in June/July 2004 and/or December/January 2005. CMP Study Session committee submits name(s) and those passing the CMM test.

20 & 25 Year Pins



The Power of the Vote

by Marlys K. Arnold

On October 22, KCMPI members gathered at Screenland in the blossoming Crossroads District downtown. After a luncheon sponsored by Eddy's Catering and Majestic Steak House, everyone moved into the Theater room for a panel discussion on convention industry issues pending in Kansas City. Industry expert panelists included:

- Dr. Chuck Eddy, Kansas City Councilman
- Tom Holden, Executive Director of the Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater KC
- Rick Hughes, President & CEO of the Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater KC
- Cindy Cash, President of the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce
- Gerald L. Cook, President of the Overland Park Convention & Visitors Bureau

First, panelists addressed the issue of challenges Kansas City faces when marketing to national conventions. The group agreed that the key is to think as a region, not as individual cities or counties. Dr. Eddy reminded attendees of the "Think One KC" campaign, which was focused on presenting a consistent message of what we have to offer. Tom Holden reminded everyone that regardless of where a convention is held in the city, the economic benefits go beyond that local area to both sides of the state line.

Next, the discussion moved to issues relating to the bi-state question on November's ballot (which failed to receive the necessary votes). The first issue was that of mass transit. Eddy said that plans are already in the works for an expanded bus system, with the first phase being from the River Market to the Plaza. An expanded system is important not only because it allows convention guests to get around the city to see various venues, but also because it transports hospitality industry employees to their workplace.

While there is much excitement at the moment with all the new convention and entertainment venues being built, one concern is whether there really are enough visitors to go around. Panelists took the approach that each area should compliment one another, not compete. Each new venue ultimately gives a reason to bring groups back to the city, said Cash. And Eddy added, "Eight million people in the region come here at least occasionally, but we need them to come more often."

As for the concern of higher sales, car, and lodging taxes, panelists agreed that it is a concern that must be addressed. However, room rates in Kansas City are much lower than other cities, and the deciding factor (for conventions) should be more about the value of what the city offers than the tax.

In closing, Cook explained that the "no borders, no boundaries" concept came out of the Lewis & Clark event earlier this year. It has now become an ongoing plan with marketing and research that will take time to build. Everyone in the hospitality and meetings industry must share a role in the process. Hughes said there are plans in the works, including a documentary and branding campaign geared toward visitors. "We need to get excited and communicate that message," he said.



KCMPI members enjoy lunch sponsored by Eddy's catering and Majestic Steakhouse.

October's meeting location, Screenland



Welcome New KCMPI Members!

Debbie Arbo, CMP, Bishop McCann
 Mary Bernstein, Events, Inc.
 Joyce Bollegar, Expo Magazine, Ascend Media
 Jon Borton, A2E, Association of Health Care Educators
 Jean Ann Bowman, Corporate Events, Inc.
 Vickie Brawley, Four Points by Sheraton, C.C. Plaza
 Ben Carrick, Meeting Excellence, Inc.
 Crystal Chapman, Sprint
 Jeff Clampitt, Starwood Hotels and Resorts
 Erin Ebeyer-Helten, Hyatt Regency Wichita
 Terra Heithaus, Big Cedar Lodge
 Ron Johnson, Hilton Garden Inn, Kansas City, KS
 Jesse Jordan, Inn at Grand Glaize
 Jill Kettler, Wellington Promotions
 Christine Krstulic, Hallmark Cards, Inc.
 Penny Kueser, NovaStar Mortgage, Inc.
 Greg Madden, DoubleTree Hotel Kansas City Downtown
 Gretchen Miles, ACCP
 Camille Morales, The Elms Resort & Spa
 Lindsay Niemeyer, Northwest Missouri State University
 Sarah O'Bryan, Kansas City Zoo
 Mary Sheridan, Sprint
 Keeley Thurston, Epic Entertainment
 Laura VanZante, The Wellington Group
 Lori Walton, Resort Industry Marketing
 Leslie Wilkinson, Northwest Missouri State University
 Jason Younce, Swank Audio Visuals, Inc.

KCMPI Times Advertising

Spread your company brand by advertising in the KCMPI Times online newsletter. For more information go to www.kcmpi.org and click on publications or contact Karen Freeman, CMP at 913-234-8302 kfreeman@vsrfin.com or Sherie Howell, CMP at 1-800-315 4333 ext. 206 showell@askusa.com.

