



The Rocky Mountain Governmental Purchasing Association

Rocky Mountain High Notes

December 2008

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Letter from the President

Submitted by Ed Bonnette, C.P.M., CPPB

MOVING ON!

December 12, 2008: We just completed the 2008 Winter Conference in Colorado Springs last week. The 2009 RMGPA Executive Board is sworn in; your 2009 president Terri Kindsfather has already mustered the troops with a transition meeting last Friday immediately following the Conference. We are good-to-go into the New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members for their support this past year. It has been quite a learning curve for me, having not been on the board before last year. What I can tell you is that I gave it everything I had; in the parlance of football, I left everything out on the field, nothing was held back! I would do it again in a heartbeat. My favorite memories will be the outreach to new or prospective RMGPA members, and when they realize the wide array of services that RMGPA has to offer them. I am happy that I will have the opportunity to continue in this capacity as 2009 Past President; the work will be a little more behind-the-scenes, but important nonetheless. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes: the Vice-President handles a lot of the operational details and acts as the President's primary backup while they are grooming for the top job. Terri Kindsfather knows the details of membership and the back end of the website, and is very thorough and organized. She will be a superlative 2009 President. Sharon Williams has signed up for a new two-year term as your Treasurer. She has a new accountant on board that is working feverishly to bring our financial reporting up to speed, and to simplify our budget approval process and ongoing tracking. Sharon's bulldog persistence to improve our processes will benefit future RMGPA board members more than they will ever know. Mary Jablonski joins the officers this year as the new Secretary, stepping up from the Programs committee to replace Christine Oberman. I look forward to working with Mary, as she was invaluable getting the catering together for Fall Conference up in Fort Collins. Mary, thank you for stepping up. Chris, thank you for your service and support, and Mary, welcome aboard! Danielle Hinz moves from the chair of Pro-D and her wonderful work in getting the classes lined up (not to mention the awesome job she did on the Purchasing and P-Card Training Event in Grand Junction) to become our 2009 Vice President. Danielle just gets things done. The Board will be in good hands in 2010 also! Last but not least, thanks to Linda Trimble, our 2008 Past President for her support, encouragement, coaching, and Starbucks this past two years. I would not have gotten through this without you!

Thanks also to our Committee Chairs for their superlative work this past year: Eileen Gonzales with Awards; Traci Burtnett with Chapter Enhancement (especially RVTS, our major fund-raiser); Tim Wellmann with Communications (father of the website upgrade, Google Analytical, and Document Library); Danielle Hinz with Education/Professional Development; Linda Meserve with Elections; Yvette Nguyen as Historian; Jere! Nielsen as Legislative (catalyst for the Governor Photo-Op); Jim Walker in his first year with Membership (430 active members now!); Marcia Sieben with Newsletter (and the new-and-improved format); Ruth Smith with Programs (which keep getting better and better; thanks for the Bowling!); and Ricky Smith with Western Slope (look where we've come from that Study Session last February!).

It has been my pleasure to serve RMGPA as your 2008 President; God Bless you all and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,



Deadlines for 2009 newsletter articles will be announced in the next newsletter; they have not yet been established.

“VALUE” — RMGPA STYLE

Submitted by Ruth Smith, CPPO, CPPB, Programs Committee Chairperson

“VALUE – RMGPA STYLE”

The 2008 RMGPA Winter Conference evaluation form included questions regarding “value.” Twenty-five people offered responses. The following is a summary of the results:

How does your organization define “value”?

Your RMGPA colleagues mentioned “cost savings” as the most repeated definition of value. RMGPA members also defined value as trust, collaboration, contributing or adding to the process, risk mitigation, being a necessary and useful resource – *making things better.*

What things does your department do to bring “value” to customers – internal and external?

Again, “cost savings” was mentioned most frequently as a way to demonstrate value. Many organizations generate value through education and training of internal and external customers. *Relationship development* plays a key role in personalizing customer service, offering assistance, advising, communicating options, negotiating, and

utilizing long-term partnerships. We use competitive processes to deliver value. We supportively and quickly step in when customers encounter vendor or contractor issues.

