



Key Planning Resources Web Sites

Convention Industry Council
www.c-1-c.org

SGMP National
www.sgmp.org

Web Event Planner
www.webeventplanner.com

Professional Convention Management Association
www.webcast.com

Webcast.com
www.webcast.com

**American Bar Association
Alternative Dispute Resolution Section**
www.abanet.org/dispute/drlinks.html

Official Meetings Facilities Guide
www.omfg.com/Home.asp

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From the President's Desk

Greetings Wild West Members,

Well, here we are at the end of April and it has already been quite a year for our chapter! March and April had some spectacular 'GREEN' events for the Wild West Chapter. In March, we celebrated the Luck of the Irish at the Downtown Doubletree in Tulsa. Vicki Burnett and her support staff gave us a fabulous meal and an ideal environment for the First Annual State of the Chapter meeting. The menu gave us a taste of Ireland complete with a Pot of Gold (Double Tree Cookies) at the end of the rainbow. Thanks, Vicki, for hosting a great meeting. In April, we hosted a Green Meetings program with three very knowledgeable speakers from the Marriott Waterford Hotel in Oklahoma City. The menu was great and the meeting content was very informative and enlightening. The Green meeting left us all with things to think about when planning our meetings and events in the future.

As we turn to May and the rest of 2009, I am excited about the next few months for our chapter. In May, along with several members of Wild West, we will be attending the 27th Annual SGMP National Education Conference in Louisville, Kentucky May 12-16. I am excited to announce that the chapter has submitted both a Program of the Year and Newsletter of the Year entry. We will bring back a lot of great information for our members who do not get to attend. You can expect a full report on the national conference in the May/June issue of the Spur. At our June meeting, the SGMP National President, Melody Kebe, will be swearing in the new board members. The meeting is June 11. Please mark your calendars for this meeting and please try to attend. We want to show the National President what a strong chapter we are.

We are in the process of planning great monthly meetings for the rest of 2009 and 2010, if you have any suggestions please let any of the board members know. All of our contact information is on page 13 of this newsletter. Thank you for letting me serve you for the past two years, it has been a pure pleasure.

Maggie

Tulsa's Newest Convention Venue Hosted Vip Hard Hat Party: Cherokee Casino Resort Expansion Already Attracting Groups Nationwide

TULSA, Okla. – Cherokee Casino Resort's new 18,000-square-foot convention center hosted a VIP Hard Hat Party to give future clients a sneak peak at the \$155 Million expansion as the property prepares to take flight as Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa. The event took place on Monday, April 6, 2009.



The new convention center features a large ballroom that can seat up to 1,000 people banquet-style, bringing Cherokee Casino Resort's total meeting space to more than 35,000 square feet.

The new non-smoking convention center is incredibly beautiful. Seeing the entire expansion project almost complete provides a promising glimpse into the convention and tourism outlook for Tulsa and the surrounding area.

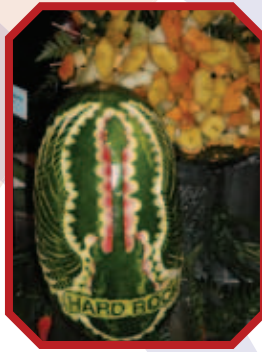


The convention center opens as the casino prepares for the Hard Rock transition in the coming months. The new convention center is complimented with the casino's new luxurious



19-story hotel tower, which opens its first 100 rooms on May 4, 2009. Once complete, the new hotel tower will feature more than 200 rooms and suites bringing the total room count to more than

350 on the property. Additionally, there will be added meeting space and a fine-dining restaurant on the top floors that will be enclosed with floor-to-ceiling Chevron glass walls overlooking breathtaking views of Tulsa.



