Hello IPPA Members,
I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. I know I am.

The 2012 IPPA Spring Meeting was held on May 15th at the Eastern Avenue Library in the City of Davenport and was attended by twenty-three members. Pictures and highlights of the day’s activities are included in this issue. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Kristi Keller and Cindy Whitaker with the City of Davenport for hosting this meeting. It was a huge success and a very large part of it was due to their efforts. Not to mention the facility it was held in was top notch! I would also like to thank Judy Lehman for taking pictures during the meeting.

During the business meeting June Nasby, CPPB was honored as the 2012 Buyer of the Year. Congratulations June!

I would like to remind everyone that nominations are due July 31, 2012, for Member of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. The documents for these awards are available on the IPPA website http://sites.google.com/site/ippamembers/. These documents are now in a format you can fill out online! Just follow the brief instructions and give it a try. It really cannot be any quicker and easier than that! There are plenty of deserving members for these awards so please take a few minutes to submit your nominations.

SAVE THE DATE!
The Annual Fall IPPA Meeting and Training Conference has been scheduled for October 17th and 18th in Des Moines. On day one NIGP Master Trainer Darin Matthews from North Clackamas Schools, Oregon will be teaching a one day class titled “Managing Your End Users and Suppliers: It’s All About Relationships.” The discounted registration deadline for this class is August 17th. The class minimum is twenty. Please sign up as soon as you can if you are planning on attending this invaluable class taught from a great instructor.

The IPPA Meeting will be held on day two. Our Des Moines hosts are in the process of putting together an exciting and educational day for all of us. Lunch will also be provided. Registration forms will be made available soon!

We are always looking for volunteers to host classes, meetings or to be on a committee. If you are interested in volunteering please contact any of the board members with questions. We would be more than willing to talk with you about all the opportunities to serve in IPPA.

I hope you all have a great summer! I am looking forward to seeing you all in Des Moines this fall.

All the best,
Casey
The Spring Meeting and Training Conference of the Iowa Public Procurement Association was held in the Eastern Avenue Library in Davenport, Iowa on May 15, 2012.

Alan Guard, City of Davenport CFO, welcomed the group to Davenport, stating his appreciation of the purchasing profession and giving examples of times when departments should have gone to Purchasing but chose to do it themselves.

Michael Bevis, Chief Procurement Officer from the City of Naperville, Illinois, gave a presentation on “What’s in the Fine Print and Why?” He showed us examples of language from the Naperville purchase order. He cautioned us to be careful about what to put on the purchase order, since the PO is a form of a contract and the terms on the purchase order could be in conflict with the terms of your bid docu-

**Spring Meeting Highlights!**

By Diane Rodenkirk and Luana Stoneking

The two winners are:

- Mary Niichel-Hegwood from the City of Iowa City
- Cindy Whitaker from the City of Davenport

Congratulations!
June Nasby, CPPB, was announced as the winner of the 2012 Buyer of the Year award. June is Buyer II for the City of Iowa City. June has been a very active member of IPPA since its inception in the summer of 2008, first serving as a member of the Education Committee. In 2010 she stepped up to serve as IPPA Vice-President and was the 2011 President. She is currently serving as Immediate Past-President. She has hosted classes and a member meeting for our chapter.

June’s nomination was submitted by Mary Niichel-Hegwood, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent for the City of Iowa City. Nominations for Buyer of the Year are evaluated based on contributions to the nominee’s agency, contributions to the chapter, and certification. Bonus points are given for contributions to the Institute (NIGP) and the Public Procurement Profession. June’s nomination demonstrated her accomplishments in all of these areas.

June’s nomination has been submitted to NIGP for national consideration as NIGP’s Buyer of the Year. June’s nomination for the national award highlights the success of our chapter as it demonstrates June’s accomplishments.

Congratulations, June. We hope to see you as NIGP’s 2012 Buyer of the Year!

Michael Bevis presented a second session on “Community Building: Building a Community of Procurement Professionals”. He spoke about the evolution in the development of professionals, from conservative, risk adverse problem solvers to innovative, strategic risk managers. We did an exercise where we broke into groups based on what we felt is the most important aspect of IPPA.

A big thank you to Kris Keller and Cindy Whitaker from the City of Davenport for their awesome hospitality, fantastic food and great slate of speakers!
Greetings fellow IPPA Members, I hope all is well with you and you are enjoying the summer weather!

We have volunteers for many of the Committee’s for 2013 and to host the Spring and Fall Meetings and hosting an education class.

We have a couple of volunteers for the At Large Director positions and nominees for the Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer positions.

Thank you to all those members that stepped forward to make IPPA a better organization!

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on committees if anyone is interested!

Have a good day!

Barb Sullivan, Nominating Committee Chair

What are the benefits of Volunteering?

