Happy Winter everyone! The weather has been rainy and warmer than normal in Oregon and that has definitely created travel issues here and across the country where they are dealing with cold, snow and ice. I hope that wherever you are, you are safe, warm and dry!

National and chapter board elections are right around the corner! All of the nine chapter board positions were up for election this year and we received some good nominations. JoAnn Ghelfi, Nominations and Elections Chair, is working on the ballot to be sent out to members soon. Nominees will be announced at the March 3 meeting. SGMP headquarters released the slate of nominees for the national board last week and you can check out the list on the website at www.sgmp.org/about/elections.cfm.

Lastly, don’t forget to vote in both elections! It is our individual opportunity to have a voice in choosing the leaders for our own chapter and the national organization.

We had our first-ever webinar on January 7 with Corbin Ball on “Social Media in Event Planning”. If you missed the session or couldn’t access it due to technical difficulties, another session has been scheduled for February 24 from 2:30pm-3:30pm. This is a great opportunity for CEU hours.

The recent Annual Educational “Oceans of Opportunity” Conference in Seaside was a great success and provided some exceptional training opportunities! A big thank you to attendees who donated food items and raised money for a Seaside-area food bank. Also, thanks to Dina Pope and her awesome conference committee (Gretchen Darnell, Randi Fitzgerald, Kristin Wood, Brooke Foster, Lila Duncan, Sue Ellen Seydel, Jan Johnston, and Debbie McCune) for a job well done! See pages 12-13 for photos and a recap of our annual conference. Enjoy!
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Mission Statement
An organization dedicated to improving the knowledge, expertise, and cost effectiveness for individuals planning and managing government meetings through education, communication, and industry relationships.

Vision Statement
To be a dynamic, innovative chapter that is recognized for providing quality education and expertise to its members.
Let the EXPERIENCE Begin.

Contact
Gretchen Darnell
1.800.394.3303
seasideconvention.com

Spacious  Friendly  Convenient
Mark Your Calendars for our Next Two Exciting GOSGMP Meetings!

By Carolyn B. Wence, CMP, Program Committee Chair

March 3 Meeting
Gain some business sense by learning “The Cost of Doing Business” at the March 3 chapter program, titled “Gaining Business Cents.” In this Gilmer Institute of Learning required education program, you will hear from a panel of two planners, Nancy A. Ahlbin and JoAnn Ghelfi; and two suppliers, Gretchen Darnell and Julie Saul, and learn:
- The factors that determine how a government meeting is planned
- The perspectives of both meeting planners and suppliers
- Available resources offered by SGMP

Moderator: Chy Charles
Red Lion Portland Convention Center
1021 NE Grand Ave.,
Portland, OR 97232

April 7 Meeting
Food is one of life’s great pleasures and that can extend into your meeting. In our April 7’s program, “Farm to Table” you will learn how to use local resources to enhance the food and beverages offered in your meetings. This program will be held at the Woodlands at Wellspring property, in Woodburn and will feature their head chef. Woodlands Catering Sales Manager Cari Stear and staff will lead this interactive presentation on food and methods of supply to the restaurant chef and then to the customer.

Host property:
Woodlands at Wellspring
1475 Mt. Hood Ave.
Woodburn, OR 97071

Volume 8, Issue 1
Chapter Connections
Would you like to win a FREE GOSGMP Lunch Registration?

By carpooling with your fellow members, you have the opportunity to win a free lunch registration either in either March or June, or perhaps both. The chapter will award a free lunch registration to both a planner and supplier with the most accumulated miles behind the wheel.

Since the chapter had a webinar for our January meeting and the annual conference at the end of January/beginning of February, please email Fletcher at Travel Lane County (fletcher@travellane county.org) with your mileage total and number of carpoolers so you can earn credit for your carpooling efforts for the annual conference.

GOSGMP will be awarding a free lunch registration to both the planner and supplier each quarter (with the exception of summer) that has accumulated the most carpooling miles behind the wheel.

Email your carpooling efforts to fletcher@travellane county.org.
COMMUTER CHALLENGE
Winners For Last Quarter
By Fletcher Beck

Congratulations to Carolyn Wence and Maria Anderson!

Carolyn and Maria are the first winners of the GOSGMP Commuter Challenge and have received a free lunch registration. GOSGMP will be awarding a free lunch registration to both the planner and supplier with the most combined miles behind the wheel each quarter. So get carpooling and you could win a free lunch.

Congratulations to The Nines Hotel!

The Nines was one of two Oregon hotels mentioned among the world’s best in the Portland Business Journal, in a January 11, 2011 article by Wendy Culverwell.

