Find out what you missed, what you didn't and how to improve the next conference you attend. It was fun and we have the photos to prove it! It was a fantastic conference, full of education, collaboration and passion Page 6

A CONVERSATION WITH OUR NEWEST MEMBER page 19

PIE Conference Details page 21
As I write this, I can definitely feel fall in the air, and thoughts of snow and skiing are not far behind! The fall colors have been breathtaking and I wish they could last longer, but I know that the leaves will soon be gone. In addition to the weather change, the holidays will soon be upon us and the hustle and bustle of shopping and events will get us in the holiday spirit. Right? I enjoy getting together with family and friends during this special season. It is a great opportunity to reconnect with old acquaintances and make new ones.

The last couple of months have been very busy. Charles Sadler, CGMP, CHSP, CHSC, executive director and CEO of SGMP, visited our chapter on September 27, to present the monthly program along with chapter member Lynette Schick, CMP. The presentation was an informative and fun look at how technology has played a major role in planning government meetings over the past 30 years. Several chapter members joined Charles as he presented a Federal Advocacy Program/SGMP awareness event on September 28 at the VA Regional office building. The history and benefits of being a member of SGMP were shared in an effort to recruit new federal planners. Similar events to recruit new federal planners will take place in the months ahead. On a side note, if you know of any federal, state or city government planners that might be interested in joining, SGMP is offering a rate of $30 to all new planners who join by December 31. You would also be eligible to receive a $25 King Soopers gift card for bringing in a new planner! In addition, we are looking at having SGMP promotional events at Denver metro-area educational facilities in an effort to recruit hospitality industry students.

This year’s fall education Conference was very successful and I have heard feedback that the educational sessions and networking opportunities were awesome! This issue of Mountain Views (by the way, I hope you like the new look!) will include several articles that members and scholarship recipients have written, sharing their experiences at the conference. Next year’s conference will be held over the same weekend (Columbus Day), October 5-6, 2012, at the Stonebridge Inn in beautiful Snowmass Village, Colorado, so mark your calendars now! The silent auction and raffles raised over $3000 and 5% of the funds will be donated to the Serving Up Hope / Food Bank of the Rockies Food Drive. The remainder of the funds will go towards chapter educational programs and scholarships.

This issue has so many exciting new things inside. Be on the lookout for information on the PIE (Partners in Education) Conference in Tulsa in 2012 (page 21), SGMP National scholarship opportunities for the National Education Conference (page 17) and how to join us on our new LinkedIn Account (page 21)! Social media seems to be where it’s at and a great way to keep in touch with what’s happening in the meetings industry.

I want all of you to know how much I appreciate your support of SGMP, the Rocky Mountain Chapter, our fundraising efforts and our Fall Education Conference. It means so much!

Mary Williams, CGMP works with NeighborWorks America and is in her 25th year of event planning. She has been our chapter president since 2010.
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Fall Education Committee Profile

by Kim Hawks, CMP, CGMP and Fall Education Conference Committee Chair

The Fall Education Conference Committee is responsible for planning and organizing the annual Chapter Fall Education Conference. The conference takes place in October each year, but the committee works year-round preparing for the event.

There are some responsibilities of our committee that are obvious. We have to find a place to have it (Site-Selection), we have to decide on a theme for the conference and we have to work out the agenda. But did you know that the Fall Education Conference Committee puts a lot of work into things such as speaker selection and sponsorships? We do! There are many interesting facets of putting together an event of this size.

Some of our responsibilities include deciding on the number of breakout sessions as well as the topics that would be most beneficial to the group and then coordinating speakers to address each topic. We have to design a theme each year that conveys what we feel the conference is about and how it can relate to each attendee and then carry that theme through to the program design, the entertainment, the signage and name badges. The committee coordinates a trade show where planners and suppliers can interface with one another. There are communication details that must be relayed to the chapter members as well as on-site assistance and conference staffing!

