

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL
PURCHASING



MARCH 2008
NEWSLETTER



MARCH IS PURCHASING MONTH!!!



*Governor Huntsman signing a proclamation recognizing March as Purchasing Month- March 2006
(Can you name the three NIGP Utah Chapter Members pictured above?)*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Purchasing Professionals

March 2008

How would you define professional? Webster's Dictionary gives the following definitions: Noun - "one that engages in a pursuit or activity professionally." Adjective - "of, relating to, or characteristic of a profession; characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession; Noun Profession - "a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation. Do others see you as a "Professional" or do you feel like a "Professional? If your answer to both questions is yes, great! But, if you answered no to either, then ask yourself why not? Is it because you, like Rodney Dangerfield, "can't get any

respect” or because you do not have an “academic degree” in procurement or supply management?

I would wager that no one among us has such a degree. So how did we come to be in this “profession”? Was it because of an interest? After all, this is a very dynamic field that requires skill and special knowledge; or was it because someone assigned us to the task as this is a very important function of business.

In either case, here we are, experienced by trial and error, on the job trained. If we were lucky, we may have had a mentor. But in most cases, we are self taught and any academic credentials we hold have come from our own willingness to make ourselves “professional” through courses offered by professional organizations like NIGP or ISM.

Yet in the eyes of those we serve, we are not seen as a professional in the same sense as they view an accountant, or a public administrator or an engineer? These and other such professions require the practitioner to pass a rigorous examination along with an academic degree in their profession. While we too can get certified through a rigorous examination program, we still lack the academic degree. There are few colleges or universities which offer procurement or supply management programs leading to a Bachelors or Masters degree. Arizona State University, Golden Gate University or Florida International University are some of the better known. Locally most of the universities and colleges offer a few courses as part of their Business Management Programs, but no degrees.

So where am I headed with this rambling? Before answering my own question, I would like to make another observation. Many of us in the profession are nearing the end of our careers and will be replaced soon by the next generation. What will be the legacy that we leave them? Will they be destined to go down the same road we did, or can they break free of our present stereotype? How do we move the recognition of our profession to the next level of respect?

To begin with, this will not be an easy undertaking. But I would propose through the NIGP organization and our own efforts we can elevate this profession to be on the same level as those previously mentioned. How, you ask? By pursuing a strategic plan which involves the following:

- Accepting individually the challenge to get certified at any level within the next two years.
- Marketing ourselves at all levels of government to get our story out as to what we do and how well we do it. Award each other for levels of excellence & publicize it.
- Encourage local colleges and universities to create procurement or supply management programs leading to degrees in those fields.
- Provide scholarships for students who pursue such degrees.
- Actively support the efforts of the NIGO Utah Chapter to promote and educate the community of the role we play in meeting society’s needs
- By reaching out and joining with other similar “professional” organizations to educate and serve.

These are but a few ideas, but they serve as a starting point on which others can build. So let us begin this very month, “Purchasing Month” to rise to the endless opportunities before us.

Gregory Maynard, CPM, CPPO
President – Utah Chapter NIGP



Upcoming Meeting Dates

CHAPTER MEETINGS:

Tuesday, Mar. 18, 2008 - Phil Johnson- Warehouse Receiving
(9AM-12 Noon, Murray City Hall) - Eric Heaps- Public Surplus
([5025 S. State])

Tuesday, May 20, 2008 - ELECTION MEETING
(9AM-12 Noon, Murray City Hall) - Speaker & Topic TBD
([5025 S. State])

UPCOMING WEBINARS (To register, go to www.nigp.org)

Tuesday, Mar. 18, 2008- How to Apply for the 13th Annual Achievement of
Excellence in Procurement Award

Thursday, Apr. 3, 2008- eProcurement: Tag You're It! How Do Organizations
Prepare for an ePro Project

Tuesday, Apr. 8, 2008- Emergency Management Series, Session 3: Crisis Response
And the Purchasing Professional's Roles

Thursday, Apr. 17, 2008- Responsible Green Purchasing: Top Ten Tricks of the Trade

63rd Annual NIGP Forum 2008

July 26-30, 2008 in Charlotte, NC. For more information and registration, go online to
www.nigp.org/forum.

