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UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming NIGP Events:

NIGP VCON – January 27-28, 2021

10 contact hours

**Visit nigp.org website for a variety of upcoming virtual classes.*



Photograph Courtesy
of Curt DeCapite.



Traci Gorman,

RMGPA 2020 President



LETTER FROM THE 2020 PRESIDENT

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." – Harriet Tubman

Wow! What a year 2020 has been! It has just brought home for me how all the little things in life are important: being kind to one another, helping one another out, and taking care of ourselves and our families to name just a few. As well as accomplishing new things: working remotely, learning remotely, holding meetings remotely, etc. It has shown me what a resilient and innovative group we are!

I am really excited to see what actions we have adopted that will remain in place throughout the remainder of this year and into next year. How exciting for everyone! What have you done that is a change from the normal? And how have those changes affected you?

"Every day the clock resets. Your wins don't matter. Your failures don't matter. Don't stress on what was, fight for what could be."- Sean Higgins

So, as we head into the 4th quarter of 2020 think about what has changed in your life. Think about how you reacted to it- how you succeeded in those changes. What strengths have you determined you have based on those changes and what weaknesses? What things have you accomplished, what things are you still working on, and what things do you still need to accomplish?

"Play to your strengths. If you aren't great at something, do more of what you're great at." – Jason Lemkin

I believe in you, the members of RMGPA!!

Traci

PRESENTING RMGPA'S 2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**PRESIDENT: DIANA CANTU, CPPB
ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOLS**

**VICE-PRESIDENT: JON BABCOCK, CPP, CPSCM
POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**TREASURER: MARISA DONEGON, CPPB
CITY OF FORT COLLINS**

**SECRETARY: JAMAICA WATTS
GARFIELD COUNTY**

PAST PRESIDENT: TRACI GORMAN

CONGRATULATIONS!!

MORE INFORMATION ON THE ELECTION RESULTS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING SITE:
<https://secure.electionbuddy.com/results/U7HHGBL9VDSS>

RMGPA LEARNING LUNCH OPPORTUNITIES

RMGPA PRESIDENT WELCOME MESSAGE:

I wish to welcome members to the RMGPA Virtual Learning Lunch / Social Event Sessions! This event provides an excellent opportunity for members from many agencies to reconnect and interact virtually through brief meetings that focus on important topics of the profession. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Cordially,

Traci Gorman,
RMGPA 2020 Chapter President

**** Earn continuing education points toward professional certification. ****

RMGPA is hosting Learning Lunch sessions beginning in September through February. A variety of topics will be presented by fellow RMGPA members over the lunch hour followed by an After-Hours Virtual Social Event. Below is a preview of the upcoming presentations:

Date Presenter / Topic

Jan. Whitney Smith
 Customer Service

Feb. Valerie Scott
 Hot off the Press: When You Can't Control the Narrative

**Registration and links to the events will be provided as they get closer.*

**We look forward to
you joining us!**



Photograph Courtesy of Curt DeCapite

SPOTLIGHT ON Nicol Suddreth – Marketing Co-Chair

Submitted by Kelly Wooden, Newsletter Co-Chair

1. Tell us about your background.

I have been a Contract Administrator with the City & County of Denver for almost 4 years. Prior to becoming a Contract Administrator, I worked for Denver County Court and Denver Economic Development & Opportunity (DEDO). While at Denver County Court and some time at DEDO, I was an Accounting Technician and then found my way as a Contract Compliance Coordinator. As the saying goes, procurement is not something you seek, it somehow finds you.

2. Did you work in other professions prior to procurement, and if so where and for how long?

When I first started with the City, I worked as the Administrative Support Assistant IV in the Accounting Office with Denver County Courts. In 2002, I was promoted to what is now known as the Denver Economic Development & Opportunity as an Accounting Technician for a few years and then made my way to administering contracts for small business loans. While administering small business loan contracts, I found that I wanted to learn more about procurement and made my way to my current position with the City's Department of General Services. As a Contract Administrator for General Services, I am now able to assist in the procurement and contract administration for citywide services including but not limited to janitorial, security, repair and maintenance services and solar gardens.

3. What organization do you currently work for and how long have you been there?

I work for the City and County of Denver. I've been with the City for 22 years.

4. How did you get into the procurement field?

In 2005, the City was beginning the process of moving the contracting process from a paper system to a new electronic system. Each department needed a subject matter expert in the planning stages, and I think I drew the short straw (ha ha). After the system was up and running, I was assigned to manage the contracts that were generated from our group, the rest is history.

