



CAPITAL EVENTS

Special
Interests
Articles:

Chapter News
Industry News



Ellen Sliger, Florida Chapter President, presented certificate of Appreciation to Frankie Morise

**Thank you Hilton Cocoa
Beach Oceanfront for
Hosting our Meeting!**

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President's Message – Ellen Sliger, Florida Capital

We are all feeling the effects of budget reductions at work and/or home. All expenditures must be mission critical. So with that, training, travel and meeting budgets are being cut from most of our State Agencies. This is the time more than ever to seek out training to keep current on meeting planning trends. You need to keep yourself knowledgeable and indispensable. When you do get to schedule that next meeting, you will be able to put on a great meeting/conference with less funds and no one will notice any difference. How appropriate is our March Membership Program "Doing More With Less". We will all be expected to do that during this next year.

Check out the SGMP calendar of events. February's speaker was on "Stress Management", with is very helpful with the current economic situation. The April meeting is "Communicating between Generations". As you can see, these are great topics we can all benefit from and relate to. Make your plans now to attend the next meeting. For Planners, when the State Agencies will no long pay for your membership – consider doing this for yourself. For approximately \$6.00 a month you can attend training programs. You cannot afford not to do this for yourself.

Chapter News – Karen Lambert, Chapter Member

In December 2008, the National Bureau of Economics Research confirmed what we all had long suspected...our country is in an economic recession. Rate of employment and real personal income, the two "most relevant drivers of lodging demand", continued to decline and as a result occupancy levels were predicted to reach historic lows.

On February 17, 2009 an article in the Sun-Sentinel reported that, according to Visit Florida, the number of visitors coming to Florida "plunged 13.6 percent in the October 2008 through December 2008 period from a year earlier" thus eroding "visitor increases earlier in the year, leaving Florida with a 2.3 percent decline in visitors for all of 2008 compared to the previous year." Calculate in the decline in intra-state travel for both business and leisure purposes and Florida tourism in down for the first time in seven years.

The U.S. has experienced eleven economic recessions since 1937. Unless we look to history we are doomed to repeat it. So what are we to do? To quote Winston Churchill, "when you are going through hell keep going".

As a lodging industry, now is the time to take action. We will tighten our belts, but never at the expense of our guests' satisfaction. We must invest time in ways to improve our business and create greater value for our guests. We should reflect again on the fundamentals of hospitality and leave our guests with a lasting, memorable experience. Finally, it is critically important to invest time in further developing those business relationships that have long sustained us and in difficult times look for new opportunities that may be had.

As meeting planning professionals, look for "value added" lodging experiences. Be loyal to those with whom you have built long term alliances. Communicate clearly not only your expectations but also your budgetary restraints.

These are unprecedented times. Now more than ever we must work together and hope that the proverbial "rising tide that will lift all 'our' boats" comes sooner rather than later.

SGMP Board

*Ellen Sliger
President*

*Arlene Roberts
Immediate Past
President*

*Amy Brown
First Vice President*

*Chantale Acacia
Second Vice President*

*Claire Smith
Secretary*

*Suzanne Kelly
Treasurer*

Directors:

*Suzy Keenan
Karen Lambert
Marcia Burks*

Committee Reports

There will be a committee list at the meetings for members to volunteer. Please check the committee list to the right and see where you think you would like to assist or be a committee chair. We need more than one or two people on these committees. We need your ideas on how to make things grow and move in the right direction. Contact someone on the board if you have questions regarding these committees. WE WANT YOU!!!

There will also be board positions to fill. Our Nominations & Elections will start soon after the New Year for the July 2009 – June 2011 term. Think about becoming a board member. Call and talk to current board members if you have an interest.

Food for Thought:

CHICKEN AND SAUSAGE JAMBALAYA

Cook Time: 35minutes

Ingredients:

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- 1 ½ cup of Uncle Ben's Original Converted Rice, uncooked
 - 1 Whole Chicken Breast, Boneless, Skinless and Diced
 - 1 lb Cajun Sausage or Andouille Sausage, cut into ½ inch slices, 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 medium onion, chopped, 1 Bay Leaf, 3 stalks of celery, chopped
 - ½ tsp of pepper
 - 2 Cups of Chicken Broth
 - 1 Cup of Beef Broth
 - ½ tsp Paprika and 2 Tbsp of Worcestershire Sauce

Preparation:

Combine rice, sausage, celery, onion, garlic, beef and chicken broth, bay leaf, pepper, paprika and Worcestershire sauce in large skillet or dutch oven, bring to boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer 20 minutes, add chicken, cover and simmer until chicken is cooked through and liquid is absorbed, about 10 minutes

*****Quote of the Month*****

“Remember that obstacles in front of you are opportunities for new beginnings”

- *Anonymous*

Committee Chairs

Archives

George Fong

Community Service

D. M. Gabrielle

Honors & Awards

Amy Brown

Member Services

Marcia Burks

Membership

Recruitment

Retha Nero

Membership Retention

Retha Nero

National Conference

Ellen Sliger

Programs

Gloria Marion-Smith

Publications and Communications

Melissa Jackson

Special Events

See Web

**SGMP Florida
Capital Chapter
P. O. Box 1563
Tallahassee
Florida 32302**

**If you have an article
you would like to
submit, please
contact:**

**Melissa Jackson,
Publication Committee
Chair,**

According to Policy: The newsletter will be used to promote chapter matters only. The newsletter will not be used to promote a member's business or hotel site.



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.sgmpfl.org

National's Web Site

www.sgmp.org

Membership Report

2/9/2009

As Of Our 12/9/08 Report

51.1 Govt. Planners

4.3 Contract Planners

Grandfathered AS 1.1%

Govt. Planners – 20

Contract Planners – 4

Suppliers – 41

Assoc Suppliers Grandfathered

Educator/Student - 1

Retired – 7

Total Chapter Membership 102

Looking Ahead

National Conferences:

May 13-16, 2009

Louisville, KY-The Galt House

May 19-22, 2010

Kansas City, MO -The Hyatt and

The Westin at Crowne Center

June 8-11, 2011

Norfolk, VA -The Sheraton and

The Marriott Waterside

March Membership Meeting

"Get More Done With Less"

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Springhill Suites by Marriott

1300 Executive Center Drive

Sponsored by
Springhill Suites by Marriott

Presented by Jay K.
Williams, AAI,
AIP, CIC, CRM Managing Director

Monthly Board Meetings

The Board meets the same day and place as the membership meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. Members are welcome to attend, and minutes are available upon request.

About Our Organization

The SGMP Florida Capital Chapter chartered June, 1989 with 35 members. The chapter offers a variety of services to its members, including monthly educational programs, leadership opportunities, social activities and a strong code of ethics.

Mission Statement

The Society of Government Meeting Professionals is a national organization dedicated to improving the knowledge and expertise of individuals in the planning and management of government meetings through education, training, and industry relationships.

A Need to Know – Upcoming Events

February 17 – Stress Management

March 17 – Getting More Done with Less

April 14 – CGMP

May – No meeting due to the National Conference

June 16 – Honors & Awards Banquet

July 14 – Meeting Technology

August 11 – Silent Auction

September 15 – Effective Leadership

October 20 – Fright Night/Supplier Appreciation Dinner

**ELLEN SLIGER, PRESIDENT
FLORIDA CAPITAL CHAPTER**