Annual Auction and Holiday Dinner

By Shari Hockenbery

'Tis the season to give as the generous membership of KCMPI recently proved at their annual auction and holiday dinner. The festivities were held December 6 at one of the city's premier hotel destinations, The Fairmont Hotel Kansas City. Nearly 140 members, spouses and friends arrived amidst the twinkling Plaza lights to celebrate an annual KCMPI tradition.

The ballroom was gaily adorned in hopes that St. Nick soon would be there. And participants were not disappointed. The spirit of Santa Claus arrived in the form of a beautiful children's choir from St. Vincent's Operation Breakthrough. A dozen or so little elves smiled and sang their way into the hearts of everyone present. They had such a stage presence to be heard above the surrounding activity of the wait staff and KCMPI members rushing to the silent auction tables to place their final, and hopefully winning, bid.

There are too many fantastic people, who donated hundreds of incredible items for the silent auction, to name them in this article. But their kind and giving spirit helped raise more than \$7,000 for KCMPI and St. Vincent's Operation Breakthrough. Brad Plumb, CMP, Five Star Speakers acted as our master of ceremonies for the gala event and as auctioneer for the live auction. Brad also read a masterful rendition of "The Night Before Christmas" to the delight of the children's choir and everyone present.

In addition to numerous fantastic trips to Chicago, Vail, New Orleans, Las Vegas and San Francisco, many of our local

meeting partners donated a one- or two-night stay, such as the Great Wolf Lodge, Sunspree Resort in the Lake of the Ozarks, the Raphael Hotel, Four Points by Sheraton, the Overland Park Marriott and the Holtze Executive Village. Missouri Meetings and Events donated a lovely gift basket while Overland Limousine Service continues to support KCMPI with a round-trip airport transfer in a luxury vehicle. Teresa Wright hosted a fun pottery-making event at "All Fired Up" and the items made are always an auction favorite. Other fantastic auction items included tickets to the Jazz Museum, Lyric Opera, the New Dinner Theatre and a variety of sporting events.

The success of the silent auction and holiday dinner is due in large part to the hard work and dedication of Vanessa Kane, Teddy Wright, Melody Thuss, Caroline West and everyone else who worked tirelessly to put together such a fabulous event. The wonderfully generous people at the Fairmont Hotel Kansas City and A-S-K Associates (who donated the lovely holiday centerpieces) deserve our wholehearted gratitude for helping to bring such joy not only to our membership but also to the children of Operation Breakthrough. It is in the helping of others that we find the true meaning of Christmas.

Brad Plumb, CMP reads to the children from St. Vincent's Operation Breakthrough.



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News and Notes

by Vanessa Kane, CMP

We have bid a fond farewell to Kate Egan (Folly Theatre) as she accepted a position as the Preservation Planner for the City of Liberty. Kate started on November 29th. She will be focusing on the five historic districts including the square. She will work with homeowners and business owners with historic properties, design review and code enforcement, national and local register nominations, and staffing the Historic District Resource Council. We extend our best wishes to Kate for much success in her new position.

Melissa M. Johnson, CMP has joined Dean & Deluca – Kansas City as Catering and Event Manager. Melissa will be selling catering and managing all events both off-premise and in-store such as cooking demonstrations and classes. We extend our best wishes to Melissa in her new position.

Maria Davis, formerly of the DoubleTree Hotel, Overland Park has joined the sales team of the Holiday Inn Sunspree at the Lake of the Ozarks as sales manager. Effective January 1, The Holiday Inn will change its name to The Resort at Port Arrowhead. Maria will be covering the Kansas City region. KCMPI looks forward to having Maria as an active member once again! Best wishes, Maria!

Tracy Orpin began a new position as project manager on October 25th with the Kauffman Fellows Program (a spin-off of the Kauffman Foundation). Tracy will be responsible for logistics and planning of all the programs, the majority of which are done in Boston and San Francisco. Congratulations and best wishes, Tracy!

Miya Macken is leaving Sprint, effective December 31, 2004. She will be pursuing a full time position in the event industry. Miya's new contact information is: 816-665-6572, email: mdmacken@kc.rr.com. We extend our best wishes as Miya moves towards new opportunities.

Mary Beddow, formerly with the Fairmont hotel became Mary Lemon on August 18th. Mary has another change in her life as she has embarked on an entrepreneurial career with the recent purchase of Annedore's Fine Chocolates located at 106 E. 43rd Street, KCMO. Annedore's is both a Chocolate Shop, as well as a coffee shop. She invites you to stop by and say hello! Mary will be rejoining MPI under her new company's name. We wish her the best of luck for the future.

