Greetings IPPA Members,

I’d like to say Happy New Year and to thank all of you for your support over the past year. It was great seeing most of you in Iowa City this fall for our meeting and we were glad to hear the positive responses about the new website. In addition, I’d like thank you all for your support in updating our bylaws and policies and procedures this year!

As an update on membership, the IPPA is ending the year with 67 members, and the Board is hopeful that the new website will help us grow the membership further over the next year. As a reminder, please be sure to renew your 2016 IPPA membership either on our new website by credit card or with the form we have online when paying by check or money order. Organizations can now renew memberships for all of their members at one time when using the new website also.

In closing, thank you again IPPA membership for a great year! There are many great things planned for the new year including the upcoming spring meeting in Cedar Rapids, we look forward to seeing you all there.

Best Regards,
John Watkins
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
REBECCA JOHNSON

After graduating from Western Illinois University with a Math degree (and no idea what I wanted to do with it) I moved to the Chicago area for a few years where I worked for a sterling silver distributor and a textile company. I moved to Cedar Rapids to settle in a smaller city where I would be close to my parents and was a buyer for Iowa Glass for 9 years before moving on to my current position with the City of Cedar Rapids. I am blessed to work with great people and enjoy the opportunity to be involved with IPPA.

How many years in Purchasing? or How long have you been in Purchasing?

I have been a Purchasing Agent for the City of Cedar Rapids for 9 years. Before that I had 9 years of purchasing experience in the private sector.

How did you get into Purchasing?

I had been working in customer service for a textile company which evolved into an order expeditor position working closely with purchasing. I enjoyed that role much more so when the company was sold I decided to look for a purchasing position.

What was your most unusual procurement?

The first thing that comes to mind is flood debris removal, although after bidding it out 3 or 4 times before finally completing the job it didn’t seem so unusual anymore. Hope we never have to do that again!

Which procurement are you the most proud of?

When we first went out for bid for a citywide motor repair contract I had to do a lot of research on my own to come up with a good scope of work and specifications. The contract has gone smoothly ever since and made things easier for the various departments who use it.

Where is your home town?

I lived in Cedar Rapids when I was small but spent most of my school years in Decatur, IL so I consider that to be my home town.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I mostly enjoy doing things with my husband and kids, Lindsey (13) and Aaron (11). I co-lead my daughter’s Girl Scout troop so my time will soon be consumed by the annual cookie sale. I love watching my son play baseball and basketball and even play catch with him once and a while. We spend lots of time together as a family volunteering at our church. Cheering on the Chicago Cubs and Iowa Hawkeyes has been especially fun this year. I also love to read and spend time with friends.

Favorite book, movie, dream vacation? or What is your favorite saying?

I read a lot and love anything by Karen Kingsbury. I also enjoy books by James Patterson and David Baldacci. My favorite book I’ve ever read was “A Prayer for Owen Meany” by John Irving.

HAVE A PROCUREMENT STORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

The newsletter would like to share your story! We are looking for articles that other procurement professionals would find interesting and/or informative. The article could contain information such as why the procurement was necessary, what processes were used, obstacles that were overcome in the process, how long the procurement cycle took, etc.

Submission information is located at the bottom of page 8.
**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Receive a $25 early registration discount per class by registering 60 or more days in advance of a course. A late fee of $50 will be assessed for those registrations received within 30 days of the course.

- **Contract Administration in the Public Sector**, March 1-3, Des Moines
- **Introduction to Public Procurement**, March 29-31, Des Moines
- **Get What You Need Through Negotiation Strategies**, April 26-27, Des Moines
- **Legal Aspects of Public Procurement**, May 3-5, Des Moines
- **Advancing Your Negotiation Skills**, June 1-2, Des Moines

Contact Laurie McCracken, lmccracken@city.ames.ia.us, Education Committee Chairperson, with questions regarding classes.

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**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

**JAMES TANZOSCH**

I enjoy the challenge of working with people to make processes more efficient which often has the added value of saving money. I have been a small business owner that was able to transition into a career in supply chain management. I worked at John Deere in Ankeny as a Buyer before coming to the University of Northern Iowa.

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**How many years in Purchasing? or How long have you been in Purchasing?**

I have been in purchasing, in some form, for the last 25 years.

**How did you get into Purchasing?**

I started out as a restaurant owner and was involved in designing menus and sourcing products for our menu items.

**What was your most unusual procurement?**

The world’s largest steak, a 250 oz. sirloin.

**Which procurement are you the most proud of?**

I was a volunteer firefighter in Grinnell and we purchased a new Fire Rescue Truck.

**Where is your home town?**

I was born in Yonkers, New York, graduated from High School in Mojave, California and have lived the longest in Grinnell, Iowa. So any of the three.