Along with the new Hard Rock name, this

Tulsa hotel and casino will boast all new amenities that will be perfect for larger local, regional, and national events. The new look and feel entices with its ultra-

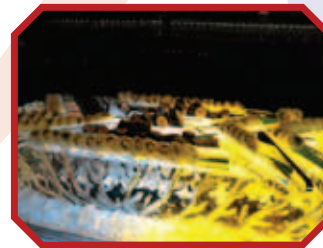


cool modern atmosphere and guests will love the new rooms. They are decorated in a contemporary sleek design with all the amenities of home.



Cherokee Casino Resort's expansion also includes

Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill to open this summer and a 2,500-seat entertainment theater set for completion in 2010.



Thanks, a Million! By Courtney Arnall

We want to send a big thank you to those suppliers who donated items for door prizes at the April SGMP meeting at the Waterford Marriott in Oklahoma City. Thank you to the Cherokee Casino for donating two wine glasses, flask, and travel kit; the Doubletree - Warren Place for donating three bags of cookies; Stillwater Convention & Visitors Bureau for donating an Eskimo Joe's t-shirt; and the Waterford Marriott for a one-night stay and breakfast for two.

Suppliers don't forget about this opportunity each luncheon. With the economy affecting where monies are allocated, this is an inexpensive way to get your name out to your target market.

If you have questions, or would like to donate items for future luncheons, please contact Courtney Arnall at courtney@visitstillwater.org. Property! If you would like to donate an item(s) for our next luncheon, please e-mail me at courtney@visitstillwater.org.

Green your meetings ... By Courtney Arnall

To help you move toward greening your meetings, which was the topic of our April luncheon program, you can contact Green Options Environmental. They are offering recycling services to any upcoming events. They can provide 95 gallon poly carts for disposing glass, plastic drink bottles, aluminum cans, and office paper. Below is their contact information if you have further questions:

Green Options Environmental
Travis Tatum
P.O. Box 270062
Oklahoma City, OK 73137
Phone: 405-474-1212
ttatum@greenoptionsenvironmental.com
www.greenoptionsenvironmental.com

50/50 Raffle

Tickets are just \$1 each, 7 tickets for \$5, and 15 tickets for \$10. Tickets may be purchased at registration. We will draw a winner after lunch and the lucky winner will keep 1/2 the pot! The other half will go to the chapter to increase available scholarship money. If you are interested in participating, please bring cash and your lucky charm!

Congratulations to Ginger Thompson, OKC CVB, for winning the 50/50 drawing at our March meeting in Tulsa.



Also to Laura Morgan with PDC in Norman



for being our 50/50 winner! She won the biggest pot we have had yet\$124! Thank you SGMP members for your contributions to SGMP scholarships. We truly

appreciate it. Be sure to try again at the next luncheon. You never know when you'll be the next lucky winner.

News Flash



Angela Holden
is Engaged

Rob Hanlin
is going to
be a Daddy



The Wild West Chapter's Very Blustery Day by Maggie McGowan

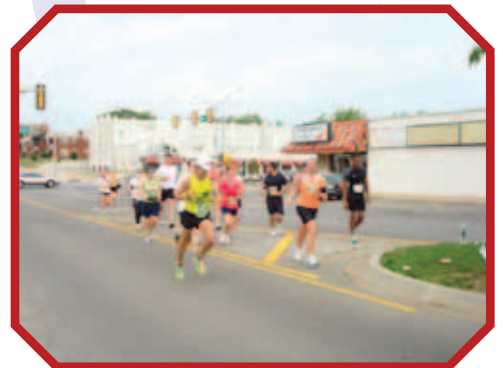
Much like the Winnie the Pooh Classic, Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day, the Wild West Chapter's day at the OKC Memorial Marathon on Sunday, April 26 was a VERY BLUSTERY DAY! Chairs were flying

along with our hair and there was no defense against the 35 mph wind that seemed to be constant. We had a few gusts, but you really couldn't tell unless it lifted you out of your seat, or blew you across 18th street. We cheered, urged, and screamed encouragements for the 19,000 participants who ran, walked, jogged, and pedaled past the 11 mile or 24 mile marker where SGMP pitched our cheering section. We had about 10 members join our cheering

