



Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc.
"Enhancing Purchasing Professionalism Through Education"

The Fine Print

The Newsletter of the Maryland Public Purchasing Association, Inc.
March/April 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Jo McCabe, CPPB

Make plans now to celebrate "March: Purchasing Month in Maryland." We need to advocate for our profession. Your participation in Purchasing Month helps people understand the importance of trained and certified procurement professionals; and can make a difference in changing people's attitudes and perceptions to our profession. Plan, and implement a special activity to demonstrate to your colleagues and community the value of purchasing. Provide a brief note/article of the activities your agency will utilize to promote purchasing month – a newsletter article, website message, request a proclamation from your agency head, advertise in local papers, photos, events, host an open house, an outreach or a training class. Spread the good news; share your pride and commitment in being procurement professionals! Submit copies to Bill Davis, editor and we'll include these in the next *Fine Print* issue.

Given the current economic situation, now more than ever, it is time for us to reflect on the important role procurement plays in our agencies' successes. We know procurement can significantly contribute to the bottom line through the savings negotiated through competitive bids, contracts, and cooperative purchasing agreements. And evidently, so does President Obama! Moments after being sworn into office, he spoke to the value of the public procurement and the contracting profession when he challenged all segments of government "to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day." By close scrutiny of our purchasing functions, we are best able to focus on customer service, negotiations and contracts, monitor spending, and develop supplier relationships.

This is also the time of year to prepare your submissions for MPPA Manager of the Year, or MPPA Buyer of the Year. MPPA membership has so many talented buyers and managers; there should be plenty of applicants. You may nominate yourself or a colleague. Recognition Chair, Maureen Dunn, is preparing to complete the application for award consideration in the NIGP Large Chapter of the Year – she needs your input. All of these

award programs are designed to recognize and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of our chapter and its members who strive to elevate the procurement profession.

Many of our members have eagerly accepted the “Dare to Make a Difference” challenge. I want to thank those of you who stepped forward at the installation, emailed or phoned me expressing your willingness to become more involved with MPPA. This is exciting!

Respectfully,

MJ

I'll leave you to reflect on this quote:

“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.”

T. S. Eliot

FACILITIES

Brian D. Snyder, CPPO

The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 11:30 a.m., at The Rose Restaurant, 6075 Belle Grove Road in Linthicum. Cost of the meeting is \$25, payable by cash or check at the door OR via credit card at the web site www.mppainc.org. Please make your reservations at MPPA's website or by contacting Brian Snyder at 410-263-7944 or bds@annapolis.gov.

Hot buffet lunch served at 12 noon includes:

Roast pork loin	House Salad
Chicken Marsala	Vegetable
Potato du jour	Bread, Rolls and butter
Iced/Hot Tea, Coffee	

January's meeting and officer installation was attended by 58 members, including NIGP's CEO Rick Grimm! Good food and drink was enjoyed by all at BWI's Friendship Centre.

Future meeting dates and locations:

March 12 – Purchasing Month – Rose Restaurant

May 14 – Support Staff Appreciation – Hella's

July 9 – Snyder's

September – Crab Feast - Date and location to be determined

November 12 – Officer Elections - Rose Restaurant

Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome. Contact me directly.

Brian D. Snyder, CPPO

Facilities Chairperson

RECOGNITION REPORT

Maureen Dunn, CPPB

Announcements

Please remember, if you'd like to forward information to be published (e.g., recent certification, promotion, etc.), please contact me at mdunn@ccg.carr.org.

Annual Awards

At the Installation on January 24th, 2009, MPPA was pleased to present the following individuals with awards recognizing their outstanding contributions to the procurement profession:

Mr. Steve Ports was awarded (in absentia) the **Distinguished Service Award**, for all he has done in support of MPPA over the years, and for all the hats he has worn for us. We were sorry he couldn't be there to be honored in person, and we'll do our best to catch up to him at the March general membership meeting.

Mr. Steve Myer received the **Stanley D. Zemansky Award**, in recognition of his many contributions to the profession, which have saved millions of public dollars. Steve was in attendance to receive his award, and was typically humble about receiving MPPA's highest accolade.

Congratulations to Steve Ports and Steve Myer for earning these awards! Your peers thank you and appreciate all your efforts, as they benefit us all!

Buyer of the Year and Manager of the Year Awards

Although we didn't receive any submissions last year for the Buyer of the Year or Manager of the Year, now is the time to start working on your submission for this year. MPPA is very fortunate to have many dedicated and hard-working professionals who deserve to be recognized for their achievements. Please consider submitting yourself or your manager for this recognition. Applications this year must be received or postmarked by **May 4, 2009**.

NIGP Assistance for Getting Certified

NIGP offers several tools to help prepare purchasing professionals pursuing certification. They can be found at the NIGP website under Cert Prep Central, and those tools include written prep materials, online self-assessments, and simulated exams. You can determine which areas need more review, and plan accordingly. NIGP suggests a six-month time period incorporating a variety of activities for the most successful outcome. Getting certified would be a great goal to set for 2009! Make a New Year's resolution to get started on your path to become a CPPB or CPPO!

New Certification/Recertification

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

New CPPB/CPPO (report from NIGP)

N/A

Recertification News

N/A

Deadlines for 2009 Spring CPPB/CPPO Testing

NIGP has posted deadlines for applications to take these tests, and to sign up for the review class for each one. To file the application to take the test, the deadline was February 2, 2009 (late registration was February 16, 2009), so if you weren't able to make that, keep an eye on their website for the application deadlines for fall 2009 testing.

