PRESIDENT’S CORNER

REFLECTING ON 2016 AND LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR

This year, the Chapter has focused on evolving and transitioning some of the traditional events the chapter has grown accustomed to over the years. For instance, this was the first year in nearly two decades that we did not have a reverse trade show. The reason we didn’t have one was so we could realign the reverse trade show as a spring event. We realized there were several other competing trade shows in the Florida region, it was close to many of our budget cycles when we are all very busy, and in the midst of hurricane season. Additionally, we wanted to try having the trade show every other year in the hopes that our neighboring chapter to the south and us would provide some reciprocity at each other’s event (trade show) during off years. We also removed the educational component of our quarterly meeting with the intention of using that time to focus on the business aspects of the chapter, and to give the Board a venue and opportunity to collaborate on current and future initiatives. Those changes, or more specifically, the removal of those events did not come without the addition of new ones.

This year the Chapter participated in its first organized charity event, assisting Habitat for Humanity build several homes in the City of Pompano Beach. Additionally, we hosted two low cost educational workshops; one in the spring that covered Sustainable Procurement and Market Forecasting, and one this past fall on Construction Procurements and CCNA Statute Requirements. Each had tremendous turnout. The classes focused on procurement and were delivered by highly educated and knowledgeable practitioners and professors that gave a unique perspective to the subject matter. Our Professional Development Committee delivered 4 different NIGP sponsored seminar courses throughout the year.

In 2017, three of the four Chapter Officers have agreed to stay on for an additional term. Like taking on any new job, it takes time to get acclimated. This is no different when taking on a volunteer position in a professional organization. A one-year term is not enough time to implement a strategy and make an impact. In the new year we will revitalize the scholarship program. The program is being designed based on other chapter’s programs that have been very successful and provided greater flexibility to their membership on how the funds can be used and when. For instance, the program can be used to subsidize a member’s attendance to the annual NIGP Forum; an event all procurement professionals should experience at least once. Additionally, we will be hosting a reverse trade show in the spring. The date has been set for April 20, 2017. Several vendors who have attended in the past have reached out to us and expressed their interest and it should be a well-attended event. We will also continue to provide professional development opportunities through NIGP sponsored seminars and workshops in the spring and fall. We hope to continue our trend of giving back to the communities we service by either donating to or volunteering for charitable organizations. Lastly, we will explore providing tools to our membership and their agencies that will increase their ability to strategically source goods and services and conduct meaningful cost analysis.

~ Dave Santucci, CPPO, Chapter President