Two Oregon hotels ranked a mention on this important industry list. Travel + Leisure magazine also included The Nines Hotel in Portland on its annual list of the 500 best hotels in the world.
GREEN MEETING Association Aims for Innovative Conference Design  By Sue Hatch

The Green Meeting Industry Council (GMIC) is promising some outside-the-box programming at its annual Sustainable Meetings Conference, February 20-23 in Portland.

With the theme “Game On!,” attendees will be immersed in green meetings case studies throughout the course of the conference. Attendees will work in teams to develop a sustainability plan for an imaginary event and will compete with other teams to set sustainability objectives, select a location, and consider travel, costs, waste streams, and other issues. Team members will attend conference sessions and off-site tours to get the information needed to complete the case study.

“Even though it will be fun,” said GMIC Executive Director Tamara Kennedy-Hill, CMP, “the content will be based on the environmental meeting standards set by APEX/ASTM as well as the British BS8901 standards.” Working on the case studies, she said, will allow participants to see “how you actually apply these standards to a conference. It will really put it in context.”

For more information, visit: http://meetingsnet.com/green_meetings/GMIC_conference_preview_0118/#
SALMON-SAFE

I’ve heard that term, but what does it mean?

By Cheryl Wierenga,
Sales Manager at Doubletree Hotel Portland

The world of green terminology is ever evolving and changing. As planners and suppliers, we may hear a new word or phrase used in articles or marketing campaigns and know it has something to do with sustainability—but what does it mean?

The term Salmon-Safe falls into this category. We Oregonians love our salmon. There have been steps taken to protect the salmon, not without controversy of course. But what does it mean when we see a product label or a claim by a business that it is Salmon-Safe?

Salmon-Safe is a regional eco-label that was founded by Pacific Rivers Council and now operates as an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. As stated on the Salmon-Safe website, the mission of the organization is to “transform land management practices so Pacific salmon can thrive in West Coast watersheds.” (www.salmonsafe.org)

Salmon-Safe offers a certification program for land management practices to ensure the protection of agricultural and urban watersheds. These land management practices focus on protecting the quality of water and restoration of the habitat. There are several certification programs that Salmon-Safe has developed including programs for vineyards, farms, corporate and university campuses, parks and natural areas, and golf courses.

Now that we understand what Salmon-Safe is, how can we use this to enhance our events? Working in what some could arguably call the green capital, it is good background information to have. When you encounter the Salmon-Safe designation, know how it adds to the sustainability of your meeting or event. Because it is a regional designation, our fellow SGMP members outside of Oregon, Washington and California are likely not familiar with the designation; this gives us the responsibility to further educate and share our knowledge.

Next time you sip your favorite local wine, take note—is it Salmon-Safe?
I am sure that everyone would agree that it is much easier to speak about a topic if you have personal experience or have done some background research. Our mission statement states that we are an organization dedicated to improving the knowledge, expertise and cost effectiveness for individuals planning and managing government meetings through education, communication, and industry relationships.

How much do you know about where and how SGMP and GOSGMP began? How has the organization grown from the very first meeting? This information can be important to know as we approach new potential members. Have you done your research? We have several tools available for gathering information whether it is through newsletters, emails, websites or Facebook, the information is there. All these sources are part of an information highway and help us work towards our mission.

Join me in a fun exercise to test your knowledge and encourage you to checkout the SGMP and GOSGMP websites where you will find the answers. You may learn something new or maybe just refresh your memory.

Also, find us on

http://tinyurl.com/GOSGMP/facebook

Across
2 SGMP delivers membership value of education, resources and networking to nearly ____ thousand members.
3 SGMP’s initial organization ______ was held on October 29, 1981, in Washington, DC.
5 There were ____-eight attendees at the first SGMP conference.
7 Acronym for National Education Conference.
9 Marian Milligan was the ___ President of GOSGMP.
11 Sam O. Gilmer, Dave Dubois, and Jim Horvath were three men instrumental in the founding of ______.
13 Get _____ to Government Meetings—Plug Into SGMP.
15 The SGMP quarterly ______ was introduced in 1999.
18 The first SGMP ______ Director was Charles S. Sadler, in 2005.
20 Currently the SGMP National Headquarters has ______ staff.
23 In 2001, Carl C. Thompson was hired as the first _____ Director of SGMP.
24 2011 SGMP National Education Conference is to be held in ______, VA.

