Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a safe holiday and has plans for a prosperous New Year.

In December, the Chapter had its Holiday Luncheon. Many of us that attended participated in the White Elephant Exchange, which was a fun and usual entertaining event. Members were also very generous with their donations of Wal-Mart gift cards and cash for the NIGP MAGPPA Chapter in Mississippi. We were able to send 49 $10 gift cards to its members and families. I wish to thank all of you for your donations. Thanks should also be extended to Sharon Hartman and Cathy Bartolotti for buying and sending the cards to Mississippi in time for the holidays.

The 2005 Chapter Board and Program Chairs worked hard during last year. In addition to each person’s agency job and involvement in the 2006 Forum, these members have worked continuously to keep the Chapter activities going during the year. Without the help and commitment of this Board, it would be difficult to have a self-sufficient Chapter to carry out its activities and to host the upcoming Forum in 2006. To all these members and to all that have helped during the year, I wish to express my deepest gratitude. The Chapter’s activities take a lot of commitment and hard work and without your help; we would not have had a successful year.

The year 2006 brings many new activities for the Chapter. I would like to welcome the 2006 Chapter Board and Program Chairs. New to the Board this year is Tammie Winton-Spearman who has accepted the position of Program Chair.

The tentative calendar of luncheons and Forum events will be posted in the newsletters and on the Chapter’s website. Some of these activities include the Reverse Trade Show and the Horse Track event, both in March, the Golf Tournament in May, and the Forum 2006. Please plan to attend, get involved, and contribute.

With your participation and commitment, I look forward to an informative, interesting, and successful year.

Kendal Capaz
President

Reverse Trade Show & Luncheon
March 8th
Tampa Convention Center
Purchasing Month is fast approaching and so is the 2nd Annual Reverse Trade Show. The Reverse Trade Show is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2006 in conjunction with the Chapter luncheon at the Tampa Convention Center.

In addition to promoting Purchasing Month, this is one of the Chapters’ larger fundraisers and everyone’s assistance is needed to make it another success. Volunteers are needed to staff the vendor and entity registration tables. Remember – a Reverse Trace Show happens when the Chapter entities set up booths for our members and Vendor guests visit the booths.

We are hoping that everyone could attend both the morning and afternoon sessions but if not, please try and attend at least one session to help promote Purchasing Month and support the local chapter.

For further information please contact MaryKay Crabtree @ 813-301-7084 or Sharon Rendueles at (813) 301-7072, if you wish to volunteer or to staff a booth.

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NEWS ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

We were going to post a Help Wanted Notice here for someone to assist with the newsletter. Then Mina Kaeding, a Buyer with the District School Board of Pasco County, stepped forward and volunteered to help. Thank you, Mina! Of course, if anyone else is interested in helping, please let us know. Don’t forget that articles are always welcome.

We publish six issues a year. In between newsletters, use the website as a source of information. Forms, notices, and information regarding events, fundraisers, classes, and Forum news are published on the website. If you check in regularly, you’ll always know what’s going on.
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW BEFORE THEY ARE GONE!!!!!

TAMPA BAY DOWNS

NIGP FUNDRAISER
MARCH 12, 2006
Kids and Family Day at the Track

Party Suite: Private climate controlled comfort. Enjoy your own private mutual teller and several television monitors along with private restrooms.

Minimum: Party of 50

Start Time 12 Noon

Lunch served: 12:30 – 1:30 PM (Doors open at 11 AM) Post Time: 12:25 PM

Adults: $25.00
Children: $10.00

Price includes: Clubhouse Admission
Reserved Seating
Racing Program
Trophy Presentation in Winner’s Circle

Menu: Clubhouse turn Buffet

Fresh fruit salad, pasta salad, garden salad
Beef tips in a mushroom merlot sauce
Chicken Florentine
Parsley Potatoes, Rice, Green Beans
Éclairs and Cream Puffs

All buffets include Rolls, Butter, Iced Tea or Coffee – during service time only.

For more information, please contact Cathy Bartolotti at (813) 274-8013.
2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 8: Chapter Luncheon during Reverse Trade Show (Tampa Convention Center)

April 7: Board Meeting *

May 19: Golf Tournament & Chapter Luncheon – The Eagle’s

June 9: Board Meeting *

July 14: Chapter Luncheon

August: 2006 Forum – no meeting

September 8: Chapter Luncheon

October 13: Board Meeting *

November 3: Board Meeting *

December 8: Chapter Luncheon

* Board Meetings are held at the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport at 1:30 PM.