

January 2008  
Volume 5, Issue 1

# Capital Events



## Special Interest Articles:

- Safety
- Committee / Member Reports



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## "25 Tips for Personal Safety"

**Presenter: Allen Stucks, Executive Director, Big Bend Crime Stoppers**

**Meeting Review by H. A. Scott, CMP**

Allen Stucks, Executive Director of Big Bend Crime Stoppers presented the program at the Jan. meeting, sponsored by Kissimmee CVB and held at the Park Place Hotel. Allen's presentation focused on safety tips to be aware of while at a conference or while at home. He highlighted safety tips and identity theft prevention strategies and provided a number of great handouts and advice to the membership.

Among the many safety tips mentioned were: do not give your telephone number to a wrong telephone number caller; have your door key in hand when approaching your home entryway (or hotel room); never go into your home if something seems out of the ordinary; do not leave valuables in plain site within your vehicle; always carry a flashlight in your vehicle; when at work, lock valuables in your desk or other secure place; do not apply make-up, read, or text message on your cell phone while driving; be careful of leaving mail with identifying information in your mailbox; always ask for your receipt at restaurants and shops; do not combine other keys with your vehicle key (especially when using Valet parking services); above all: BE ALERT!!

Allen also provided time for attendees to ask questions and share safety tips of their own. Everyone benefited from this informative and helpful presentation while enjoying a variety of refreshments provided by our sponsors!

Crime Stoppers is a community action program that gives citizens the opportunity to become involved in the fight against crime in the Big Bend area. Visit their website at [www.bbcsi.org](http://www.bbcsi.org).



**Allen Stucks, Executive Director, Big Bend Crime Stoppers at the Jan. Capital Chapter meeting.**



**Left to right: January Meeting Sponsor, Janet Jones, Kissimmee CVB with Capital Chapter Trustee, Arlene Roberts**

**"A New Year, A New Time and Place"**

*to you from the mystery writer*

**President’s Message** – Arlene Roberts, Florida Capital Chapter President



Happy New Year to the Florida Capital Chapter! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and I wish each one of you a new year filled with everything good!

Retha Nero, our Nominations & Elections Chair, along with the board is working hard on the position of President. We think there is light at the end of the tunnel. If all works out, we will announce new positions within the next month. Retha, thank you for all your hard work during this complex time of HUNT and SEEK! Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Remember, I will still be on the board as Immediate Past President. I do not plan to go anywhere. I will continue to be here for the board and our membership. You are a great team of people. Keep up the good work!



**National Scholarship Information**

It is time to start thinking about your trip to the National Conference in Dallas this year. National will have information out for registration to begin on January 22, 2008. Check out the information on the national website at <http://www.sgmp.org/EducationConferenceAttendeeRegistration.asp>.

Olympian Gold Medalist, Dominique Dawes will address the opening general session with “Success is a Journey, NOT a Destination. The conference will continue with excellent educational tracks focused on personal and professional development, contracts, meeting management, supplier skills, and technology trends.

The scholarship policy and procedure and application form are on our website, [www.sgmpfl.org](http://www.sgmpfl.org) for you to download, complete, and send in prior to the deadline date of **March 14**. You must have your application postmarked by the deadline date. Please note that funds for scholarships are the proceeds from last year’s auction. If there are more members wanting to attend than what our funds allow, the scholarship amounts may vary. The board is working on new ways to bring in more dollars for our scholarship fund. I hope that many of you will be able to attend the National Conference this year. Remember the **DEADLINE DATE, MARCH 14, 2008**. See you there!

**SGMP Board**

*Arlene Roberts*  
“Acting Trustee”

*Ellen Sliger*  
First Vice President

*Chantale Acacia*  
Second Vice President

*Suzy Keenan*  
Secretary

*Suzanne Kelly*  
Treasurer

*Directors:*  
*Claire Smith*  
*Karen Lambert*  
*Marcia Burks*

**Save the Date—Suppliers Appreciation Dinner**



March 18 Meeting – Suppliers Appreciation Dinner –  
Dorothy B. Oven Park, 3205 Thomasville Road  
This is the night for SUPPLIERS to relax and enjoy!  
Sponsored by: Florida Capital Chapter Planners  
Join us as we thank our SUPPLIERS  
for their support throughout the year!





## Committee / Member Reports

### New Members – Welcome to our newest members!

Once again this month, we do not have new members to announce. We dropped four members since last month. Three of these were planners. This is what we want to avoid and why we keep our membership at a two-planner match for a supplier.

Everyone needs to dig deep and find those planners in your agency building that you do not know or know they plan meetings and are not SGMP members. Suppliers, get busy recruiting planners that you deal with for meetings on a daily basis. The chapter needs your continued support in the membership area. If you know of a planner(s) that dropped their membership, send them a note asking them to come back. Let them know they are missed at meetings. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our ration numbers up!