section on Sunday and we had a lot of fun, even chasing chairs and trying not to go airborne. Our very own Rob Hanlin came running past on his way to the finish line, eliciting another burst of me it wasn't his best finish, but after running 5+ miles against

good for though. minutes. He best time is 55 minutes. the time pretty dang me...of could probably walk 13 miles in 9 hours.... maybe. So Kudos to Rob for doing something I wouldn't dare to do, at least not in this decade. I know we had some other chapter members running, but I don't know how they fared. If you are one of those members, please let us know so we can congratulate you in the next newsletter.

good to course I



Shining Stars By Alice Moore

Ms. Angela Holden, Ms. Katie Reel, and Ms. Ginger Thompson are pictured receiving their Shining Star Awards at the March 12, 2009 monthly meeting.

Angela continues to serve as the Chapter Treasurer and does an exemplary job. She is by far the best Chapter Treasurer in the Wild West!

This is a very vital role in our chapter's success. We certainly appreciate her dedication and dependability. Thank you Angela and congratulations on your pending nuptials!

Ms. Katie Reel is the chapter's 2nd Vice-President. Katie stepped into this role via filling the vacancy left when Amy Carlisle resigned. Katie has been very instrumental in maintaining our membership records and recruiting new members as well. Katie and NCED continue to host our monthly chapter meetings throughout the year and we certainly appreciate this much needed support as well. Thank you Katie for all you do for the Wild West Chapter!

Ms. Ginger Thompson, OKC CVB, is such a lucky member! You may have recognized her face holding the money from the 50/50 pot—which she has won on more than one occasion. The Wild West Chapter certainly wishes to recognize the OKC CVB for their generous support and the success of Oklahoma hosting its first Joint Partners in Education Conference in February 2009 in Oklahoma City. They also play a major role in our annual Christmas Gala each year and hosted the SGMP National Board in November when the Board met in Downtown Oklahoma City. Thank you Ginger and the OKC CVB for your continued support!



Ms. Beca Salmon, University of Oklahoma Center for Public Management, received the Shining Star Award at the April 9, 2009 monthly meeting. Beca has been instrumental in assisting the Membership Committee with recruitment of new members. Thank you Beca for much needed help in this area.



Ms. Sherry Roberts, 1st Vice-President, received the Shining Star Award at the April 9, 2009 monthly meeting. Sherry serves on the Wild West Programs and Education Committee and also served as the Tradeshow Chair for the 2009 Joint Partners in Education

Conference. We thank Sherry for her efforts in contributing to the success of the conference. We know that she is also on the road to recovery after experiencing major health issues the past year and the Wild West Chapter certainly appreciates her dedication.

Mr. Patrick Pellegrino also received the Shining Star Award on April 9, 2009. Patrick has been a very dedicated Wild West Board Member and a superb Community Service Chair. We recognize Patrick for serving on the Board for several terms and know that the Board will certainly miss his dedication



and guidance as he steps down at the end of this term in June. Patrick's drive during the 2009 Joint Partners in Education Conference for the Camp Cavett Charity will help financially support three youth to attend the camp. Thank you Patrick for being the outstanding role model that you are for our Wild West Chapter!

Membership Report

Katie Reel

katherine.n.reel@usps.gov

Wild West Chapter has as of April 13, 2009

45 Government Planners; 2 Contract Planners; 26 Suppliers; 1 Assoc Supplier Grandfathered;
2 Assoc Suppliers New; 77 total chapter memberships

Membership Changes: Welcome Old and New Members!

Robert Wood

OKC Convention & Visitors Bureau

Thanks to our members with March Anniversaries for renewing!