5. What is the most interesting purchase/project you have been involved in and what was your role?

I would say the most interesting project I've been assigned to happened in 2020. Due to COVID, our group was tasked with procuring housekeeping and security services for respite care facilities for the homeless. This was something out of the ordinary because our group needed to make cold calls to contractors that were still open for business during the time of the Stay at Home order. To be a part of something much larger than our normal solicitations was the true representation of a public servant.

6. When did you join RMGPA?

I joined RMGPA in 2019.

7. How long have you been RMGPA's Marketing Co-chair and what responsibilities do you have in this role?

I started as the Marketing Co-chair officially this year with encouragement from the Marketing Chair Brenda Hannu. I assist with getting information out to the RMGPA community via LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. If you're not following us on Twitter, come check us out. Our Twitter handle is @RMGPA_NIGP.

8. Are there any professional and/or personal accomplishments you're proud of?

One of my most important personal accomplishments was obtaining my bachelor's degree in 2018 from Metropolitan State University of Denver. Working full-time and raising a family was my main priority while my children were younger, but here and there I would take college courses during their down time. As they got older, I was able to focus on taking the necessary steps to obtain my degree and completed in 2018.

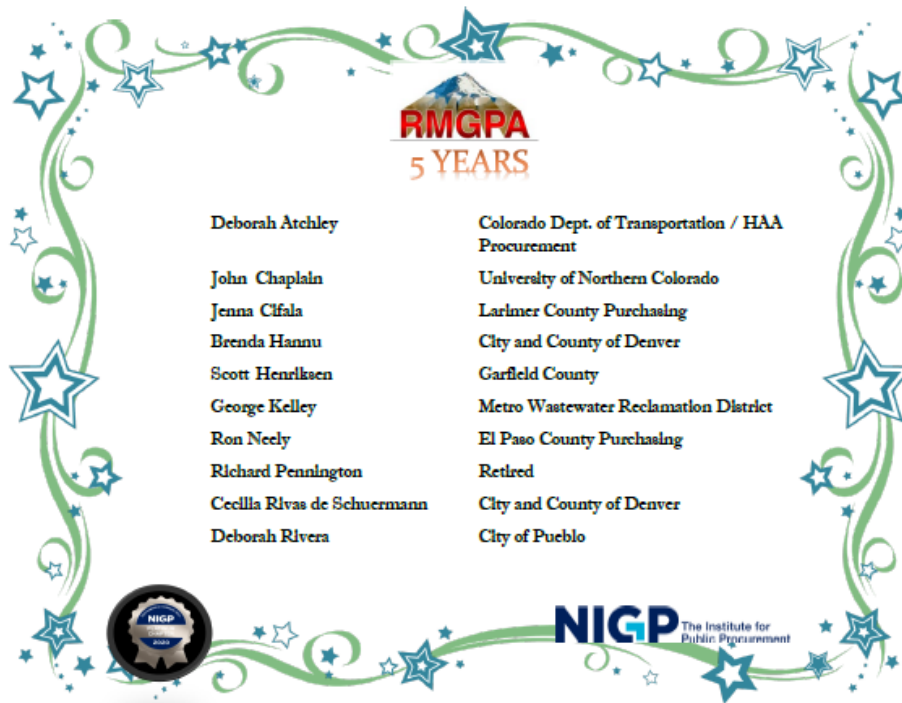
9. Tell us something interesting or unique about yourself and/or hobbies outside of work.

One of the most important things to me is my family. Any activities they are involved in, I am there in the stands supporting their efforts. From baseball/softball games, basketball or a choir concert, my children, nieces and nephews can always count on me to be there. I also enjoy reading, trips to Central City (under non-COVID conditions) and traveling.

