



The Fine Print

**The Newsletter of the Maryland Public Purchasing Association, Inc.
May/June 2006**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-

Mark A. Pemberton, CPPB, C.P.M.

I bring you pleasant springtime greetings from the State's capital. I hope everyone enjoyed their Easter holiday. I've come to believe that if you put eating chocolate down on your daily things to do list you can be assured of accomplishing at least one thing!

On behalf of the Officers and Directors, I'd like to offer our continuing appreciation to Kristy Heim for her hard work regarding the reconstruction of the Association's web site. As stated previously, Kristy has been working with the NewLinear Group, who is under contract with the MPPA, to revise and modernize the web site. Work has also been going on behind the scenes to allow the on-line acceptance of credit card payments. We are all very excited about this investment and look forward to unveiling it to the membership.

As former Treasurer I am obligated to remind everyone to promptly process your membership renewals. If you have not received your 2006 membership invoice, please contact our current Treasurer, Donita Hood.

I am also pleased by the attendance at this year's training sessions. Training our professionals is of the essence. We are fortunate to have such an extensive program and dedicated volunteers to facilitate the registrations and logistics. I continue to encourage your attendance.

Speaking of attendance, don't forget to get your registrations in for the National Forum in Tampa, Florida, August 5-9, 2006 and the Regional Conference in Dover, Delaware, October 26 & 27, 2006. Please join me in showing MPPA's support for these events.

My congratulations go out to Suzette Moore of the Maryland Aviation Administration for being selected this year's MPPA Manager of the Year!

In closing, a quote from Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." May we all continue to give.

Mark A. Pemberton, CPPB, C.P.M.
President, MPPA

**MAY 2006 MEETING OF THE MPPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
AND STAFF SUPPORT DAY**

WHEN: Thursday, May 11, 2006
From 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: **Hellas Restaurant and Lounge**
8498 Veterans Highway
Millersville, MD 21108
410-987-0948

COST: \$24.00 per person (members/guests)

MENU:

Crab Balls
House Salad
Lasagna
Chicken Teriyaki
Redskin Bliss Potatoes
Garlic Sautéed Green Beans
Rolls with butter
Assorted Deserts
Beverages

R.S.V.P: Notify Facilities Chairperson Brian Snyder by telephone at 410-263-7944, email at BDS@annapolis.gov or fax at 410-263-8120. Brian needs a count of attendees before Monday, May 8th.

Payment: Make checks payable to MPPA, Inc., c/o Donita Hood, 3833 Arbutus Avenue, Gwynn Oak, MD 21207. Payment will be accepted at the door.

SPEAKER: Karen G. Colvin, R.N., M.A.

TOPIC: Gratitude: Being a Guest on the Oprah Show

Ms. Colvin has been a registered nurse since 1974 and education has been the primary focus of her professional life. Ms. Colvin experienced a major life change at the age of 28; she was involved in an automobile accident and was rendered quadriplegic. She continued to pursue her passion for higher education. Ms. Colvin returned to college, graduating Cum Laude in 1994 from the University of Baltimore and was the recipient of the President's Award for Academic Excellence for academic excellence and community contributions. In 1997, she achieved her Master's Degree in Leadership in Teaching from Notre Dame. Ms. Colvin has been a speaker for over 20 years and has been a guest on The Oprah Show. She will share the story of her life's experiences with sensitivity and humor.