Down
1 Common word in the title of the SGMP Magazine and the GOSGMP Newsletter.
4 The _____ of SGMP is to enhance the knowledge and expertise of government meeting professionals.
6 SGMP formed the ____ Institute of Learning to provide support to our members and chapters through educational opportunities.
8 The first SGMP annual conference was held in ______, MD in 1983.
10 Since 1989, ______ has been fortunate to have ten Chapter Presidents, Nancy Ahlbin is the current President.
12 Melody Kebe, CMP, CGMP is the current SGMP ______.
13 GOSGMP was _____ on November 20, 1989.
14 There were forty-______ members who attended the SGMP Charter meeting.
16 Thirty-one stands for the number of ______ in SGMP.
17 SGMP’s first conference’s message was “Spending Government Money ______”, to remind us of our focus on improving our industry by educating our members.
19 November 20, 2009 marked the ____ Anniversary of GOSGMP at The Benson Hotel in Portland, OR.
21 The history of SGMP started with one single ______ that came from Sam O. Gilmer.
22 There are _____ members on the SGMP National Board of Directors listed on the SGMP website.
Meeting Professionals (SGMP) and
of Government Meeting Professionals (GOSGMP)

By Jan Johnston, Director
On a Sunday morning in January, I ventured north on I-5 then west on Hwy 26 to arrive at the small Oregon coast town of Seaside. This would not only be my first meeting with this society of meeting planners, but my first GOSGMP annual conference and my first time in Seaside. I was excited to join a group dedicated to what I have a passion to do and meet those individuals that help one another make event experiences come together by working together.

After a warm welcome by President Nancy Ahlbin, we were introduced to snippets of laughter, yoga, and an interactive message by guest speaker, Gail Hand. Then it was time for our team building exercise!

Divided into teams we were sent on our way to scurry around town in a four-person peddling surrey to meet the local businesses and residents on a quest to discover clues in hopes of learning more about this wonderful community. Though our group was a count of three peddling fast and furious like four, sweating, (oops, perspiring)—sometimes peddling, sometimes walking, we persevered and finished the exercise. Our team was excited as we thought we had won—yay! Nope! We had not answered one of the questions quite right and the answer would be found by peddling way across town and back! Determined, we peddled on! Though, now legs weakened, we didn’t give up, we succeeded in our task by going that extra mile. Isn’t that like life? Sometimes going that extra mile can make a memory, make a difference and build a stronger team.
Our experiences were only beginning. With only a couple of hours to morph the look of perspiration, soggy hair and clothes for a group photo, we dashed to our rooms, magically transforming ourselves for a great evening of auctions, suppliers and planners meeting one another and dining delights including mashed potato martinis! Success was made by all, together.

The next day was full of education and food delights sponsored by our suppliers/venues! We continued to welcome speakers granting their wisdom in providing information to assist us in creating tomorrow’s events/meetings/conferences with more awareness and tools to use. Thank you to all who made this possible.

An evening at the local arcade provided another opportunity to socialize and bring out the child in all of us!

We furthered our education and food experiences until we closed this year’s conference. However, not without meeting someone new, making a new friend or two, and gaining knowledge and memories to take with us.

What a great job to all the individuals who participated in bringing this conference to us this year. Thank you for the experience and the opportunity to participate.
Recap of the Last Quarter
GOSGMP Monthly Workshops  By Jan Johnston

We have had some interesting workshops this past quarter including “Peeling Back the Onion, Getting to the Core of Workplace Motivators” presented by Julia Marrocco where each attendee received a statistical analysis based on their personal questionnaire using the Motivation Insights instrument. This tool which looked at six basic interests/values of life was helpful to members personally and professionally. Affirming our own strengths and encouraging growth and development is important. We learned that appreciating the strengths and experiences that others bring to SGMP helps us to grow and build a stronger organization.

Since January weather can make traveling to meetings difficult, we started the year with our very first chapter webinar entitled, “The Who, What & Why of Social Media” presented by Corbin Ball. We looked at new web technologies and how these tools can help us in meeting planning and events. This is an excellent program and for those of you who may have missed the first webinar it will be repeated on February 24 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.

For information and details on our March and April meetings, please look on page 5. We look forward to seeing you soon.

The Who, What & Why of Social Media
Webinar presented by Corbin Ball

February 24 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.
The cost for the webinar is $15.
Register at www.plans-action.com/registration/GOSGMPJan11Webinar

Payment is credit card only for this workshop and the billing address on the card must be accurate in order for it to process correctly—e.g. many of us use a personal card but our work address, so this may need to be adjusted during the registration process. If you have questions on the registration process, please contact Carolyn Wence at 503-259-0739 or email her at wence@spiretech.com.
Chapter Connections

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2011 SGMP National Conference

Educational Opportunity and More!

By Julie LaMarche, CIS (Citycounty Insurance Services)
Executive Assistant, GOSGMP member since April 2010

The second event I ever attended as a SGMP member was the national conference last spring in May of 2010. As a “theoretical” driven person, I went to the conference in Kansas City expecting to learn some insights in planning and coordinating events and to see a place that I had never been. Living in Oregon my entire life and having limited travel experience, I was pretty excited to go to Kansas City (sad but true).

I certainly wasn’t disappointed in the conference agenda—I attended sessions on:
- Virtual meetings
- Contracts
- Planning events
- Creativity in meeting planning
- Hot technologies

I still reference my notes from those sessions.