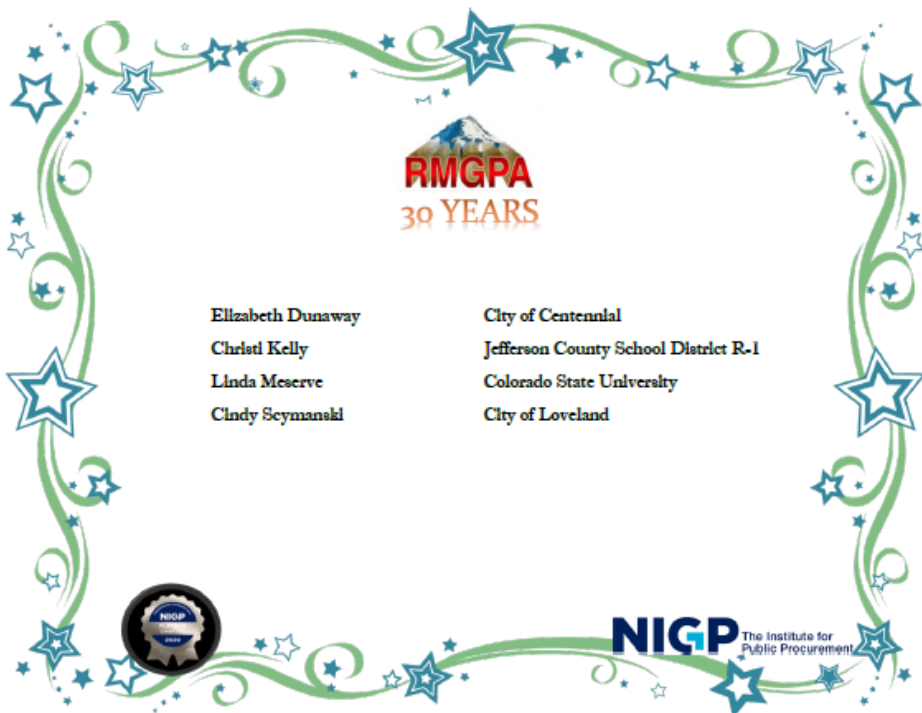


Celebrating RMGPA Milestones

***We would like to acknowledge and celebrate the following members
for their RMGPA membership anniversaries.***









Please log into your RMGPA member account and make any updates to your profile. If you have any questions or have any issues logging in, contact membership@rmgpa.org

Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations

To Our Newest Certified Member!



Jon Babcock
Poudre School District



For information on the benefits of certification, how to become certified,
and future testing dates, visit www.nigp.org

Congratulations Traci Burtnett, CPPO, CPPB, St. Vrain Valley School District on completing NIGP's Leader's Edge Program.

*For more information on NIGP's Leader's Edge Program, please visit:
<https://www.nigp.org/events/leader-edge>*

RMGPA 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Procurement Team Award – St. Vrain Valley School District

Future Leader – Marisa Donegon, City of Fort Collins

Volunteer of the Year – Jon Babcock, Poudre School District

Buyer of the Year – Natalie Martinez, CDOT

Manager of the Year – Tim Wellman, St. Vrain Valley School District

Distinguished Service Member Award – Richard Pennington



Congratulations to all award nominees and award recipients! Thank you for your amazing contributions to our organization and our profession!

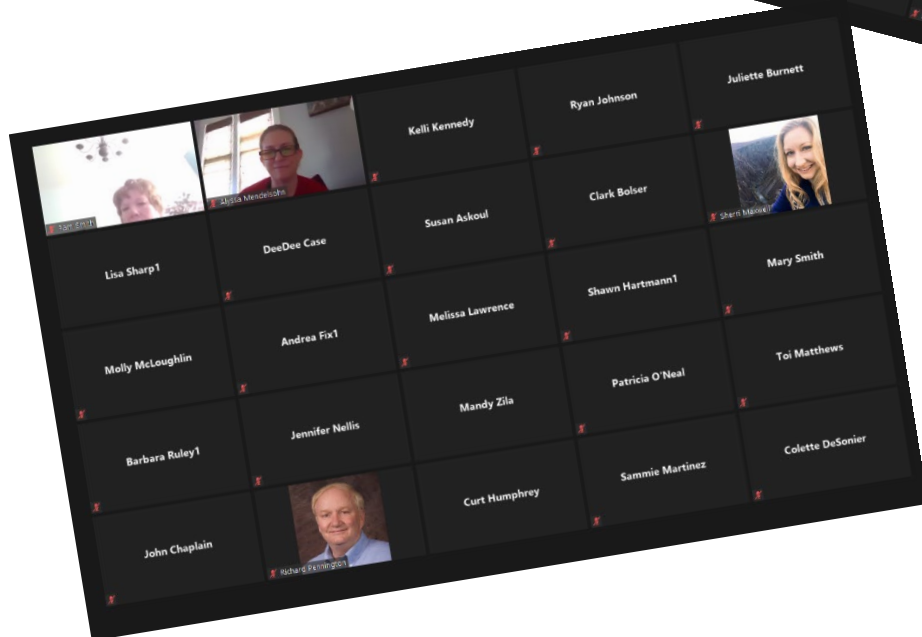
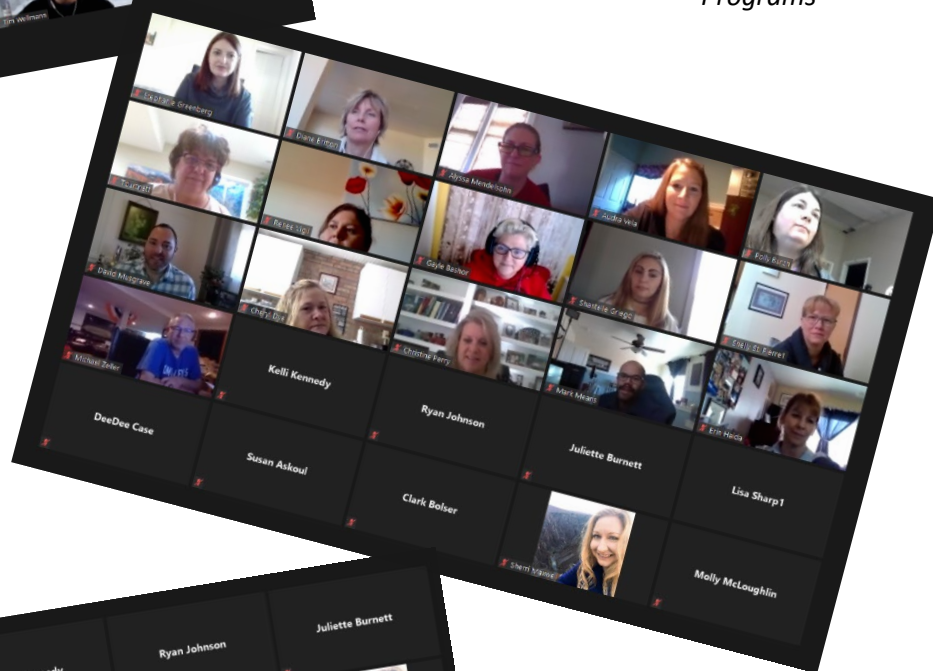
**Pictures of award recipients will follow in the Spring Newsletter.*