Lisa Golden-Gee

Vanesa Masucci

Laura Morgan

Rena Sterling

Happy Anniversary

Denise Edwards

April

Lisa Fortier

April

Katy Hagmeier

April

Rob Hanlin

April

Eric Lee

April

Alice Moore

April

Mona Springfield

May

Mary Waggoner

May

Robert Wood

May

Courtney Arnall

June

Lori Hendricks

June

Tony Sprouse

June

Georgina Williams

June

Notes from your Membership Chair:

At the National Education Conference, all membership chairs received information that has led us all to change the process once again for processing membership applications. Please send me your applications.

Oklahoma SGMP Membership
PO Box 1783
Oklahoma City, OK 73010

Renewal membership applications and planner profiles can still be sent to the national office.

Society of Government Meeting Professionals
Attn: Carolyn Bentsel/Membership
908 King Street, Lower Level
Alexandria, VA 22314
Fax: 703-549-0708
Email: membership@sgmp.org

Please let me know if you are having any problems and I will escalate with the National Membership Coordinator. This is only temporary until they have completed their automated membership system, which is set to go live by July 1, 2009. Until we have confirmation of this, please send all information to me so that I can make sure you are properly matched. Thanks!

**ALL PLANNER APPLICATIONS, NEW OR RENEWAL MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED WITH THE PLANNER PROFILE**

SGMP 2009 Joint Conference Photos





All Meetings

- ◆ Registration 11:00 am
- ◆ Networking 11:15 am
- ◆ Lunch 11:30 am

Luncheon Costs

- ◆ Planners \$10.00
- ◆ Supplier \$20.00

RSVPs not received by the deadline on the announcement will incur an additional \$5.00 charge.

First time Planner guest is free. Guests must meet the criteria for becoming a potential member of SGMP. Supplier guests will pay regular registration fees.

RSVP Contact Information

Lisa Golden-Gee
lgee@ou.edu
Phone: 405-799-6383 ext. 282
Fax: 405-799-7634

2009 Monthly Meeting Calendar

| May - 2009 | June - 2009 | July - 2009 | August - 2009 |
|---|--|--|---|
| S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |
| September - 2009 | October - 2009 | November - 2009 | December - 2009 |
| S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |

May 13-16, 2009
National Education Conference
Galt House, Louisville, KY
June 11, 2009

NCED Conference Center and Hotel, Norman
Supplier Appreciation & Installation of Officers
Melody Kebe, National SGMP President

July 2009
Board Retreat/No Monthly
Chapter Meeting

August 13, 2009
Sheraton MWC at Reed
Conference Center
Kyle Eastham
The Black Belt Speaker

September 10, 2009
Tulsa Hilton Southern Hills

October 8, 2009
Marriott Southern Hills Tulsa

November 12, 2009
Stillwater Convention
and Visitors Bureau

December 2009
Holiday Gala
Cherokee Casino Tulsa

Newsletter Articles Wanted

We want your contributions to The Spur. Let us know what is going on with you on a personal or professional level. We want your pictures and news of events big and small. Articles can be about a new meeting planning experience or something that you learned to do or not to do. Give us your input and remember, articles count for scholarship points.

Advertisement Opportunities!

Here is a great opportunity to Advertise Locally in the "Wild West" Chapter's Spur Newsletter Edition.

This exceptional value per newsletter runs as follows:

¼ page - \$25.00

½ page - \$ 50.00

Full page - \$100.00

Your ad can be in the following formats: TIF, JPG, PDF

Submit to: Sandy Berry, Newsletter Editor at skberry@ou.edu. If you have any questions, please call 405-325-0760.

Call for Presenters

The Wild West Chapter is made up of many talented, educated, and professional individuals. Every one of us has something to contribute to our Chapter. Why not share your knowledge with everyone and sign-up to present on a topic of your choice that will better educate all of us? Not only will you be appreciated by your SGMP peers, but you can also earn points for meeting planning certifications. Finding quality speakers in the state of Oklahoma who are willing to come and speak at an affordable rate is not always the easiest task. Let's tap into our own chapter and use the resources that we have as a collaborated group in order to keep our meetings fresh and innovative! Your topic does not have to be solely on meeting planning or the hotel industry. Think outside the box about topics that are essential in everyday life at work, home, relationships, etc. All of us make up the body of the chapter and each of you ARE the chapter.