Utah Chapter News

WE NEED YOU! Volunteering can help you learn new skills, meet great people, build your resume, and can give you a great feeling of accomplishment. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact the committee chairperson listed:

Committee Chairpersons

Honors & Awards: Penni Taylor (UDOT) pennit@utah.gov ; 801-965-3836
Financial: Gayle Gayler (SL County) ggayler@slco.org ; 801-468-2559
Historian: Mindi Bos (Sandy City) mbos@sandy.utah.gov ; 801-568-7148
Membership: Stephen Elms (Draper City) steve.elms@draper.ut.us ; 801-576-6514
Nominating Committee Member: Tara Allred (S. Jordan City) tallred@slc.utah.gov ;
801-254-3742

Public Relations: Paul Kikuchi (UDOT) pkikuchi@utah.gov ; 801-965-4071
Education: Tiffany Sorensen (SLC Corp.) tiffany.sorensen@slcgov.com ; 535-6347

CERTIFICATION has its rewards! Contact Dean Pope at dean.pope@granite.k12.ut.us for more information on how you can become certified.

A **LIBRARY** of NIGP recommended texts has been purchased for use by chapter members studying for CPPB or CPPO certification exams. To check-out these texts (texts may be checked-out up to 60 days), please contact Dean Pope at the email listed above.

TEXTS INCLUDE:

Introduction to Public Procurement

Legal Aspects of Public Procurement

Planning, Scheduling and Requirement Analysis

Sourcing in the Public Sector

Developing and Managing RFP's in the Public Sector

Contract Administration

THE CHAPTER WEBSITE is up and running! Please visit <http://nigputah.org>.

THERE IS A JOB OPENING at Salt Lake County for a Buyer position. If you are interested, or have recommendations, please visit the job posting at <https://www.jobs.slco.org/JobListings.aspx>

NOMINATIONS ARE UPON US!!! Start thinking about how you can make a difference in the NIGP Utah Chapter by running for one of the following positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, or Director (1). Additional information will be forthcoming.

Classroom Corner

“Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results.” -Anonymous

Welcome to the Purchasing Month SCAVENGER HUNT!!!

Please see the following page for instructions and a list of items to bring to the March 18th Chapter Meeting!

For suggestions or submissions for future newsletters, please contact Tonya Hodges, Newsletter Editor, at tonya.hodges@slc.k12.ut.us



Utah Chapter – NIGP March 2008 – Purchasing Month

GO PRO – Scavenger Hunt

As you hopefully know, March is Purchasing Month. In celebration, your local Utah chapter is sponsoring a Scavenger Hunt. Listed below are 18 items that need to be collected and brought to our March 18th meeting. The individual with the most items will be rewarded with a \$25 gift certificate. Should a tie occur, the individual signing in on the roster with the earliest time will receive the certificate. So join in the fun and come to our next meeting in the Murray City Council Chambers starting at 9 a.m.

Rules: You cannot collect multiple items for other participants – individual effort required;

Have fun.

Items to be presented at the meeting:

1. A receipt from your favorite restaurant
2. A copy of a Purchasing magazine
3. Any NIGP Official Pin
4. Coins from three (3) countries other than the US.
5. A road map of Charlotte, North Carolina
6. List the names of NIGP's six foundation courses
7. A newspaper article dealing with Public Purchasing
8. Candy that starts with the letter "P"
9. List three (3) web sites pertaining to purchasing (not local chapter or state related)
10. A blank Registration form for the NIGP 63rd Annual Forum
11. A sample solicitation for Bid advertisement
12. Position description in Purchasing
13. Front page of the January issue of the local chapter's newsletter
14. Any memorabilia from Purchasing Month 2006 thru 2008
15. Find out what the local chapter president's middle name is
16. List the names of NIGP Nationals staff member(s) whose last name begins with "P"
17. List the six books in the local chapter's library that can be checked out by members
18. What are the dates of the new exams for CPPB & CPPO and what is the deadline for their registration.

Good Luck and Have Fun!

From Your Officers and Board

PS – Bring your items & lists in an envelope with your name on it.