On November 19, 2008, the Iowa Public Procurement Association (IPPA) officially became the newest Chapter of the NIGP. Seventy people were in attendance to witness the chartering ceremony. NIGP President, Kirk Buffington, CPPO, CPM, MBA, presented the Chapter Charter as well as providing the swearing in of the elected Board Members for 2009.

Other special guests were Michael Bevis, Chief Procurement Officer for the City of Naperville, IL, and NIGP regional director; Jennifer Steffan, NIGP Chapter Relations Manager; Cathy Link, President of the Illinois Association of Public Procurement Officials (IAPPO); and Anita Juarez also representing IAPPO.

IPPA is the 94th Chapter chartered by NIGP since 1944 with 77 active chapters representing over 16,000 procurement professionals. IPPA has 64 charter members from city, county, state, and educational agencies throughout Iowa.

Michael Bevis presented a program on Bid Evaluation: Practical Applications of Responsiveness and Responsibility.

IPPA Website—Submitted by Pat Harmeyer

IPPA has a website - check it out at [http://sites.google.com/site/ippawebsite/](http://sites.google.com/site/ippawebsite/). This is the newest accomplishment for IPPA where interested parties can obtain chapter information, upcoming events – including education, training, and, of course, a membership application. On the left navigation panel there is a members only link which allows you to gain access to member only information, locate resources, and plan professional development as well as important contact and governance links. All members are provided with a unique ID and password for signing into the members only site. A comment section can be found on the bottom of each home page allowing questions and answers to be immediately shared. Additionally, the board has a website to assist with planning and carrying out the association’s business.

Currently the homepage contains information on the chartering ceremony and a photo album of the event.
Upcoming Seminars

**April 6-8, 2009 Sourcing in the Public Sector**—Des Moines, IA

This three-day course provides the participant with a comprehensive overview of the sourcing process within the public sector. Essential elements, including pre-sourcing planning, needs assessment, specifications, scope of work, deliverables, procurement strategies, value analysis, and internal control processes are explored. Determining the appropriate sourcing method, preparing the relevant sourcing invitation document, managing the acquisition process, evaluation of response submissions, and contract awards will also be explored. In addition, trends and technology developments and their effect of processes will be discussed.

**May 6, 2009 Ethics: A Survival Kit for Public Procurement**—Cedar Rapids, IA

Held in conjunction with the Spring Meeting

This one-day course will introduce the student to ethical practices needed during the procurement process. The course will empower the student with the ability to make distinctions between competing choices that face the procurement professional. Being ethical is not always easy, but it is always important. The participant will learn to focus on discernment, discipline and effectiveness as vital elements of ethical decision-making. Both moral and business considerations will be analyzed in this seminar.

This seminar is designed to offer a practical hands-on approach to ethical decision-making in the public procurement process by engaging in exercises and case studies that reinforce presented concepts. Being ethical isn’t always easy. Procurement professionals have to make many decisions under economic, professional, social and political pressure. From the basic day-to-day to the complex decisions, this will be a comprehensive study that will equip the public procurement professional to deal with those decisions ethically.

**May 18-20, 2009 Intro to Public Procurement**—Ankeny, IA

The work of public procurement is no longer a clerical function performed independently by various people throughout different agencies or departments within a government entity. This three-day class provides an overview of the ever-changing profession by identifying fundamental concepts that will affect procurement in the public sector.

To register for these seminars go to:

https://www.nigp.org/common/Seminar/SemSched.asp
Education Committee—Submitted by Laurie Hoing

We have scheduled several NIGP seminars within Iowa our first year utilizing the survey results from the Annual IPPA meeting held last November. Each committee member took on the challenge of organizing a seminar to be held in their city. By holding five seminars our chapter will receive 20% of the total fees collected. This could lead to lower meeting registration fees in the future. We are well on our way to meeting that goal, in spite of the economy.

Four of the five seminars are on the NIGP website for on-line registration with the remaining class following shortly hereafter. To register for these seminars go to https://www.nigp.org/common/Seminar/SemSched.asp

If you have questions or suggestions regarding seminars, please contact one of the committee members. We need to hear from you in order to meet your training needs.