If you would not feel comfortable presenting yourself or by yourself, think about the people you work with or buddy up with a colleague to do a presentation. You may have someone right there in your office who would consider doing a presentation. The possibilities are endless. With the amount of expertise we all bring to one group, it will be a phenomenal year for the Wild West Chapter and we can keep bringing stellar programs to the 2nd Thursday of every month! Please contact me with your presentation ideas at jessi.a.rigney@usps.gov or (405) 366-4974. Thanks!

Meeting Topics Needed!

What do you need to know? Be refreshed about? Be retrained on? Let us know and we will try to have a meeting about it. Contact Sherry Roberts or Maggie McGowan with your meeting ideas. We can have better more interactive meetings when we have your input about topics.

THE UN-COMFORT ZONE with Robert Wilson

The Main Ingredient

In 1907, during a major league baseball game, second base was stolen 13 times by the winning team. The catcher for the losing team, Branch Rickey, was unable to pick off even a single runner. That record stands to this day. It also spelled the end of Rickey's career as a baseball player after just two short seasons. With nothing else to do, he went to college and law school.

Six years later, he returned to major league baseball. This time as a manager – and what a manager he turned out to be! He created the modern baseball farm system which enables major league teams to nurture and develop future stars through their minor league teams. He was the first to establish a permanent spring training facility in Florida. He changed the way statistical analysis is used in baseball by proving that on-base percentage is more important than batting average. Branch Rickey is best known, however, for breaking the color barrier by bringing African-American Jackie Robinson into the major leagues. It earned him a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Rickey offers this as his recipe for success, "Success is where preparation meets opportunity." A simple formula that reminds me of the old joke: "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" The answer: "Practice. Practice. Practice." Obviously, you can't take advantage of an opportunity if you don't have the skills. It's a good recipe for success, but it doesn't reveal the secret main ingredient.

A funny old song from Frank Sinatra gets us little closer to the answer. Do you remember these lyrics from High Hopes ?

Just what makes that little old ant
Think he'll move that rubber tree plant
Anyone knows an ant, can't
Move a rubber tree plant!

I love that song because a stanza later we learn the ant CAN: "Oops there goes another rubber tree plant." Is having "high hopes" the secret ingredient? No, but it

gets us closer to it. You see, the ant succeeds because he doesn't know that he can fail.

Think about some of the people you know who are successful. What is it that makes them big achievers? What traits do you associate with them?

When I ask this question of my audiences I frequently hear the following ingredients: Courage, Perseverance, Enthusiasm, Discipline, Confidence, Decisiveness, Self-reliance, Responsibility, Focus, Ambition, and Optimism.

All of these are certainly traits of successful people, but which one is the overriding characteristic? Which one is the main ingredient?

None of the above!

That's right – none! Yes, they are all important, but there is one ingredient that makes the cake, and that is simply your belief that you will succeed. It's called Self-Efficacy. Your belief in your ability to achieve what you seek is the biggest part of actually getting there. The best part is that self-efficacy is a trait that can be acquired at any age.

We acquire a sense self-efficacy in four ways. The first way is cumulative. With each success we achieve we add a new layer of confidence in ourselves. The second way is through observation. When we see someone similar to ourselves succeed, we realize that we can too. The third way is controlled by our attitude. A positive attitude enhances our belief in our abilities whereas a negative one destroys it. The fourth way is from the encouragement of others who believe in our ability to succeed. This is where you as an effective manager can help your people succeed. Tell them that you believe they can meet their goals and you will help them believe it too.

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.

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Get Excited About Louisville!

By Katie Reel

In addition to the excellent education opportunities, the National SGMP Education Conference is a great opportunity to network with your colleagues and experience a legendary town! Your chapter board will be arriving early to network with board members from other chapters to brainstorm on new ideas to make our organization even more exceptional than it already is and bring those great ideas back with us.