Review classes are being offered at MDOT headquarters in Hanover, as follows: For the CPPB review, class is scheduled for March 9-10, 2009, and the CPPO review is scheduled for March 11-12, 2009. The instructor is Mr. Edward Pabor, CPPO, C.P.M. If you are interested in signing up for one of the classes, please contact Ms. Jessica Mettle at jmettle@mdot.state.md.us, or (410) 865-1386. The exam dates are May 4-9, 2009 and the registration deadline is March 30, 2009.

Take Advantage of Educational Aide Opportunities:

Currently, there are two types of educational aid available to members through MPPA, as follows:

- (1) The Stanley D. Zemansky Scholarship Program and
- (2) The Certification Exam Reimbursement Program.

Please visit the MPPA website to view the instructions and application for each.

Assistance from NIGP is also available through the **Lewis E. Spangler Professional Development Foundation**, which offers financial support to members as well as public procurement researchers. The Foundation relies on tax-deductible contributions. You can get more information if you're interested at <https://www.nigp.org/common/applications/lescont.htm>.

MEMBERSHIP

Margie J. Foster, Procurement Specialist II

I am pleased to report that 12 new members have enrolled pending the Board's approval when it meets in April, 2009. I will diligently follow-up with the pending new members.

In 2009, I will be placing added emphasis on recruiting new members from various agencies of the State of Maryland, Colleges and Universities and Health institutions. This seems to be an area where we can put emphasis on recruiting new members.

As always, members are encouraged to promote MPPA membership to public purchasers who aren't members of the association. I consider all members to be part of the Membership Committee. Please refer any potential new members to me if they have any questions. I can be reached by e-mail at mfoster@sra.state.md.us or by telephone at 410-625-5575.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Carla Tucker

2009 Legislative Session
Procurement Bills

As of March 2, 2009, 77 bills related to procurement have been introduced in 2009 legislative session. You may review the complete list of procurement bills and their status by visiting <http://mlis.state.md.us/2009rs/subjects/procurement.htm>. A report of the bills will be provided at the next MPPA General Membership Meeting, Thursday, March 12, 11:30 a.m., at The Rose Restaurant, 6075 Belle Grove Road in Linthicum.

CRUISE WITH MPPA IN 2009
Karen R. Luther, CPPO

The arrangements are made. Phil and I only need MPPA members and their families and/or friends to book their cabin aboard the Royal Caribbean ship, *Grandeur of the Seas*. We have reserved 50 various types of rooms (inside staterooms, ocean view staterooms, ocean view staterooms with a balcony, and junior suites with a balcony). Our children are going with us, their spouse/significant other, and some friends and relatives---rooms are going fast, so get your reservation in early.

All balcony rooms were already taken for another cruise week we checked for cruising in October 2009. This is a very popular cruise and books up fast! Royal Caribbean may contact AAA at anytime after September 14, 2008 to review the room inventory. During this review, unsold space (stateroom inventory without names and full deposit) may be recalled.

Contact *Susan Plumley at 240-313-7009 EXT 61318 at AAA* for booking and additional information. You won't want to miss this ship!



5 DAY BERMUDA CRUISE

THE M.P.P.A. (MD Public Purchasing Association, Inc.) 2009 GROUP

October 31 - November 5, 2009

aboard Royal Caribbean Cruises 's *Grandeur Of The Seas*
 (With Hosts--M.P.P.A. Member, Karen Luther and Phil Petry)

Colorful architecture, civilized culture, time to explore and Bermuda Shorts. For an island of just 30 square miles, Bermuda has a very big presence. Your view from the ship reveals a magnificent coastline that gives way to pink beaches and jewel-toned houses.

<u>Itinerary</u>		<u>Special Features</u>
October 31	Embark Baltimore, Maryland	\$25.00 Shipboard credit per stateroom
November 1	Cruising	
November 2	Kings Wharf, Bermuda	
November 3	Kings Wharf, Bermuda	
November 4	Cruising	
November 5	Disembark Baltimore, Maryland	
Category		AAA Rates

JS - Junior Suite with Balcony	\$ 1199
D2 - Balcony	\$ 999
I - Oceanview	\$ 749
N - Interior	\$ 659

NOTE: The Fuel Surcharge no longer applies. Rates, availability and itinerary are subject to change without notice. Rates are per person and based on double occupancy unless otherwise noted. Above rates do not include air unless otherwise noted. The above rates do not include taxes of \$24.23 per person.

DEPOSIT:
\$ 200.00 per cabin at time of reservation

FINAL PAYMENT:
Due August 4, 2009

AAA Mid Atlantic strongly recommends that you purchase travel insurance to protect your investment.

AAA is not responsible for errors or omissions.

For Reservation and Information, Please Contact Susan Plumley at 240-313-7009 EXT 61318

Notice to those traveling from Hagerstown--If enough are interested in traveling via chartered bus to Baltimore, Karen and Phil will make bus arrangements at cost. If you are interested in bus transportation, please contact Karen at 301-964-5137. There will be an additional cost; however, chances will be sold on the bus to provide the opportunity for riders to win money that may equal your bus fare.

Royal Caribbean no longer imposes a "Fuel Surcharge".

DATES OF FUTURE ISSUES: May, July, September, and November 2009

DEADLINE DATES FOR PUBLICATION SUBMITTALS:

Friday, April 17, 2009

Friday, June 19, 2009

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Friday, December 18, 2009

Please send all contributions to:

THE FINE PRINT

c/o William (Bill) Davis, CPPB – Administrator (Editor)

Maryland Department of General Services -

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1badd@msn.com

MPPA Member interested in serving on *The Fine Print* Committee are asked to contact editor as soon as possible.