There are a lot of conference calls, e-mails and details flying back and forth through the year, but it all comes down to a great effort and everyone fits in with their particular talents and energies. This year’s conference committee included Kay Bothwell, Rachel Carmen, Shannon Dempsey, Kimberly Forte, Mo Goldman, Colleen Mahan, Joseph Powell, LeeAnn Prodoccini, Jessica Quiroz, Donna Redd, Cynthia Ross, Linda Schmitt and MaryLou Wallace. Additional (and very valuable) assistance was provided by Mary Williams, Chele Clark and Karen Davis.

If you are interested in joining the Fall Education Conference Committee, please contact me at (970) 453-8729 or khawks@beaverrun.com.
We learned, we laughed, we lingered and we loved being in Breckenridge on October 7 and 8 this year. The Fall Education Conference is something we always look forward to. Months of preparation, hours of discussion and evaluation of past educational sessions go into each conference. When it's over each year, we take that time to reflect upon what went well, what we thought we could have improved upon and what was just plain fun! The conference closed this year with the announcement that the 2012 SGMP Fall Education Conference will be in Snowmass! That's exciting news for us and we look forward to seeing all of you there.

Enjoy this special section with photos, breakout and general session recaps, a Fall Education Committee profile and much more! We hope you take time to reflect on your conference experience, what you learned and what kind of "magic" you would like to see during the conference next year. Enjoy!
An Amazing Experience
by Jean McMains, 2011 Fall Ed Scholarship Recipient

Let me begin by expressing what an honor it was for me to receive the scholarship to attend the 2011 Fall Education Conference. Being new to the organization, I really wasn't sure what to expect from the conference. The opening and closing speaker, Robin Rose, left me with a most positive and indelible experience!

Ms. Rose is a very dynamic individual and her message of positive thinking came across loud and clear. The speaker emphasized the critical role positive thinking has on our individual physical health and well being. She emphasized that we all have the power to control our daily atmosphere by focusing our minds on specific intentions each day. She shared simple ideas and techniques such as staying hydrated, breathing exercises in which we focus on deep slow breaths and complete exhalation, and practicing healthy coping strategies to help prepare one for just about any situation that may arise during a typical day.

I walked away from the Fall Education Conference more enlightened on the role that healthy coping skills, mental focus and positive thinking has on our daily wellness. Possessing this knowledge, I feel prepared to face any challenge that may come my way and when I find myself in a stressful situation I ow I have the mental power to deal with it
Seating to Meet Your Objectives

by LeeAnn Prodoccini, 2011 Fall Ed Scholarship Recipient

A successful meeting planner “recognizes that meeting planning is a science, not a task.” This quote from Lynette Schick’s presentation has continued to stick with me as I know that many people do not see the difficulties in the logistics of planning a successful meeting. Relying solely on the hotel or meeting venue to set up the rooms to maximize the functionality that suits your group’s needs is not always optimal. Most break-out sessions have an isle in the middle with chairs going up to both side walls. Lynette Schick explained how this clearly is not the most advantageous placement, and as I look back at my last meeting I have to agree with her 100 percent. Having that middle isle does not allow for late comers to sit as the isle seats are generally taken first, and most attendees are unwilling to try to slide into the inner seats.

As Robin Rose had also stated in her session; Lynette Schick agreed that all attendees should be facing the speaker or stage as this increases their overall experience, so set all chairs facing them. Also, make sure that line-of-site has been accounted for: staggering chairs instead of having them lined up is optimal to allow for all attendees to be able to see the presentations. She also explained in a simple calculation “participants x hours x events per year = impacts per year.” Seating goes directly along with how well the attendees participate and are attentive to the presentations. Placing the front row too close to the speakers, stage or screens can lead to empty front rows or uncomfortable attendees - the front row should be at least 6 feet from any of these.

The “comfort factor” should always be taken in account when determining if a room is an appropriate size for your group. The Comfort Factor is equal to the amount of space per person, so when determining if the room is appropriate multiply the number of people times the Comfort Factor times 1.5 for aisles and staging.

Some other recommendations included: setting the room to the long side of the room, neither people nor chairs should touch in an auditorium/theater style setting, side aisles should be at least 4 feet wide, and center sections should be no more than 14 seats.