On the social side - don't forget to bring your Derby gear for the opening reception! Sara Furr will be sporting our chapter's entry for the Chapter Hat Competition and we will be supporting her by wearing some stylish hats as well! Maggie and I went to Louisville in January to check out some of the hot spots for evening entertainment and Louisville has a lot to offer! Fourth Street Live! is Louisville's premier dining, entertainment, and retail destination located on Fourth Street, between Liberty Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard, just a short walk on the skybridge from the convention hotels! You will find restaurants and entertainment venues to include: The Lucky Strike Bowling (much like OKC's Red Pin), Hard Rock Cafe, The Improv Comedy Club, The Piano Bar - Howl at the Moon, and the world's first Maker's Mark Bourbon House & Lounge. The opening reception will be at the Muhammad Ali Center (alicenter.org) which I've heard great things about the museum and how moving it is even if you're not a sports buff. You also don't want to miss the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory (sluggermuseum.org) to take home you own Slugger! This will definitely be an exciting location for our upcoming conference and we hope to see you there!

Scholarship Dollars in Action

By Sara Furr

If you haven't already learned that it pays to throw your name in the hat for a scholarship with SGMP, here's proof! The following people are going to the National Conference courtesy of the Wild West Chapter!

Jessi Rigney-Full Scholarship
Angela Holden-Full Scholarship
Sara Furr- Full Scholarship
Patrick Pellegrino- Full Scholarship
Sandy Berry- Full Scholarship
Alice Moore- Registration/Airfare Scholarship
Brian Weatherman- Lodging Scholarship
Mona Springfield- Partial Lodging Scholarship
Sheree Powell- Registration Scholarship

In addition to the group listed above, we had 4 Wild West members that are going on a full National Scholarship. Those people are:

Mona Springfield
Gail Russell
Jenni Hughes
Kathie Nicoletti

Full Scholarships include registration, airfare, and lodging for the conference to be held in Louisville, KY, May 13-16. Hopefully this inspires you to complete that application, it can pay HUGE dividends!!!

Wild West Chapter

OKLAHOMA SGMP

March Meeting Highlights "State of the Chapter Address"

by Sherry Roberts

Approximately 50 members attended our March 2009 meeting held at the Downtown Doubletree in Tulsa.

This meeting's program was a bit different than the normal speaker because we had 10! Each member of the Wild West Chapter Board in attendance provided an explanation of their post on the board, their assigned duties, and introduced the Chairs of their subcommittees. Our purpose/goal was to help Wild West chapter members understand what the board does and to recruit increased activities and encourage participation on subcommittees. We are always looking for new ideas, suggestions, speakers, and programs. Our Wild West members are our best resource. Downtown Doubletree was an excellent host! The meal was wonderful and we all enjoyed seeing the new renovations to the hotel, as well as, the plans for more updates over the next year.



Don't forget to put June 11th on your calendar for our next meeting at the NCED Conference Center in Norman. We have a special guest speaker from SGMP headquarters



April Meeting Highlights "Going Green from a Meeting Management Perspective!"

by Jessi Rigney



During the April SGMP luncheon held at the Waterford Marriott in OKC, our members had the great opportunity to experience three different perspectives

on Green Meetings. Yves Badaroux, General Manager of the NCED Conference Center and Hotel, gave examples of how a property can "go green" and the benefits to not only the business, but the environment as well. LeAnn Jenkins, Executive Director of the Federal Executive Board, gave information on an array of local opportunities to utilize when planning meetings. Dianne Wilkins, Environmental Program Manager of the Department of Environmental Quality, gave a presentation on the benefits of planners and suppliers participating in the Oklahoma Star Incentive Program. We want to thank our speakers for opening our eyes on the importance of "Going Green" and Patrick Pellegrino for hosting a wonderful luncheon.



2007-2009 Wild West Chapter Board of Directors

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