How do you measure/report on “value”?

Most purchasing and contracting entities stated (again) that they track “cost savings.” Reports vary from weekly, to monthly, to quarterly updates. Most reporting is given to directors, then ultimately to upper management. Some *key items being reported* are:

- Activity counts – competitive solicitations, contracts, POs, dollars spent
- P-card transactions
- Goal progress or attainment (e.g., departmental goals, small business goals, professional development goals)
- Protests or lack thereof
- Peer reviews/teamwork on solicitations or contracts over a selected dollar value

- Overall entity performance
- Surveys – internal and external ... annually; at project completion; following a particular portion of a competitive process

Entities measure the aforementioned items in applicable, relevant ways, using repeatable metrics for historical comparison purposes.

Your RMGPA colleagues mentioned “cost savings” as the most repeated definition of value.

Value: Perhaps most importantly, members rely on how we feel at the end of the day – can we personally give ourselves a positive evaluation of our own actions? **You bet we can!**

January 19 - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.

The time is always right to do what is right.



Report from NIGP Region 10

Board of Directors Representative

Submitted by **Judy Meisel, CPPO**

Purchasing Manager for City of Olathe Kansas

At the NIGP Board of Directors meeting November 4-8 in Herndon, Virginia, the following items were discussed:

Forum 2009 fees were set as follows:

2009 Forum Fees

- **Full Registration Fee - NIGP National Members:** \$675
- **Full Registration Fee - Non-Members:** \$775
- **Conference-Only Registration Fee - NIGP National Members:** \$440
- **Conference-Only Registration Fee - Non-Members:** \$540
- **Daily Registration Fee (for a max of two days) -** \$150 per day

2009 Forum Fee Discounts (applies only to full-registration)

- **First-Time Registrant:** -\$50 (available any time)
- **Early Registration – Fees paid by April 30, 2009:** -\$50

Please note the new category of Conference-Only registration – this does not include any meals or activities other than the Forum itself, but may be of interest to some attendees. There is also a 2-day daily fee of \$150/day for those who can only attend a portion of the Forum.

Other NIGP Board activities included a very long and detailed discussion of how to restructure the Committees to allow more participation by membership. The actual re-structure is still in the design stages, with a goal to have it ready for presentation at the 2009 Forum.

The cornerstone of this revised committee structure is to provide:

- **Greater, more meaningful opportunities for members** to serve the Institute through task forces that focus on analysis of a critical topic
- **No travel** will be required for members and their engagement will cover a shorter period of time

The Board adopted several changes to its Board Policies including:

- An **appeals process for instructors** who do not meet eligibility requirements
- **New Lifetime Membership category** that provides complimentary membership to retirees who have held national membership for at least 15 years and are at least 63 years of age
- Several **policy changes related to revised IRS regulations** for not-for-profit associations.

The Board of Directors decided **not to pursue American Council on Education (ACE)** Accreditation for its education program. While the intent of ACE accreditation is to help adults gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside traditional degree program, a cost/benefit analysis showed that an increased number of members are entering the profession with a bachelors

or advanced degree and would not benefit from ACE credits. Further, ACE accreditation would alter the current NIGP classroom by requiring a final exam at the end of each course as well as outside assignments

such as supplemental reading and projects. Finally, there are alternative options for members to obtain college credits including challenge exams offered through CLEP (college-level examination program), military experience, academic portfolios, and an examination offered through a professional certification program such as UPPCC. The Council may consider ACE Accreditation in the future.

The Board will spend the next few months on a revised strategic agenda that will direct the Institute in the next 3-5 years.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of help to any of you. You may contact me at jmeisel@olatheks.org.

“Please note the new category of Conference-Only registration – this does not include any meals or activities other than the Forum itself, but may be of interest to some attendees.”