RMGPA's 2020 VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE



Due to COVID circumstances, RMGPA's 2020 winter conference was held completely virtually. A great lineup of speakers and breakout sessions provided the opportunity to not only engage virtually, but also gave membership the opportunity to "see" each other again for a little while. The attendance rate was high compared to recent years, so it seemed to be a great opportunity for our members to enjoy a day of getting together, learning and growing. Thanks to all who participated!

-Programs



Stop Being the Roadblock

Wow! What a whirlwind of information and technology! Attending the NIGP Forum Vcon 2020 (Virtual Conference) was such a new experience for me. There were so many session choices, the virtual Exhibit Hall, Keynote speakers and networking opportunities through Zoom. Many sessions were focused on the Pandemic, supply chain processes and lessons learned. I focused on the leadership track and the session I'm sharing with you really resonated with me.

From Hurdle to Hero: Stop Being the Roadblock, with Darrin Mathews and Stacy Gregg, was most enlightening. The premise: Procurement has transformed from a clerical support function to a strategic essential function.

I so agree with their opening statements:

Sometimes we create the roadblock. Roadblocks stop the process.

We want to create a decision pathway. Hurdles are different; we can get over this together.

Potential roadblocks:

1. Identify the roadblock
2. Can it be avoided? (Was Purchasing involved early enough?)
3. Communication of the process
4. Lack of education? (I just didn't know...)
5. Consequences if the code is overly restrictive

Tips to move from roadblocks, to hurdles, to hero:

1. Take a good look at your processes.
 - a. How many people are involved, and do we need them all?
 - b. Ask why we do this step
 - c. Resist adding more steps to the process
 - d. Seek buy in and advocates to the process
 - e. Relationship management
2. Establish a communications plan and stick to it.
 - a. Two-way channel
 - b. Use a focus group to review and approve changes
 - c. Maintain an open-door policy, good rapport
 - d. Have a Planning Party!
3. Teach
 - a. Collaborate on areas like Scope of Work
 - b. Discuss why to use which process: RFP vs. Bid
 - c. Hold training events, invite the Project Managers, Engineers, Supervisors

4. Put in the work, administer the process
 - a. Use global best practices
 - b. Incorporate our Values & Guiding Principles
 - c. Utilize the specifications library, Nsite
5. Raise your level of professionalism
 - a. Go for certification
 - b. Be involved in NIGP chapter activities
 - c. Demonstrate your level of knowledge
 - d. Create connections
6. Stop saying “no, but...”
 - a. Use these tools to gain trust
 - b. Be a strategic partner
 - c. Be perceived as ethical and impartial
 - d. Provide ample, fair, and level competition

Stacy and Darrin provided a wealth of information. They presented well together. Darrin also shared his podcast info: www.evolutionofprocurement.com.