MEMBERSHIP

Darla H. Herbold, CPPO

MPPA warmly welcomes the following professional purchasing practitioners who were accepted into membership on April 12, 2006 at the meeting of the MPPA Executive Board:

Marie Ash

Buyer I

Wicomico County Board of Education

101 Long Avenue

Salisbury, MD 21802

Phone: (410) 677-4503

Fax: (410) 677-4418

Email: mash@wcboe.org

Kimberly Smith

Associate Director of Finance and

Contract Administration

Howard Community College

10901 Little Patuxent Parkway

Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: (410) 772-4837

Fax: (410) 772-4994

Email: ksmith@howardcc.edu

Sarah W. McRae

Procurement Specialist 1

Office of Procurement

Montgomery County, Maryland

255 Rockville Pike, #180

Rockville, MD 20850

Phone: (240) 777-9945

Fax: (240) 777-9952

Email: sarah.mcrow@montgomerycountymd.gov

Stewart F. Whisman

Procurement Specialist 1

Office of Procurement

Montgomery County, Maryland

255 Rockville Pike, #180

Rockville, MD 20850

Phone: (240) 777-9934

Fax: (240) 777-9952

Email: stewart.whisman@montgomerycountymd.gov

Daniel Guthrie

Purchasing Agent II

Harford County Purchasing

220 South Main Street

Bel Air, MD 21014

Telephone: (410) 638-3550

Fax: (410) 879-8658

Email: djguthrie@harfordcountymd.gov **Cruise With MPPA – Fall 2007**

Are there any MPPA members, spouses, significant others, and their friends who would be interested in participating in a cruise sometime in the Fall of 2007? Maybe a five-night trip to/from Bermuda, leaving from Baltimore? Your Editor, Karen Luther, and some other members are talking about taking vacation and going on the high seas if there is interest among the membership to do so. Please contact Karen with an e-mail @ kluther@washco-md.net if you would like to be put on an “interested” list. We will then determine the feasibility of such an adventure.

RECOGNITION REPORT

Pam Jones, CPPB, MBA, CPM

Announcements

Paul Harris has been appointed by Governor Ehrlich as a Public Member of the Transportation Professional Services Selection Board (TPSSB). Paul began his five-year term at the April 5, 2006 meeting. The Board is responsible for reviewing all Architectural/Engineering Services contracts in excess of \$200,000 and certifying to the Maryland Board of Public Works that they were processed in accordance with procurement regulations. The TPSSB meets at MDOT Headquarters the first Tuesday of every month.

Note: If you'd like to forward information to be published (e.g., recent certification, promotion, etc.), please contact Pam at pam.jones@montgomerycountymd.gov or Tom at thomas.savoie@montgomerycountymd.gov.



AWARDS:

CONGRATULATIONS



This year we had strong competition in our Manager of the Year Award category. The applicants were extremely qualified and true professionals in their field. Unfortunately, we did not have any submittals for the Buyer of the Year Award category.

After reading through the applications and documentation submitted, the Board made its recommendation. MPPA is pleased to announce its **2006 Manager of the Year: T. Suzette Moore, CPPO, CPPB**, Director of the Office of Procurement and Chief Procurement Officer for the Maryland Aviation Administration. Ms. Moore's application package has been forwarded to NIGP for consideration at the national level.

Thank you to each that made nominations and to those applicants that have worked tirelessly to promote our profession. We appreciate your efforts. Congratulations!

NEED MONEY? MPPA IS HANDING IT OUT!

Check out the opportunities for Educational Aide:

The Stanley D. Zemansky Scholarship Program Application Procedure has been redesigned. The new procedure captures the required information in an application format. We hope this will make applying for the scholarship more user-friendly and encourage more eligible MPPA

members to apply. **The new instruction and application have been uploaded to the MPPA website.**

The Board has approved a new educational tool to benefit its membership. MPPA has established educational aide to reimburse eligible MPPA members that pass their certification exam, and whose agencies do not pay for their certification exam, the cost of the exam fee. We hope this will encourage and aide more members in becoming certified in the Profession. This educational aide will be effective as of January 1, 2006; **please visit the MPPA website to view the instructions and application.**

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy goes to Debbie Meehan and her family for the recent loss of her grandfather.