2008 Communications Update

Submitted by Tim Wellmann, CPPB

It was a challenging yet successful year for your 2008 Board of Directors and Communications Committee. Following are highlights of some of the 2008 committee accomplishments and goals that have been targeted for next year.

What's up with Communications? We:

» Implemented Survey Monkey as a new electronic survey tool to serve the RMGPA Board and our membership body. Advantages are:



An easier/more efficient way for members to complete and submit surveys;

Increased membership response to the surveys sent to membership;

Automated response compilation;

Automated report generation;

Multiple avenues for conveying the results to membership.



» In October we upgraded our chapter website to the new Chapter Manager 2.0 solution. Enhancement advantages are:

We can designate if an event is for members only (members must login to register);

We can identify unlimited cost types (other than member, non-member, national member, etc.);

Members' information is already populated and will not need to be entered every time they register for an event;

One member can now easily register multiple members from their agency;

Eliminated duplicate registrations for members only events;

We can now include unlimited attachments that can be downloaded for events.

Following are some notable changes for the board and back-end functionality:

Updated modules

Administration of email, home page content, meetings, and trade show/reverse trade show

New payment module including additional p-card information being captured.

New document library for forms, templates, by-laws, job descriptions, etc.



In August we implemented a new analytical tool that monitors all RMGPA website Traffic. This tool provides valuable information regarding what pages are being viewed and whether that 'visit' leads to more visits on the site. This tells us what information is more helpful to membership and whether the navigational tools are optimal. If not, we can improve them in a future website release.

What now?...Goals for next year:

Continue learning all aspects of Chapter manager 2.0 solution;

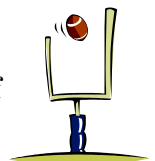
Provide a presentation on the western slope during the summer conference;

Work on adding the additional known documents needed for the document library;

Recruit more folks to serve on the Communication Committee;

Implement a specifications library that will be accessible to all of membership.

See you next year!



Ethics Commission Opinion

Clarifies Amendment 41

Submitted by Marcia Sieben, CPPO , CPPB

The Colorado Independent Ethics Commission issued an opinion on October 6, 2008, interpreting Amendment 41 regarding ethics of public officials and employees. The opinion assists government employees and officials with interpretation of when "gifts" (anything of value including meals) valued at more than \$50 can be solicited or accepted.

The main rulings are:

Scholarships generally are permissible.

Honoraria are permissible if:

- (a) Delivering the speech or writing the publication is not part of the employee or official's official duties;
- (b) Public resources are not used in preparation of the speech or publication (including computers, telephones, staff);
- (c) Government time is not used for the preparation or delivery of the speech or publication;
- (d) The amount of the honorarium is reasonable related to the services the employee or official is being asked to perform; and
- (e) Neither the sponsor nor the source of the honorarium has had, or reasonably expects to have, dealings with the employee or official in his or her official capacity.

Insurance proceeds are permissible.

Prizes are permissible if the competition was fair, open to everyone similarly situated, and if the gift is not given based on the official or employee's governmental status. This exception allows acceptance of scholarly prizes like the Nobel Prize.

Raffles, lotteries and silent auctions are permissible as long as they are fair, the employee or official either bought a ticket or otherwise shared an equal chance to win (like putting a card in a fishbowl), and the awards were not rigged in favor of the public employee or official based on his or her governmental status.

Inheritances are allowed because they are based on the personal relationship.

Special occasions are broadly defined. Amendment 41 allowed personal friends to give gifts on "special occasions." This opinion loosens the definition of "special occasions" to allow social amenities like meals and gifts among personal friends and family members so long as:

- a. The personal or family relationship is the controlling factor and not the governmental position, and
- b. The receipt of the gift or thing of value by the public official or employee would not create the appearance of:
 - (1) Using his or her office for personal benefit;
 - (2) Giving preferential treatment to any person or entity;
 - (3) Losing independence or impartiality; or
 - (4) Accepting gifts or favors for performing official duties.