Lynette Schick's presentation was extremely informative and has given me tools to make my meetings even more successful and enjoyable to my attendees. Seating and room set up should be given ample importance when designing your meeting. In every meeting planner’s tool kit there should be a measuring tape to make sure that you are giving your attendees enough space to be comfortable throughout the sessions and presentations. “Consider everyone in attendance a resource,” they determine if your meeting is successful or not, and if it is worth attending any future meetings.

6. Disbelief during one of Shawn Preston's amazing tricks. 7. Card trickery 8. Scholarship recipient Denise Donnahoo
Linked-In for Event Professionals
Session Informative and Fun!

by Amy Ollivier

While attending the SGMP Fall Education Conference at Beaver Run, we were given the option of attending various break-out sessions. One of the sessions was the "Linked-In for Event Professionals" break-out presented by Kim Mears.

Prior to the session, my exposure and experience with Linked-In was limited. As a social media site, I thought it had value in connecting me with people in the industries I interact with in my profession. I thought Linked-In was beneficial to my career.

Kim Mears, a marketing and well-connected professional in her own right, gave a fabulous presentation on this topic. She detailed that social media has completely changed the way we communicate with our colleagues and clients. Kim explained that many potential clients and employers view Linked-In as a virtual business card, and that having an updated and jazzy profile could make all the difference in landing a sale or receiving an interview. Updating any promotions and career moves you experience can be critical in maintaining your professional network after you've moved on, or into that cozy corner office with a different extension. The element of who you are "Linked" with professionally can consistently speak volumes about the work you do and the level of skills you have. I found it particularly timely, just before this session, that a former colleague asked me to post a recommendation for him at a law firm he was applying to. Upon happily fulfilling his request, I realized I knew of friends and co-workers that would do the same for me. Suddenly, Linked-In seemed like a very viable site that could help my career, rather than just exist as another media site where I'm "Friends" with people I've never met with no reason as to why.

Kim also detailed the additional benefits Linked-In has to offer with new applications, such as industry-specific reading lists and discussion groups. Networking groups, such as the "Event Planning and Event Management Group" and discussion do's and don'ts sounded specifically helpful for my next event. Linked-In Events and Linked-In for Research were two more forums that can clearly be useful in the event planning industry. If I wanted to know what trade shows are coming to town, or if research has been done in regards to government travel, this is a one-stop shop. Kim made me realize all that Linked-In has to offer and I am eager to utilize the different forums!
The Magic of Food and Beverage: A Panel Discussion

By Denise Donnahoo, 2011 Fall Ed Scholarship Recipient

Facilitator:
Bruce Horii, Director of Sales and Marketing, Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center

Panel Members:
Jeremy Caprari, Executive Chef, Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center
Thanawat Bates, Executive Sous Chef, The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa
Cynthia Ross, CO Dept. of Human Services Division of Behavior Health
Donna Redd, Two Rivers Convention Center and the Avalon Theatre, Grand Junction, CO

This panel of highly talented individuals engaged in a lively and informative discussion, providing a behind the scenes look at what makes or breaks an event. It is often said that sales creates the dream, while catering handles the nightmares. However, it takes more than magic to pull off a successful event. It takes a lot of teamwork, a bit of luck, and excellent communication.

The panel covered issues including drop dead dates for count, ways to dress up “banquet chicken” or stock menu orders, menu modifications to accommodate cost, “Paula Dean” approved nutrition, describing menus to entice the consumer, portion control, and government per diem. Regardless of the topic, the panel emphasized that communication between the planner and the venue is always the key to a successful event.
People convene to present, collaborate, listen, and learn. A key component in facilitating a first-class convention and collaboration environment is high-quality AV support. Unfortunately, sometimes the cost comes as a shock. Event planners who have no problem paying up to $95 for a gallon of coffee will argue the price of a $60 screen!