Your education committee members include:

- Laurie Hoing, CPPB, Chair Laurie.hoing@iowa.gov
- June Nasby, CPPB June-Nasby@iowa-city.org
- Diane Rodenkirk, CPPB D.Rodenkirk@cedar-rapids.org
- Rhonda Ruark Rhonda.Ruark@dot.iowa.gov
- Edie Schmidt, CPPB ESchmidt@city.ames.ia.us

Newsletter Information

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter from the Iowa Public Procurement Association.

We hope you find the newsletter informative in keeping up with the activities of the IPPA.

Please feel free to contact any board member with questions regarding the IPPA chapter of the NIGP. You will find the list of board members on the first page of the newsletter.

We would love to have anyone submit articles for publication in The Iowa Procurement Connection and welcome suggestions for articles you would like to see in future issues of this publication.

Send your ideas to jill.kennebeck@iowa.gov

The www.nigp.org has a wealth of information for procurement professionals.

Spring Event

The IPPA will hold a Spring Meeting on May 5, 2009, in conjunction with the May 6 seminar on Ethics: A Survival Kit for Public Procurement. The spring meeting will be held at the Iowa Dept. of Transportation in Cedar Rapids.

The day will begin with a business meeting and box lunch and continue with topics such as Using State of Iowa Contracts; Project Planning; Accomplishing Green Initiatives; and Emergency Purchasing.

Wednesday will be a full day seminar on Ethics with instructor Jeannie Readey, CPPO, CPPB. Registration for the Ethics class will be conducted on the NIGP website while registration for the Spring Meeting will be handled thru the IPPA. Attendance to both meetings will provide you with a total of 12 hours of CEU’s.

Members will receive an agenda with detailed information soon—sign up for either day or both days! Feel free to invite co-workers or others that may have an interest in the IPPA.
Greetings IPPA Members!
IPPA now has 77 members! Your chapter is moving quickly, and I hope you will be as excited as I am about the professional development plans that have already been made for 2009.

We all have some special challenges this year. Our members are still trying to recover from 2008 flooding, trying to keep an adequate supply of road salt, managing shrinking budgets and growing expenses, and addressing staffing shortages, just to name a few of our current issues. Some members are starting new programs and expanding services. Many of our members are facing especially tough budget issues. Our chapter resources will help us all!

Thank you to our volunteer education committee. Committee chair Laurie Hoing (DAS), and members June Nasby (City of Iowa City), Diane Rodenkirk (City of Cedar Rapids), Rhonda Ruark (IDOT), and Edie Schmidt (City of Ames) have planned to sponsor five NIGP seminars between April and October 2009. This is very ambitious, especially for a new chapter! They used the November survey responses to determine what seminars you wanted to attend.

Thank you also to our volunteer membership committee. Committee chair Judy Lehman (City of Cedar Rapids), and members Kathy Bohling (Davenport Schools), and Mike Adair (City of Ames) are working on identifying public purchasers in Iowa and providing them with information about IPPA opportunities.

Thanks to Pat Harmeyer (IDOT), your member website is up and running at http://sites.google.com/site/ippamembers/. A lot of information is available to you at this site. And thank you to Jill Kennebeck (Aramosa State Penitentiary) for developing a great newsletter to keep everyone informed and up-to-date about our chapter.

A special thank you to the above board members and volunteers, and to at-large board members Bob Spring and Cathy McRoberts. Your board is meeting via teleconference once or twice a month. Along with their other duties, this is a real commitment. This group is always prepared and promptly follows up to carry out chapter business.

Plans are underway for our spring 2009 event. Attending this 1 ½ day event will provide twelve hours of learning, in addition to the networking opportunities. Since we understand the funding and time limitations you may have, the event is set up to allow you to attend either just day one, which is a half-day at a very minimal cost, or just day two, which is the one-day NIGP Ethics seminar, or both. We hope to see you there!

It seems so much has happened in just a few short months! I have heard from a number of you and appreciate your comments and your commitment to making our chapter the best it can be. Thank you for your continued support and participation in IPPA. Please don’t hesitate to contact me or any board member if you have questions or concerns.

Have a safe and happy rest of winter. I hope to see you in Cedar Rapids!