Legislative Report - Amendment 54

Submitted by Jerel Nielsen, CPPB

Electon 2008 is over and the Colorado State Legislature will focus in the next session on enacting law that will support two Amendments that were passed. Amendment 50, Limited Gaming Initiative, and Amendment 54, Campaign Contributions from Certain Government Contractors.

Amendment 54 will amend the Colorado Constitution to:

Prohibit certain government contractors from contributing to a political party or candidate for the contract's duration and two years thereafter;

Prohibit contributors to ballot issue campaigns from entering into certain government contracts relating to the ballot issue;

Apply the prohibitions on campaign contributions and ballot issue contracts to any contractor with a government contract or contracts that does not use a public and competitive bidding process soliciting at least three bids and with a total value greater than \$100,000 in a single year; and

Apply the prohibitions on campaign contributions and ballot issue contracts to a labor organization holding a collective bargaining agreement with a state or local government.

How does the Amendment affect government contractors and labor organizations?

Amendment 54 prohibits campaign contributions by certain government contractors. The prohibition applies to contractors with a total contract value of greater than \$100,000 in a single year where fewer than three bids are solicited. It also covers labor organizations that represent public employees in a collective bargaining agreement.

The sole source contracts covered by Amendment 54 include those awarded by the state, cities, counties, school districts, and other special districts. The measure requires the state to publish and maintain a database of every covered government contract issued at every level of government.

What is the scope of state contracts affected by Amendment 54?

Last year approximately 6 percent of state contracts had a value greater than \$100,000 and were not put out for bid. These contracts represent about 5 percent of the total value of state contracts over \$100,000.

What is the scope of local government contracts affected by Amendment 54?

Information is not available on the number and value of local contracts that meet the criteria in Amendment 54. Some local governments, including the cities of Boulder and Fort Collins, have enacted laws restricting campaign contributions by individuals holding any type of contract with the local government and would integrate Amendment 54's provisions into existing practice. Local governments also enter into collective bargaining agreements. For example, 45 school districts, representing 80 percent of teachers in the state, and four city police departments, representing 33 percent of the state's police officers, are covered under collective bargaining agreements.

The Denver Post on October 1st editorialized against Amendment 54 saying that "*Amendment 54's definition of no-bid contracts includes groups like labor unions and voter approved utility monopolies in ways that would keep those groups from exercising free-speech rights. By equating unions that represent government workers – like police and firefighters – as holders of "no-bid contracts," the language of Amendment 54 would lock into the Colorado Constitution a legal notion in defiance of federal collective bargaining laws dating back to 1935.*"

"Federal law allows labor unions to have exclusive contracts for logical and simple reasons: without those assurances, unions would have little to no power in representing their members. Amendment 54 also would
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Legislative Report - Amendment 54

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preclude voter supported utilities, like Xcel Energy, from paying for their own campaigns for the franchises that allow them to continue doing business. State law allows municipalities to award sole-source franchises to companies like Xcel because the enormous infrastructure needs make it impractical to award contract with multiple retail providers of natural gas and electricity.”

Other opponents say that Amendment 54 proposes an inflexible approach to government contracting. Different regions and levels of government throughout the state have varying contracting needs and access to providers of goods and services. Because rural cities and counties typically have fewer contracting options than urban communities or state government, the measure presents unique challenges for small communities and their service providers. For example, if one organization in a small community is the only available contractor for community services, the organization would have to choose between accepting a contract and participating financially in the political process.

Those that endorsed Amendment 54 said that the Amendment promotes civic trust and government transparency. By prohibiting campaign contributions Amendment 54 ensures that business interests, labor, and other covered government contractors do not influence policy decisions through campaign contributions. In addition, by requiring state officials to publish information on covered government contracts, the measure makes information on vendors that received such contracts easier to obtain by ordinary citizens. Registered voters can hold both public officials and contractors to a high ethical standard and seek remedies when violations occur. Amendment 54 furthers the efficient use of taxpayer dollars by promoting competitive bidding for government contracts. It makes contracts where fewer than three bids are solicited less attractive by prohibiting political contributions from entities that receive such contracts. Amendment 54 thus encourages taxpayer value in contracting, and discourages instances where it may be easy to rely on entities with existing contracts.