However, planners cannot ignore the fact that AV support offers the right tools for the job. The most popular equipment used today includes projectors/laptops for PowerPoint presentations, wireless microphones, large screen video I-mag, and video recording equipment. An AV technician will set up, maintain, repair, and tear down audio visual equipment used to enhance your meetings. They can also provide video recording, audio conferencing, and webcasting. They can help determine approaches, content, and media to effectively meet your objectives within budget constraints.

Choosing a reliable company to be your AV partner is critical to the success of your meeting. Keep the following in mind when selecting the AV Company you will work with: 1) always view your AV provider as a new addition to your team; 2) establish and share the budget with your AV provider, so they can offer a more appropriate solution and accurate quotes; and 3) outline your expectations and needs beforehand to establish a clear understanding from the start. With good AV support, you can create an event that facilitates learning and collaboration, and impresses attendees.
We cannot be more grateful for the opportunity to host the 2012 SGMP Fall Education Conference at the Stonebridge Inn in Snowmass, Colorado!

We would like you to come to Snowmass to relax and enjoy an elevated Colorado mountain experience at the Stonebridge Inn. This full-service hotel features 93 spaciosuly designed guestrooms and suites, a convenient slope-side location and a renowned reputation for outstanding guest service. The historic mountain lodge offers comfortable accommodations with picturesque mountain views, wi-fi access as well as a year-round outdoor heated pool and hot tubs. Warm up to the fire at the Artisan Restaurant and Bar, consistantly the 'place to be' for breakfast, apres-ski or dinner featuring our chef's award winning culinary creations.

Snowmass is an invigorating alpine environment, located just minutes from downtown Aspen. Surrounded by 14,000 foot peaks, aspen groves and wide meadows, Snowmass Village features dramatic views, a relaxed, warm atmosphere and one of the top ski areas in North America. This is home to the Snowmass Ski Resort, one of the largest Colorado ski areas with more than 3,000 acres of beginner groomed trails, outstanding intermediate cruising runs and exhilarating off-piste expert terrain.

Destination Snowmass offers the finest collection of slope-side properties in Snowmass. From the Conde Nast award winning Stonebridge Inn to the spacious villas at Snowmass Club, our collection of properties offers a full range of amenities and accommodation sizes. The collection also represents an array of guest experiences, from value to luxury accommodations, while being adjacent to outdoor recreational activities on Snowmass Mountain and a short walk from the Snowmass Village Mall.

Groups will enjoy the many different options for meeting space at Destination Resorts Snowmass, which will accommodate groups from 10 to 150 in size.

We look forward to seeing you in October of next year to enjoy the beautiful golden fall trees against the blue Snowmass skies!
Thank You

Sponsors
SGMP: A Planner's Perspective on ROI

by Lynnette Schick

SGMP has been very good to me. I've spent 24 years of my life as a member and it's the only professional association I've stayed with. We often talk about making sure our suppliers get an ROI. What about the ROI for a meeting planner? Why SGMP? Well, in the beginning it was just plain fun.

I first heard of SGMP in the spring of 1988. Someone in my office had received a flyer in the mail (no e-mail or even PCs back then!) about a "FAM" trip to Grand Junction, sponsored by the Colorado Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Planners. There was no cost to attend and they offered a special airfare for those who wanted to fly over, of only $10! I showed the flyer to my boss, who agreed to let me attend.

The day was memorable because a blizzard rolled into Denver and we barely got off the ground before they closed the airport. The experience was amazing with free food all weekend, a motor coach trip through the Colorado National Monument, a trip to the Dinosaur Museum and a tradeshow with fun giveaways and food! The event was mind-blowing. I was hooked. Who wouldn't be? I had no idea this world existed.

I began attending monthly meetings and attended my first National Education Conference in Chicago later that year. By December, I had been elected chapter president and by March of 1991 had been elected to the SGMP National board in the first of four positions I would come to serve over the next 20 plus years, including National President.

My desire to move into leadership roles was shaped at that very first National Education Conference in Chicago. I saw the people up on the stage that were serving as national board members and knew that was what I wanted to do. I have never looked back or ever regretted the time and energy I have given to this great organization.