The conference met my expectations as an educational event, but exceeded my expectations in networking. Being quiet, shy and introverted, I am far from being a social butterfly. I quickly learned from firsthand experience what a fun and friendly group SGMP members are, especially our own chapter. The conference turned out to be a great opportunity to get to know our Board and to learn more about SGMP—and I won an iPod Shuffle!

I’m planning on attending the next NEC in Norfolk and hope to extend my trip out there and expand my horizons even more, educationally, socially and geographically.

Hospitality/Fundraising

We raised $3,186 on the Silent and Live Auction. It was a great success. A big Thank You to all who donated and purchased items.

Please keep raffle items coming for the monthly drawings—let’s keep our scholarship funds available for all to utilize.

The theme for our March 3 meeting is ‘Thinking Green’ and ‘Shamrocks’.

Maria Anderson
Hospitality/Fundraising Chair
New WSCA Lodging Website for Government Travelers

By Tim Hay and Nancy Ahlbin

WSCA Lodging is a nationwide lodging program that contains a searchable database of almost 4,000 qualified lodging facilities across the United States that honor GSA Per-Diem Rates for State and Political Subdivision employees traveling on official business. (Note: Some properties located in Oregon do not show on the list. The WSCA Lodging program is a nationwide database available for any state or municipal employee in the United States to use and not all of the Oregon properties wanted to be on a national list.)

The WSCA Lodging Program is meant to be an extension of in-state lodging lists that states may already have in place. The Oregon instate lodging list is still available for in-state travel. Both the WSCA Lodging list and the in-state lodging list are located on the SPO Travel website. When traveling out of state, you are encouraged to use the WSCA Lodging program. When traveling in-state, you have the option of using either program. www.oregon.gov/DAS/SSD/SPO/travel-menu.shtml

This project was led by the state of Oregon in partnership with the Western States Contracting Alliance, National Association of State Procurement Officials, State Travel Managers Alliance and the Society of Government Travel Officials. The searchable hotel database is now live and everyone is encouraged to use this site first when searching for hotel rooms. For more information and to begin using the WSCA Lodging database, visit www.wscalodging.org

Here are some tips for using the database:

**Searching Properties** The database displays lodging properties for the location requested. It contains icons showing amenities and additional information (map, property details, and rates) are available by clicking the links on the right.

**Estimated Cost** The estimated cost is based on the per-diem and tax rate for that location. This estimated rate may change if the property offers a discount or if your search dates begin in one per-diem season and end in another. Local taxes may vary by location and are subject to change without notice.

**Preferred Properties** Green is good. If the search results show a green leaf or $ icon, it indicates that property is economically or environmentally preferable. Economically preferable indicates the property offers rates lower than GSA per-diems. Environmentally preferable means the property is using advanced environmentally friendly processes in their operation. A green star indicates that there are no blackout dates and a green key means the property offers last room availability.

**Corporate ID** Each property may have a corporate ID number next to it. You may need to enter this number or code into the Corporate ID or Company ID number on the hotel website.

**Booking a Room** This is only a database and not a search engine. To book a room, contact your contracted travel agency if required by your state’s policy. Or, click “book hotel” to take you to the hotel website and complete the booking process. The link contains a code to ensure the proper room rate is used. You may need to enter the corporate ID in the Corporate ID or Company ID field or choose State Government Rate from the Select Rate Type drop down menu on the hotel website.

**Checking In** Travelers must provide verification that they are a government employee when they check into the hotel. Verification types include: an employee ID badge, a business card with employee’s name printed on it, or a government credit card with employer name and employee’s name identified on the card. For additional details about the contract, contact Tim Hay, State Procurement Office, at tim.hay@das.state.or.us.
Welcome!
New Members

Debbie Hunzeker
Oregon Department of Human Services

Melissa Eggers
Oregon Department of Administrative Services

Julia Leonard
Crowne Plaza Portland Convention Center

Casey Mellnik
Valley River Inn

Wendy Puller
Mount Bachelor Village

Liz Taylor
Seventh Mountain Resort

Terri Vymislick
Visit Roseburg

Quote of the Month

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

In honor of the 25th Anniversary of MLK Holiday
Community Relations
By Fletcher Beck

Congratulations GOSGMP Members!

GOSGMP collected 138 lbs. of non-perishable food items at this year’s annual conference in Seaside. This food was graciously donated to the South Clatsop County Food Bank. To top off the chapter’s efforts, a check was also presented to the food bank for $30 through the spare change collection.

Nancy Ahlbin was our top contributor bringing in nearly 34 lbs. of food! She was awarded two bottles of King Estates wine for her efforts. Great job, Nancy! Thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause.

Correction to the GOSGMP 2010-2011 Directory

David Udlock’s phone number is 971-673-2103.

Please make a note of it.