The passing of Amendment 54 does not come without a cost that the 2009 legislative session will need to address. The Colorado Blue Book Analysis specified the following costs. **State Expenditures:** Department of Personnel and Administration -- \$277,000 in budget year 2009 and \$85,000 in budget years 2010 and 2011. The department will incur additional expenses to develop the required database of sole-source contractors for state and local governments. Additional expenses for administering the database will be incurred on an ongoing basis. **Local Government Impact:** Local governments in both metropolitan and rural areas may incur new costs. The prohibitions included in this measure may serve to limit bidding on projects, thereby increasing costs. This could be especially true in rural areas, where the number of potential contractors is already limited. Projects may be delayed, further driving up costs.

Despite those that endorsed or opposed this Amendment, in its present form, this Amendment means, in part, that if a Covered Organization (an organization awarded a sole source contract in excess of \$100,000 annually) holds a Sole Source Government Contract with one school district in Colorado Springs, the Covered Organization and all related Covered Persons will be prohibited from making a contribution to a state representative race in Fort Collins that is completely unrelated to the school district contract. Also, no bank that holds a Sole Source Government Contract will be eligible to make loans to any political candidates, parties or committees, as such loans are deemed to be contributions under Colorado law.

Because Amendment 54 has yet to be enforced, it cannot be known with certainty at this time which types of conduct will violate the amendment and which will not. It should be noted that Amendment 54 presents several significant constitutional issues and the restrictions identified in it may be reduced or blocked entirely by a court. It is possible that, in a manner similar to Amendment 41, a court will grant an injunction prohibiting the enforcement of the Amendment 54 while the legal questions surrounding its validity are addressed. However, until such relief is granted, Covered Organizations should prepare to comply with Amendment 54 as it is written by December 31, 2008.

Sources: Denver Post / Rock Mountain News / Colorado Blue Book / Ballotpedia.org / Sherman&Howard.com

Education & Professional Development Report

Submitted by Danielle Hinz, CPPO, C.P.M.

- SCHEDULE OF COURSES

The Education/Professional Development Committee is currently working on scheduling the classes for 2009. The planned line-up of courses came directly from the feedback we received from more than 100 members in response to the Education Calendar survey that was done in October. From there, we chose the most requested classes, are working on finding space, and will then request those classes to be scheduled by NIGP. As soon as confirmation is received from them, the classes will be announced via email.

Due to construction that is planned at the Jefferson County Administration Building in 2009, most of the classes will be held at the Aurora Municipal Building located on East Alameda in Aurora, Colorado. We will also be offering one class in Colorado Springs – hosted by Colorado Springs Utilities – and a one-day class just prior to the Summer Conference in Grand Junction.

The CPPB and CPPO Prep classes will be held approximately 6 weeks prior to each testing cycle. These Prep classes are now 2 days and considered vital to preparing for the UPPCC certification exams.

- SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

In 2008, RMGPA awarded 17 scholarships totaling \$5,376.00 to individuals for the purpose of continuing their professional development. Congratulations to all of our recipients this year!

- ✍ Renee Wersch – State Department of Personnel and Administration
- ✍ Traci Gorman – Town of Castle Rock
- ✍ Pam Smith – Academy School District 20
- ✍ Carol Wills – Academy School District 20
- ✍ Leah Yeckel – Colorado Department of Human Services
- ✍ Shannon Sprague – City of Brighton
- ✍ Michelle Ratcliff – City of Aurora
- ✍ Angie Young – City of Aurora
- ✍ Skeet McCracken – Poudre School District
- ✍ Darla Geer – Colorado Department of Human Services
- ✍ Carolyn Morris – South Metro Fire Rescue
- ✍ Jenny Paradis – Colorado Springs School District 11
- ✍ Chris Oberman – State of Colorado Purchasing
- ✍ Jennifer Bergman – Auraria Higher Education Center
- ✍ Kathy Hall – Auraria Higher Education Center
- ✍ Ryan Harter – Denver Public Schools
- ✍ Kristi Husby – Douglas County School District