So what have I gained? My involvement in SGMP allowed me to learn and grow in areas I never expected. I've gained leadership skills, though my various committee, chapter and national board activities, that gave me opportunities for leadership in my career. Of course, I had to balance my job responsibilities with my involvement in SGMP and not give the impression that I was giving more to the organization than I was to my career. I paid my own annual dues and fees and took vacation time, as many of our planners still have to do.

Unlike our supplier members, planners join SGMP mostly for the education. The benefits of networking come later, as we get more involved, but it's the education and training that translates to the workplace more quickly and better demonstrates to our bosses why SGMP is worthy of our time. Some bosses never get it and planners must choose to invest their own time or not. I chose SGMP and have never looked back.

My learning style is that I learn by doing. Through SGMP I had opportunities to apply what I was learning right away. This experience translated directly to my regular job and I became a sought-after expert on meeting in state government. I have a degree in education and taught music in Catholic school for a couple of years, right after college. I've always enjoyed teaching and speaking to groups and love delivering training programs to our members.

Through SGMP, I was able to advance my skills in training development and delivery, to the point where I was able to use my training skills at my regular job and was selected to facilitate new management programs such as total quality management teams, governor-mandated customer service training and diversity training programs where I was

Continued on page 19...
Upcoming Meetings

Listed below are the tentative dates and locations for upcoming 2011-2012 Chapter events. Based upon availability, these locations and programs are subject to change.

December 13, 2011  Holiday Event
The Golden Hotel Colorado

January 21, 2012  Meeting Boot Camp 101
Renaissance Denver Hotel
*Special meeting time 8:30am until 1:00pm

January 24, 2012  Putting CVB’s To Work For You
The Curtis Hotel
Presented by the Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, Breckenridge and Greater Denver CVB’s

Reservations for monthly luncheon meetings must be cancelled by 2pm the Friday before the meeting. We realize that weather happens. If inclement weather is a problem, you must notify the chapter leadership that you cannot attend for this reason and you will not be charged.

All reservations cancellations must be made with the chapter directly by calling 303.675.6681. Do not call the venue directly to cancel. You will still be charged. If you are a no-show and do not cancel within the required time, you will be invoiced for the amount of your registration fee.

A planner guest can attend the first meeting complimentary but will be required to pay for attendance at a second meeting. Supplier guests pay $40 for their first two meetings. Guests, whether a planner or supplier, must join the chapter before attending their third meeting. You can view all standing rules for the Rocky Mountain Chapter at: www.sgmrockymtn.com/meetings/aspx

<table>
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<th>Monthly Meetings</th>
<th>Costs</th>
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<tr>
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<td>11:15-11:50am</td>
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<td>Announcements:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrap up/Evaluations</td>
<td>1:20-1:30pm</td>
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Early Bird: Register by Thursday COB before the meeting
Planners/Retirees: $15
Suppliers: $30

After Early Bird
Planners/Retirees: $30
Suppliers: $45
Has the amount of networking time at our meetings shrunk?

By Chele Clark, CGMP

It has been noted in the evaluations from the past few meetings that it doesn't seem like we have enough time to network anymore. We used to be able to have table discussions prior to the program starting. Now we are still eating our main course when the speaker begins. Why is that?

SGMP National now states that all programs must be a minimum of 60 minutes in length to qualify for contact hours. Our programs in the past were 45 minutes in length, with the additional 15 minutes being used for networking. Your board is looking at different ways to create more networking time for the membership while still getting a 60 minute program in. Some of the ideas are to invite you to arrive a little earlier to network during registration. Instead of doing all the updates from the different committee chairs, the updates would be listed on a flyer at each table.

Your board is working on ways to improve the monthly meeting format. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know. Please contact me with any questions at chele.clark@state.
September 27th Chapter Meeting

by Chele Clark, CGMP

Lynette Schick, CMP and Charles Sadler, Executive Director and CEO of SGMP National presented the program for this month’s meeting, "SGMP, 30 Years of Government Meetings". SGMP is celebrating it’s 30th birthday this year and the program highlighted all the changes that have happened since the beginning. The program was very interactive, informative and memory-invoking.