Mike Sigler, CMP formerly with the National Golf Club of Kansas City has joined H&R Block Financial Advisors as their new Meetings & Event Manager. Mike will manage corporate meetings, incentive programs and training meetings. Mike's new contact information is: 816-932-1833, msigler@hrblock.com. We extend our best wishes to Mike in his new position.

The Hilton KCI Airport received a 2004 Community Award at the annual Platte County Economic Development Council's Job Development Awards Luncheon in recognition of the repositioning of the hotel as a quality facility equal to the competition, low staff turnover, proximity to KCI and the positive business climate in Platte County.

Congratulations to Vanesa Masucci of the Overland Park Marriott on being named "Associate Member of the Year" for the Kansas Society of Association Executives at their luncheon in Topeka on December 3rd.

Cheri Jones, CMP has resigned (as of 1/31/05) from AMP after 8 + years. She is going to take over the management of their household, Reese is 5 and in school and Carl is 19 months. They still reside in Rogers, Arkansas.

GET READY FOR SPRING TRAINING!
 "Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the crowd. Buy me some peanuts and cracker jacks. I don't care if I never come back."

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Did You Know?

by Sue Heley, CMP

- KCMPI Members may purchase a one-time use set of KCMPI Member mailing labels for only \$25.00.
- MPI Membership is in the name of the Individual, not the company. Transfer, due to employment change, is possible.
- The headquarters for Meeting Professionals International is in Dallas, Texas.
- KCMPI Members may now purchase a 2005 Program Coupon Book which will save them in reimbursement time and offers a cost-savings.
- MPI Membership requires a Planner/Supplier "match" in order to maintain a 50/50 split within the association. This "match" is handled on the national level.
- A Student Membership in MPI costs only \$35.00 per year! And, KCMPI currently offers complimentary educational program attendance to full-time hospitality students!

For more information, contact Sue Heley, CMP KCMPI Administrator kcmpi@kcmpi.org or 913/432-0800.

Personality Power Trip –Understanding Why People Behave the Way They Do

by Shari Hockenbery

Start the New Year in a powerful way by attending the first of many education programs designed by KCMPI to further your professional development and earn CEU credits. The first program of 2005 – Personality Power Trip: Understanding Why People Behave the Way They Do – will be presented at the Marriott Overland Park on Thursday, January 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Have you ever had customers, co-workers or family members who can be down right difficult? If so, you don't want to miss Platinum Speaker Robert Pennington, co-founder of Resource International and an educational psychologist specializing in increasing productivity by reducing the resistance to change and conflict. Dr. Pennington conducts an entertaining program using a mix of humor and practical examples. He believes that people become less difficult if each of us can learn to deal with our own unconscious habits of feeling uncomfortable, making negative judgments and taking it all so personally.

This insightful session highlights the speaker's 35-years of experience studying human behavior along with pertinent concepts drawn from the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), The Cycle of Conflict, The Levels of Being and The Emotional Computer, and it also counts for .3 CEU credits! Enrollment has already begun on the KCMPI web site so sign up now. You don't want to miss the outstanding educational program.

We are grateful to our sponsors for this program – Marriott Overland Park and Overland Limousine Service. The local charity committee will be collecting children's over-the-counter medications at the January 13th program. All donations received will go to St. Vincent's Operation Break-through.

KCMPI is Looking for Leaders

by Melody Thuss

KCMPI is looking for leaders to sit on the board of directors for the 2005-2006 term. The chapter is asking members to consider fellow members who show a great deal of leadership skill, personal integrity, a level of involvement and a desire to improve the chapter.

- Nominations are for a two year term beginning July 2005 and ending July 2006.
- Nominations will be kept confidential.
- Nominations are to be members in good standing.
- Nominee will be contacted by the Nominating Committee to confirm the interest of the individual. Self-nominations are also encouraged.

DEADLINE: Please fax to Sue Heley -KCMPI Chapter Administrator at 913-432-0807 by Noon, January 14, 2005.

CMP Spring Study Group

by Karen Freeman, CMP

The next CMP study group will begin Monday, February 7, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. at Five Star Speakers for an informational meeting. Your application to test is due to the CIC by Monday March 7, 2005 in order to sit for the exam on July 9, 2005. The first study session will be March 14, 2005 and will meet every other week through June 20, 2005. Five Star Speakers is located at 8685 West 96th Street in Overland Park, KS. If you need directions please email Brad Plumb, CMP at bplumb@fivestarspeakers.com.

If anyone is interested in becoming the KCMPI Newsletter Publisher/Editor, please contact Sherie Howell, CMP at showell@askusa.com or 1-800-315-4333 ext. 206. It is fun and fulfilling!