For 2009, the Education/Professional Development committee is making some enhancements to the scholarship program to provide greater benefit to membership. The changes are:

- ✍ increasing the maximum amount of scholarships to 100% of the registration fee, instead of the 80% maximum that is offered currently;
- ✍ individuals will be allowed 2 scholarships per year (up from the current limit of 1 per person per year) with each agency able to be awarded up to 4 scholarships (up from the current limit of 2 per agency per year);
- ✍ agencies will have to certify that funds are not available to pay for the individual to attend without receipt of a scholarship.

- UPPCC CERTIFICATION CHANGES

The next test cycle is May 4-9, 2009 – the application deadline for that test is February 2, 2009. All the details are on the UPPCC website at www.uppcc.org.

Achievements - Since August 2008



Congratulations to the following individuals for successfully completing the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC) certification requirements!

NEW CPPBs:

Mary O'Halloran, CPPB
City of Lakewood

Shannon Sprague, CPPB
City of Brighton

Barbara Standler, CPPB
Douglas County School District

Jill Yellico, CPPB
Colorado Springs School District

NEW CPPOs:

Danielle Hinz, CPPO, C.P.M.
City of Longmont

Jerel Nielsen, CPPO, CPPB
Poudre School District

Kristine Odom, CPPO
Colorado Springs School District 11

G. Matthew Stephens, CPPO, CPPB
Colorado Springs School District 11

NEW RECERTIFICATIONS:

Renee Wersch, CPPO
Colorado Dept of Personnel & Administration

Sharyn Guthridge, CPPO, CPPB
Laramie County School District #1

Kathleen Budd, CPPB
Jefferson County

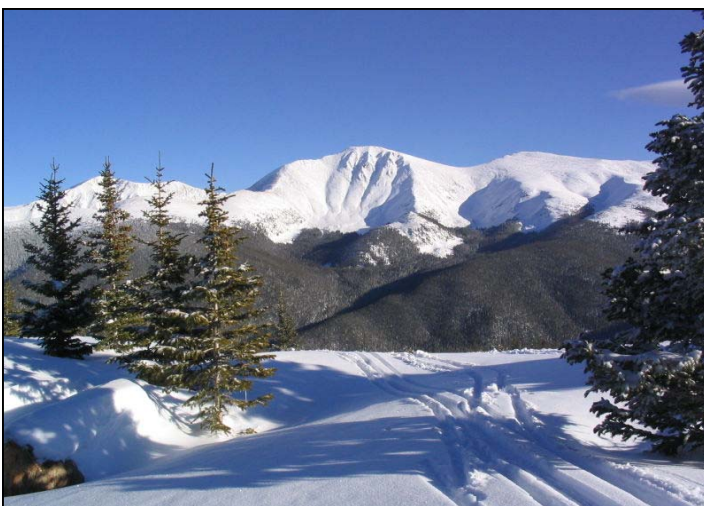
Denise Kincaid, CPPB
State of Colorado Purchasing

Darlene Morrow, CPPB
University of Colorado

Jenny Olberding, CPPB
Boulder County

RB Simmons, CPPB
City of Aurora

Pat Tebben, CPPB
Denver Public Schools





2008 Distinguished Service Award

Presentation to Gina Abbott, CPPB

Submitted by Eileen Gonzales, CPPO, CPPB

At the end of each year, the RMGPA Board nominates and votes for a member to receive the Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to recognize individuals who have provided extraordinary service to their entity, the community, RMGPA and the procurement profession. The Board unanimously agreed on our honoree as there is no question of the service and professionalism she has brought to our association.

It is with great pleasure and honor to present, on behalf of the RMGPA Board, the Distinguished Service Award to **Gina Abbott**, Financial Services and Contracts Manager for El Paso County.