The Hampton Inn Denver West, Federal Center was the host hotel for the meeting and welcomed SGMP with an Oktoberfest menu. Lunch was presented buffet-style and featured a tossed green salad, pumpkin bread and rolls and mustard crusted pork loin with carrots, asparagus and Brussels sprouts. Weisewurst and Knockwurst were served with fruited sauerkraut, German potato salad, a cucumber and tomato salad with sour cream. The Oktoberfest theme was completed with a homemade apple crisp with whipped cream and salted pretzels.

Lemonade, iced tea and assorted root beers quenched our thirsts.

The program rating was 3.9% out of 5.

Did you know that more tea is consumed than any other beverage in the world except for water?

With an SGMP reloadable King Soopers Gift Card, you can select from a large variety of teas right in the store and help the chapter raise funds at the same time. Each time you use it, the SGMP Rocky Mountain Chapter gets a percentage. It's really that simple.

So whether you prefer Oolong, Darjeeling, Green or Chai, brew a cup, sit back and relax knowing you’ve purchased groceries with your card.

It's like fundraising in your slippers! Contact Kimberly Forte today and get yours.

kforte@brownpalace.com
2012 National Education Conference

Attendees should review this website (click on the banner below) in its entirety to find out more about the exciting education, resources, and networking opportunities presented by the 2012 SGMP National Education Conference. We look forward to having yet another successful education conference and want to see YOU there! Be sure to review the agenda and pre-conference programming before you register.

Registration for the 2012 NEC will be available on January 1, 2012, online through your membership record. Please login to your membership account and select Upcoming Events to find the 2012 National Education Conference Registration.

Attendee registration is linked to your membership account. If you are not currently logged in, you will need to select the login button after using the link below. Registration for the NEC and pre-conference programming is located in the membership system under Upcoming Events. If you have lost or forgot your password, please use the forgot my password link. If you have an error or need more assistance, please contact membership@sgmp.org.

The pre-conference programs are listed as separate events. You may register for multiple events before checking out of your shopping cart. Please register for only one pre-conference program you wish to take as all of the pre-conference programs are scheduled to run concurrently.

If you are not a member, please register for our event by creating a profile in our system. We will verify your registration category after you have completed your registration.
The Path to a Greener Lifestyle

by Joseph Powell

It wasn’t intentional. After moving to Denver in 2004, I quickly found that living downtown had both charms and challenges. I had moved into a 120 year old building with no parking garage. At first, I paid for parking at my office, two blocks away. Then when I switched jobs, I left my car at the train station and reverse-commuted. I would take the train to my car in Englewood, drive to work, return to the station and take the train home. This worked for about a year, but between rising gas prices and a new light rail line within walking distance of my office, I knew it was time to make a change.

I took the plunge and sold my car. I did it without thinking, really. And then panic set in. I wondered what I would do and how it would work. "How am I going to take my dog to the vet and go on sales calls?", I thought. My brother told me not to worry. "If you decide it doesn’t work, you’ll get a $3000 beater to get around in." I was sure I’d made a huge mistake.

This past August, I celebrated the 5th anniversary of that mistake. It did require some lifestyle changes, but most of it was easier than I thought.

For instance, instead of grocery shopping at the store, I did a little research online and found that a local chain offered delivery for a minimal fee.

I organized my schedule a little better and asked friends and coworkers if I could carpool with them, offering to pay for gas. They were thrilled to help. I rented cars here and there for special trips or needs and realized that the bus system in Denver will take you just about anywhere.

Then about a year ago, I signed up for car-sharing, which allows me to pay a low monthly fee and reserve a car by the hour. There are over twenty car-share vehicles within walking distance of my home.

It’s not an ideal situation for everyone, but I don’t have children and I am able to plan my life around my location. It takes a little more effort than it would in a larger city, but it can be done.

Though there are many more things I could do to live a greener lifestyle, I’ve started. And it’s really made a difference in the way I look at waste. I’m much more considerate of things I’m not sure I need because it requires using a car or transportation to get them. I eat healthier (most of the time) because I plan menus ahead. I order anything and everything online and save money on impulse spending. I spend less, save more and positively impact the environment all at the same time.