New Certification/Recertification

If you have recertification information, CPM, or other certification information you would like to share or recognize, please let me know.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following individuals:

New CPPB/CPPO (report from NIGP)

Joseph Gatto, CPPB, Procurement Specialist I, City of Baltimore Purchase Bureau (March 2006)

How specs live forever -

The U.S. standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the U.S. railroads were built by English expatriates. Why did the English people build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old, long-distance roads, because that is the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

So who built these old rutted roads? The first long-distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for or by Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

Thus, we have the answer to the original questions. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches, derives from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman army war chariot. Specs and bureaucracies live forever. So, the next time you are handed specifications and wonder what horse's a-s came up with them, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

--Found on the Internet, source unknown

2006 NIGP REGION II PUBLIC PURCHASING CONFERENCE

The Region II Conference will be hosted by the Delaware Public Purchasing Association, Inc., at the Sheraton Dover Hotel, 1570 North DuPont Highway, Dover, DE, on **October 26 and 27, 2006**. The Pre-Conference Seminar, "The Principles and Techniques of Problem Solving" will be held on **October 25, 2006**. Further information may be obtained by contacting Delaware Chapter Member, Tim McMahon, City of Wilmington, DE at tcmahon@ci.wilmington.de.us.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Department of Human Resources

Heritage Complex, 2660 Riva Road, First Floor

Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 222-7595

<http://www.aacounty.org/Personnel/Index.cfm>

Invites Applications for the Position of:

BUYER III

Central Services

Announcement # 00309

An Equal Opportunity Employer

SALARY

\$20.39 - \$32.86 Hourly \$42,420.00 - \$68,358.00 Annually

POSTED DATE: 04/12/06

FINAL CLOSING DATE: 05/01/06

THE POSITION

This position is located in Annapolis within the Department of Central Services purchasing division. This is professional work in large scale purchasing of a wide variety of supplies, materials, and equipment.

NATURE AND VARIETY OF WORK

Work involves the oversight of designated purchasing operations to ensure their integrity and effectiveness. Work includes performance at a high level of actual purchasing of complex building, property maintenance, and alteration contracts. Work requires considerable contact with County departments and vendors. Work also includes oversight of the work of subordinate buyers and clerical staff, assisting them in improving their methods and procedures. Work is performed with considerable independence within established policies, procedures, and purchasing regulations, and is reviewed by superiors through conferences and reports.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES AND KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

(Note: The duties and responsibilities enumerated in this class specification are for the purpose of determining a common set of minimum qualifications and salary level for all positions in this class. They are not intended to include all of the essential functions of all positions in the class.)

Prepares specifications for complex purchases and contracts; tabulates and evaluates bids; and recommends awards.

Oversees the work of buyers; and conducts informal staff development training.

Develops purchasing procedures and policies; recommends them for adoption; and updates vendor and commodity files

Reviews and approves requisitions; solicits both verbal and written quotations; and prepares and processes purchase orders.

Investigates new commodities and procurement techniques; and solicits new bidders and vendors.

Consults with using agencies; advises them on their requirements; assists in management of special purchasing procedures.

Performs related work as required.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

- Considerable knowledge of the various types and grades of commodities.
- Considerable knowledge of sources of supply and of market and price trends.
- Ability to prepare complex specifications and to analyze and tabulate bids.
- Ability to discern differences in quality and types of complex commodities.
- Ability to meet and deal with using agencies and vendors.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in business administration or a related field, and considerable experience in governmental purchasing.

The four-year college degree may be substituted as follows: A minimum of sixty (60) college credits in business administration or a related field and an additional two (2) or more years' experience in governmental purchasing.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUALIFICATIONS: Preference will be given to candidates with experience with e-commerce, and attainment of Accredited Purchasing Practitioner (A.P.P) and/or Certification as a Purchasing Manager (C.P.M.), and/or Certification as a Public Purchasing Buyer (C.P.P.B.)

APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AND FILED ONLINE AT:

<http://www.aacounty.org/Personnel/Index.cfm> OR

Heritage Complex, 2660 Riva Road, First Floor Annapolis, MD 21401

Announcement Number 00309

BUYER III