Gina has 25 years of experience in the procurement management profession in both the private and public sectors, the last 19 years having worked for El Paso County. Gina started her county career as a buyer and was promoted to Purchasing Supervisor in 1994, then to purchasing Manager in 1995. She became the Procurement and Contracts Director in 1999 and most recently her title changed to Financial Services & Contracts Manager. She has been instrumental in upgrading and updating the County's procurement and contracts process to include standardizing and simplifying county boilerplate contracts, protest/claims procedures, the RFP process, and increased the minor p. o. and bid limits. She was also instrumental in getting the procurement and contracts web page established. Gina has served on numerous County committees, including Capitol Improvement Projects, Employee Benefits Advisory Committee and JD Edwards Advisory Committee. Through her support and encouragement, the professional staff has achieved 100% UPPCC certification. In 2003, the El Paso County Contracts Division was a recipient of the Outstanding Agency

Accreditation Achievement Award and Certificate of Appreciation from NIGP, and was subsequently re-accredited in 2006 through 2009.

Gina earned her CPPB Certification in 1997. She received the Manager of the Year Award in 2000. She was the 1st runner up in 2004 and also in 2005 in the NIGP's Annual Ethics Essay contest.

From the date that I first met Gina, I was genuinely impressed with her commitment to our profession and her willingness to share information with others. This is evident from all the involvement and support she has given to RMGPA by serving on the RMGPA Board as Secretary (2000), Vice President (2001), President (2002), and Past President (2003). Gina chaired the first 2 Reverse Vendor Trade Shows (2003 and 2004) and was the Chair for the Awards committee (2006).

Gina has participated in the Local Business Workshop. She has provided procurement training to the County Sheriffs of Colorado, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, newly elected County officials, and to the Citizen's College.

It is difficult to list in such a small space all that someone has done in their career to help our profession and organization. We have truly been enhanced by Gina's upbeat personality, creativity, ethics and her concern for the well-being of others.



**Congratulations,
Gina, on receipt of
this well-deserved
award!**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Submitted by Eileen Gonzales, CPPO, CPPB

RMGPA annually recognizes the **Manager and Buyer of the Year** for their contributions to the Procurement Profession as seen through contributions to the entity they serve, to professional development, to RMGPA, to NIGP and their levels of certification. Each winner is recognized with an award and with a \$300.00 certificate to be applied to a NIGP or RMGPA event registration. Our Manager and Buyer Awardees will then go on to compete on the national level for NIGP's Manager of the Year and/or Buyer of the Year.

It's time to nominate the person(s) in your agency for the 2008 Manager of the Year and/or Buyer of the Year. You may nominate a co-worker, boss or yourself. The nominee must be a member of RMGPA and work in the procurement profession.

It's important that people are recognized for their hard work and dedication.

Please take a moment to call or email the Awards Committee chairperson, Eileen Gonzales, CPPO, CPPB, with El Paso County Contracts Division, eileen-gonzales@elpasoco.com (719) 520-6398, **no later than Monday, January 12th, 2009** with your nomination. The information must include the person's name, entity, title or position, telephone number and email address. The nominees will be asked to submit information regarding contributions to the procurement profession made by them during 2007-08 .

Submissions must be **received by February 16, 2009**. Awards will be made at the Spring Conference on March 6th, 2009.



A FIRST-TIMER'S LOOK AT THE RMGPA WINTER CONFERENCE

Submitted by Marsha Peterson, CPPO

Purchasing Manager, St. Vrain Valley School District

I had the distinct pleasure of attending RMGPA's Winter Conference in Colorado Springs on December 4th and 5th. Having recently relocated to Colorado from Florida, I was so impressed that the organization actually had snow for my first conference. That was awesome! Actually, I was born and raised in Boulder, but did live in south Florida for almost fourteen years. (But it really sounded good to say.)