**What do you like to do outside of work?**

Spend time with my wife and 4 (soon to be 5) year old daughter, especially if it involves bicycling across Iowa.

**Favorite book, movie, dream vacation? or What is your favorite saying?**

Current book is The Tools by Phil Stutz, Movie is The Natural and our family is going to Disney World in January which is one dream vacation but would someday like to tour Italy with my wife.
Iowa Public Procurement Association (IPPA) 2015 Fall Meeting and Training Conference

Submitted by: Barb Sullivan, Secretary

The IPPA Fall Meeting and Training Conference was held October 21, 2015 in Iowa City, IA at the University of Iowa Public Health Building, hosted by the University of Iowa and City of Iowa City. IPPA President John Watkins welcomed everyone; there were 4 new attendees at the meeting, and members introduced themselves to the group. During the morning session, attendees broke into 4 groups for a team building exercise, for group discussion on the future of the IPPA Awards Program (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results - SOAR). The general consensus from the groups was to continue the awards, Buyer and Manager of the Year in the Fall (so that deadlines can still be made for these nominations to the NIPG (Federal organization); and the Member and Volunteer of the Year awards in the Spring (IPPA local awards). Also, how about the IPPA applying for “Chapter of the Year”! Everyone would need to participate to accomplish this goal. Judy Lehman, City of Cedar Rapids, will join Luana Stoneking and Jacquie Holm-Smith on the Awards Committee.

Training Presentations were given at today’s conference by 1) Renee Funk, University of Iowa, on “Using Data to Drive Change”; 2) Daria Aleksandrova, Educational Advisory Board, on “Best Practices for Reviewing Contract Pricing and Negotiating those Prices with Suppliers”; and by 3) Kent Stock, Iowa Native Inspiration for the hit movie The Final Season and “How Do You Want to Be Remembered”.

Annual Elections and Swearing-in of the 2016 IPPA Board Officers and Directors were held. Congratulations to the following new Board Officers and Directors: Kristi Keller, City of Davenport, President; Randy Bennett, Iowa DAS, Vice-President; Barbara Sullivan, Iowa DAS, Secretary; Stacy Sassman, Iowa State University, Treasurer; Heather Mell, City of Cedar Rapids, Director At Large; Carrie Lindgren, Iowa DHS, Director At Large; Renee Funk, University of Iowa, Director At Large; and John Watkins, University of Iowa, Past-President.

Drawings were held during today’s meeting: Randy Bennett, Iowa DAS, won a Free Registration to either the 2016 Fall or Spring IPPA Meeting; Cindy Whitaker, City of Davenport, won a Free Registration to either the 2016 Fall or Spring IPPA Meeting; Mike Drottz, Iowa DAS Fleet Services, won a $200 Registration towards a NIGP/IPPA Educational class in 2016; Heather Mell, City of Cedar Rapids, won a $200 Registration towards a NIGP/IPPA Educational class in 2016; June Nasby, City of Iowa City, won a $200 Registration towards a NIGP/IPPA Educational class in 2016; and Jody McNaughton, Iowa DOT, won a $305 Registration towards a one day NIGP/IPPA Educational class in 2016. Congratulations Winners!

Karl Wendt, Iowa DAS was presented the 2015 “Member of the Year Award”. Laurie Hoing, Iowa AEA Purchasing, was presented the 2015 “Volunteer of the Year Award”. Congratulations Karl and Laurie for these wonderful accomplishments of service!
I work for the Department of Human Services in Des Moines for the Bureau of Service Contract Support. Our team supports DHS division procurements and contract management.

How many years in Purchasing? or How long have you been in Purchasing?

I have been involved in purchasing since 2005.

How did you get into Purchasing?

I was on a custom relations team for the Child Support Recovery Unit, which was paired with the Unit's contracts team. I became interested in contracting at our shared meetings. I had good mentors that I knew well when I started contracting.

What was your most unusual procurement?

Armored car services.

Which procurement are you the most proud of?

A few years ago we procured special services related to responding to a natural disaster. We had to develop forms to fit the solicitation and manage a larger number of providers. A little planning paid off well.

Where is your home town?

I grew up in Indianola, Iowa.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I enjoy spending time with family and friends, crafting, and photography.

Favorite book, movie, dream vacation? or What is your favorite saying?

My family and I travelled to Yellowstone over the summer, which was one of my dream vacations. I just love the diverse geothermal features, beautiful scenery, and the abundance of wildlife. Plus, the nights were perfect for taking pictures of stars!
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
The IPPA Chapter Connection newsletter is a quarterly publication. Newsletters will be published in March, June, September, and December.
Re-certification points are given for any newsletter articles that are submitted for publication.
You may submit articles to Kim Riebe via email at kriebe@councilbluffs-ia.gov.