- Meeting hosts receive free registration
- Training hosts save on travel expenses
- Volunteer services count toward recertification points
- Volunteers for all positions have the ability to make a difference within the organization and the procurement profession!

Remember, you don’t need a time-consuming complex document for these nominations!

Forms are now available on the IPPA website—fill in and submit. Its just that easy! Or if you prefer, a letter, outline, bulleted list, or other simple document is all that is needed. Nominations may be submitted either electronically or to Casey on “paper”.

There is no specific format requirement. If you prefer a list, a Word table or Excel worksheet could also be used. There are even Word and Excel worksheets already developed that you may use.

Please take a little time to nominate an Iowa Public Procurement member who has given time, energy, and expertise to make our chapter successful. We have many members who deserve to be recognized. Please take a few minutes to thank at least one of them by nominating them for Member or Volunteer of the Year. Or, you know who you are - recognize your own success and nominate yourself!

If you can’t remember how long someone has been on a committee, whether they were on the board, etc., information may be on the web site in the current pages or archives. Or take a minute and call or e-mail another member who may have the information.

Documents for these awards are on the IPPA web site, or contact Lois (lois.schmitz@iowa.gov) or Luana (Stone1909@gmail.com) to receive a copy via e-mail. Questions??

Contact Lois or Luana!
What color is it? Go, stop, or caution?

By Luana Stoneking, CPPB, retired

I must have spoken loudly one day when talking about ethics and public trust. Almost a year after retirement, I received one of those “what do you think about this?” calls. Maybe nothing was wrong, but the caller couldn’t help but remember conversations from a purchasing meeting.

An agency received proposals for professional services from several consulting engineering firms. Proposals were evaluated in accordance with the method and criteria stated in the proposal documents. Sounds like everything was done just right, doesn’t it? Well, as we all know there can be more to the story!

My caller remembered conversations we had had several years ago about ethics and public trust – and then hunted me down and called. It seems that a family member of someone on the agency’s project team is an engineer at the successful consulting firm. I can almost hear you all gasp, but let’s get a few more facts. The consulting firm has successfully completed numerous projects for the agency. When not the selected firm, it is always a top contender. The family member employed by the consulting firm is not part of its proposed project team, and has no financial interest in the project or the company. Although newly hired by the company, the hiring was apparently finalized before the RFP process was completed (possibly before it even started) and there is absolutely no indication that the hiring decision was affected by the agency’s project or is in any way suspect.

Is there a conflict of interest, or even a concern? Is it legal? Will it put a smudge on our white hat? It is not as though an agency employee’s family member is a checker at Wal-Mart in West Des Moines and the agency is considering purchasing a TV from Wal-Mart in Davenport. Nor is it similar to the standard commission scenario where an agency employee’s family member works on commission and submits a bid to sell vehicles to the agency. An award does not appear to result in any financial gain by anyone any differently than if the person worked elsewhere.

What do you think? We don’t know the exact process followed, but what might make this a non-issue?

E-mail your responses to me at Stone1909@gmail.com by June 1, 2012. We will follow up on this issue in the next Chapter Connection! I’ll give you my thoughts then as well.
Thank you by June Nasby

I would like to thank the IPPA Members for presenting me with Buyer of the Year for 2012. I don't think that I can express in words what this award truly means to me. Never in my wildest dreams could I ever imagine I would receive such an honor.

I would like to thank Mary Niichel-Hegwood and Luana Stoneking for helping me come up with the ideas to put into the Buyer of the Year document. Without their help, I would have forgotten so many things that I have been involved with in the past two years. I would also like to thank Shannon McMahon for putting this document together and having the talents to present it in such a professional way. You are very talented. I am so lucky I was able to tap into that talent! I surely cannot forget to thank Kevin O'Malley for allowing Mary, Shannon and myself to work on this project. You believed in me and have always encouraged me.

A big thank you to Karen Server, Lori Stock, Judy Lehman and Luana Stoneking for writing such amazing letters in support of my nomination. It is so great to have such special people around to encourage me. I know I can count on them at any time!

I would also like to express my appreciation to the members of the Board for supporting my nomination for Buyer of the Year. The letter you provided was deeply appreciated. I am very lucky to work with such a great group of people.

I am very grateful for everyone’s support. For a shy girl who grew up on a dairy farm, I have to say I will cherish this award for a very long time. This is another one of those “out of the box” moments in my life.

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Educational Opportunities

- Strategic Procurement Planning, Ames, July 23 - 25
- Introduction to Public Procurement, Des Moines, September 11 - 13
- Managing Your End Users, Des Moines, October 17
- *Rescheduled* Legal Aspects of Public Purchasing, Ames, Oct 31 - Nov 2


“It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside.”
— Maud Hart Lovelace