All kidding aside, I was very impressed by the commitment of the Board of Directors and the many program chairs and members. It was a very well-structured conference with excellent speakers and good interaction between entities. From registration to the closing session, I had a wonderful experience. Everyone involved in the conference was friendly and extremely helpful. I was excited to actually get to meet my fellow procurement professionals and glean their insight and knowledge in a wide variety of subjects.

Having been actively involved in the Southeast Florida Chapter of NIGP, I had been anxiously awaiting the Winter Conference. I was so thrilled to find that RMGPA is so dynamic and vital. I gleaned many good pointers from Karen Susman in both of her sessions, "How to Wear Man Hats and Keep your Head On Straight," (which of us can't use that help?) and "Building Community Involvement," and am happily signed to up receive updates from her website. And all I can say for Tina Lewis Rowe is "Wow, what a dynamic personality!" I am glad I never had to cross her when she was with the DPD or the US Marshall's office. Her presentation on "Having the Kind of Influence Money Can't Buy" gave me many new tools for my tool box and reinforced those I already had. That girl knew how to wear a mean mini skirt, I'll tell you! Ah, yes, and then there was the evening activity called "Bowl-a-rama." This was an opportunity to meet many of the RMGPA members in an informal setting. My team captain, Curt "The Man" DeCapite, enthusiastically took on the challenge of Steve "Smoothie" Gess. In a spirited two game series we traded frames in nail-biting fashion. I am proud to say, we were way noisier that the other team. Is that good? We did win a prize for it!! This was a wonderful opportunity to get to meet more members, even if I did get out-bowled by a 4-year old. Ah, the indignity of it all!! The Antler's Hotel provided a warm, welcoming site for the conference. The accommodations were first-class and it was so nice to be able to be located in the same building for sessions and most activities. Karen and I both had challenging experience in the underground parking garage maze, but emerged unscathed and vowing to have GPS units with us next time.

I truly enjoyed the entire experience of the Winter Conference and look with great anticipation to the Spring Meeting.



REGARDING BUDGET CUTS AT EL PASO COUNTY:

Recently, a sign appeared in the County Attorney's Office next to the copy machine that read:

"Important Announcement: Due to recent budget cuts and the rising cost of electricity, gas and oil, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off."

County budget cuts have claimed 180 jobs this year — 111 layoffs and 69 positions eliminated. In the coming year, residents are sure to notice the impacts of cuts that will reduce the budget to \$232.3 million in 2009 from \$234.8 million this year.

Source: Excerpt of an article by Pam Zubeck as seen in THE GAZETTE

**THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN
GOVERNMENTAL
PURCHASING
ASSOCIATION**



*Dedicated to Excellence in
Public Purchasing*

Rocky Mountain
Regional Chapter of



Your RMGPA Board
wishes you a safe,
happy, healthy and
prosperous 2009.



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DID YOU MISS THE WINTER CONFERENCE BOWL-A-RAMA??



We heard it was fun... and the Winners are:

- "Most Acrobatic Bowler" **Sharon Williams**, City of Brighton
- "Definite Style & Form" **Tim Wellmann**, City of Arvada
- "GoPro -- Most Consistent High Scores" **Brenda McGee**, Colorado Department of Human Services
- "Multi-tasking Bowling Card Shark" **Steve Gess**, City of Colorado Springs

Team awards:

- "Having Too Much Fun"
 - Curt Decapite**, City of Colorado Springs
 - David Carey**, City of Fort Collins
 - Dan Frank**, Mesa County
 - Marsha Peterson**, St. Vrain Valley Schools
- "Special Award -- Best Dancing Bowler" **Sherri Gibson**, Boulder Valley Schools
- "Upstanding Citizens -- Keeping Gutters Clean"
 - Jerel Nielsen**, Poudre School District
 - Renee Wersch**, Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration
- "Special Award -- Greatest Comback XX/" **Mary Kirschmer**, South Metro Fire/Rescue
- "Special Award -- Not a Team Player, i.e., Scoring Well on a Gutter-lured Team" **Sue Podczervinski**, City of Colorado Springs

CONGRATULATIONS! (Photos are posted on the website—take a look!)

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