Greening

The Rocky Mountain Chapter works very hard to keep within SGMP National guidelines regarding the planner and supplier balance. As of September 30th, 2011 we are warm. We have an even planner/supplier balance, but we should really be a few planners heavy to keep us from dipping back into a freeze.

Can you recommend any planners to us?
part of the training team or led the effort to deliver training to employees at my agency. Without SGMP, I would not have had the confidence to provide training to one of the most educated workforces in the state system.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the personal benefit from my membership in SGMP; The friendships I have made over the years. When I first joined the organization, it was all very confusing. I was having all this fun and I wanted people to be my friends, but didn't know if they actually liked me or were just being nice to get my business! That gets sorted out over time and friendships will happen naturally. It is possible to have the best of both worlds: Great business and personal relationships.

Though I may have joined SGMP because it was fun, it's not why I stayed. Over the years, and as I continued to mature, personally and professionally, so did SGMP. It had to. And as we moved away from the "party-like" atmosphere, those who were only here for the free food moved on. Others, like me, went on to build a career, using what SGMP had to offer along the way. While it's still fun, SGMP today focuses more on the business side of the industry as it should. I learned a lot over the years, but only because I invested the time. Are you getting what you expect out of your membership? If not, take a look at what you are giving. Are you attending every monthly meeting? If so, great. But it's not enough. Relationships are started at monthly meetings, but business is built through committee work. If you are not getting what you expected or need, it is really up to you to go for it. Your chapter board is creating the opportunity, but it's up to the individual to do something with it. We all have many choices where to spend our time. SGMP has always been my organization of choice and if you give it your time, who knows where it will take you?
One of our newest supplier members, Taylor Short, has been with the Embassy Suites Denver Downtown for about six months now. She previously worked for Marriott through her college career and beyond. Taylor is married, has a four year old son named Brayden and lives in Morrison. In order to get to know Taylor a little better, Mountain Views asked her a few questions!

What is it that you like about working with government meetings? There are so many great things I love about my market. Building the relationships through SGMP is one of the many things that make the government market so fun to work with. The endless amounts of opportunity for partnership within the many agencies both state and federal allow for a copious amount of networking, referral base and a continuous "win-win" situation for the hotel and the agency.

Tell us about your relationship with Colorado, why you came here and why you love it! I am a Colorado native. Shocking, I know! I grew up in Conifer and then moved to Fort Collins for my undergraduate degree. We are back in Morrison where we love to enjoy all that Colorado has to offer. As we do love to travel, I don’t see us ever moving from this beautiful state with so many physical attributes and great entertainment.

Tell us about your professional goals and aspirations. I have been in hospitality for eleven years now and it’s what I aspire to do. I have thoroughly enjoyed building relationships and partnerships with my clients as well as my colleagues. There is so much versatility within the industry that there is never a dull moment!

Tell us about working in the only LEED Silver Certified Hotel in Denver. It is so exciting to be the first and only LEED Silver Certified hotel in Denver! As the needs of our guests change with time, green practices are demanded more and more. This is such a great investment for all parties involved in our hotel. We are also the first Embassy Suites to achieve this certification. We continue to listen to the needs of our guests to deliver what is important to them.

Any advice for supplier members in interfacing and partnering with government agencies? For my fellow supplier members, I would say to just continue to leverage the SGMP benefits to network and build up your referral business. The events that SGMP holds are very beneficial to me. I would recommend attending as many as possible to make the most out of your membership and you will begin to see your ROI. As for planners, I would advise the same. Suppliers are looking to make this process as easy as possible for you and you can benefit by having those relationships to expedite the process.
2012-2014 Nominations and Elections on the Horizon

The 2012-2014 Rocky Mountain Chapter nominations and elections process will soon be upon us! Are you interested in running for the board or is there a chapter member you might like to nominate? The process will begin in January. The next issue of the newsletter will feature brief bios of your current board members and the positions that they hold.