### President Position – Retha Nero

As mentioned at the meeting this month, we are still working on filling the Board President. This should be complete by the end of March. It was unofficially announced that Ellen Sliger would move into this position, and Amy Brown would step into the position, First Vice President. This move has been approved by the National Board. Kudos to Arlene Roberts for a job well done and the leadership she continues to provide to the Florida Capital Chapter. Thank you!

### National Charity - Heroes for Children

Each year, our chapter assists in sponsoring a charitable organization in conjunction with the National Conference. This year, Heroes for Children was selected. Heroes for Children is a nonprofit organization that provides financial and social assistance to families, within the state of Texas, who have children (ages 0-22 years) battling cancer. Each month during the SGMP chapter meeting, this organization will be highlighted and donations accepted from our membership. If you would like to review more information about Heroes for Children, please visit their website at [www.Heroesforchildren.org](http://www.Heroesforchildren.org). Please join me in supporting this wonderful organization and the individuals it serves. Suzanne Kelly - Community Service Chair

#### Committee Chairs

George Fong

Bylaws  
Arlene Roberts

Community Service  
Suzanne Kelly

Honors & Awards  
Arlene Roberts

Member Services  
*Marcia Burks*

Membership Recruitment  
*Marcia Burks*

Membership Retention  
Arlene Roberts

National Conference  
Arlene Roberts

Programs  
Gloria Marion-Smith

Publications and  
Communications  
H A Scott

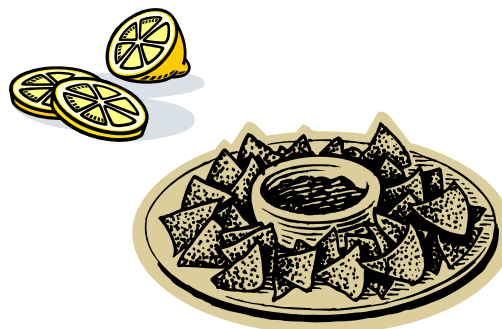
Special Events  
Ellen Sliger



## Food for Thought

### Hummus

- 16 oz. can garbanzo beans
- Fresh squeezed juice of 1 lemon
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tblsp. Tahini (a sesame seed paste available in most grocery stores or Asian markets)
- Salt and white pepper to taste
- 1 roasted red pepper
- 10 kalamata olives
- 2 slices pita bread
- Olive oil



Drain and puree the garbanzo beans. Add the lemon juice, garlic and tahini. Mix well and season with salt and white pepper. Dice half the red pepper and puree the other half. Drain and finely dice olives. Blend well with garbanzo mixture. Brush pita bread with olive oil and grill or toast until lightly brown on top. Slice into sections and serve with hummus. Can also be served with tortilla chips or as a dip for crudités.

*H.A. Scott, CMP, F.A.C.C.*



**SGMP Florida  
Capital Chapter**

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If you have an article  
you would like to  
submit, please  
contact either  
Arlene Roberts,  
Acting Trustee, or  
H A Scott, Publication  
Committee Chair,  
Florida Capital  
Chapter

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 are on the Web!

[www.sgmpfl.org](http://www.sgmpfl.org)

National's Web Site

[www.sgmp.org](http://www.sgmp.org)

**Membership Report**

As Of Our 1/9/08 Report  
57.5% Planners  
42.5% Suppliers  
Govt. Planners – 58  
Contract Planners – 2  
Suppliers – 45  
Assoc Suppliers – 1  
Educator/Student - 2  
Retired – 6  
Total Members - 114

**Looking Ahead**

National Conferences:  
June 11-14, 2008 Dallas, TX -  
Anatole Hotel  
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

**February Membership Meeting**

**“Document Scanning”**

Tuesday, February 19, 2008  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
I-10 and Thomasville Road  
3388 Lonnbladh Road

Sponsored by  
Tampa Bay CVB

RSVP  
Lisa Chamberlain  
[lchamberlain@visittampabay.com](mailto:lchamberlain@visittampabay.com)

**Monthly Board Meetings**

The Board meets the same day and place  
as the membership meeting beginning at  
4:30 pm. 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 - A Need to Know – Upcoming Programs**

February 19, 2008 – Document Scanning  
March 18, 2008 – Supplier Appreciation Dinner  
April 15, 2008 –  
May 6, 2008 – Honors & Awards Banquet  
June – No meeting due to the National Conference, Dallas, Texas  
July 15, 2008 –  
August 19, 2008 –  
September 16, 2008 -



**ARLENE ROBERTS  
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ACTING TRUSTEE  
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