Because I applied for and was awarded a scholarship from RMGPA, I so am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the NIGP Forum 2020 VCon. We all miss being together in person, but the virtual conference was a great way to see our peers from across the country and learn together.

Thank you, RMGPA!

Terri Kindsfather, CPPO, CPPB, CPIM
Purchasing Supervisor
City of Lakewood

Working from Home

WFH – WTH ?#!*?

By: Christine Weber, C.P.M., CPPB

Unexpected Responsibilities

No one was more prepared than me in February 2020 as an RP (retired person) for the Work from Home (WFH) environment. I was scheduled to present a few NIGP Pathways courses that were easily converted to Zoom. I was wrapping up a consulting gig with a local educational entity – no in-person work required anyway! I had just returned from a long family visit in Naples, Florida, including a Key West side trip. BTW - We were lucky to take the affordable water ferry that cuts a few hours off the long drive down the Keys. However, we were not so lucky to be cruising back to Naples on an evening with extra-wavy Gulf waves! The last minute, shoreside, Captain's Choice dinner with an extra cocktail earned me extra attention from busy onboard staff bearing the ferry's personal gift bags!

Anyway, safely back on land, we rushed to set up a semi-permanent dining room office for my husband, who some of you know as the one man shop at the DORA Procurement and Contracting Office. I surrendered my personal printer to the State, and John began to print my RP work in between hundreds of contracts, Purchase Requisitions, and other documents 'for the file'. Did I mention that our house is an open floor plan that echoes wonderfully from top to bottom?

My Work intrudes on Your Space

Very soon, I was reminded of several reasons I decided to retire. Our complex procurements require many meetings on Zoom calls, or Google hangouts, where procurement actions are discussed, poked, prodded, and planned in advance. Once actions are taken, they become fair game to be revisited for more poking and prodding, and may even be retooled, revised, reissued, and occasionally second-guessed. RMGPA Members – I know that you can relate!

So here's me, the RP, used to quiet days of late brunches, leisurely online yoga classes, maybe even a Netflix chick flick or two, and drop dead gorgeous days on the deck...with working-retired hours here and there to meet always-reasonable deadlines. I didn't love hearing about those complex 'projects in process' over my ham-broccoli-goat cheese-onion omelet at the ridiculous meeting hour of 9:00 a.m.! What the Heck!

I began to move most activities to the deck, aggravating already-ornery hummingbirds used to their own space. I re-learned to concentrate, within the echoing stressors, when unexpected business meetings conflicted with personal time. I escaped to nearby State Parks and began bike riding up to 10 miles a day. The cell phone rings - Ok, there's another Zoom meeting at 3pm - must pedal further! Time out of doors is physically and mentally healthy!

I began to see more and more lunchtime neighborhood walkers, hikers, and families escaping the WFH environment and its daily intrusions on their space.

As a last resort to escape summer heat (8 months temporary WFH by now) and the always-scheduled Zoom, I sometimes walked the mall, a dangerous and expensive proposition for a professionally trained shopper. During one of these trips, I bought an extra set of fancy gamer headphones for hiding out in plain sight - and an InstaPot. And lots of fluffy towels.

Business Impacts and Real-Life Stories

We have all heard about or witnessed the WFH impact on business – Short staff, late delivery, out of stock equipment, animals gone astray who join our Zoom calls, first graders who dissolve in tears when their online learning tool disconnects, and the inadvertently famous post-shower flasher, who casually walked behind his spouse and in front of a live Zoom camera, to the horror of the work team AND the spouse. Even with all our WFH efficiencies, you still may be 2nd in line for coffee in your own kitchen. The good thing is that you get to share a moment or two together, make dinner plans early enough to shop online, snag a hug, and then go back to your individual workstations and headphones.

With my RP view, I see our work teams becoming, in general, a bit more forgiving and a bit more congenial. We have a common foe and more frequent common bonds during these times. All may seem fine until one of us is overcome by workload, or another added meeting, or even just another long, challenging day that drops us into that first grader's world of frustration, or even tears. We heal by sharing a juice box with Mommy's / Daddy's boxed juice.

Our 2020 expanded use of business tools such as electronic contract signatures, online solicitation responses, and all-electronic training sessions gave our profession a shot in the arm to help standardize the required use of such tools across government entities. The healthcare market now can require, rather than suggest, scheduling remote follow-up doctor visits and use of a personal health record management portal. We can take advantage of a free Zoom all-day holiday to connect face to face online with family members who think Zoom is a way to speed down the highway.

Turn WFH - WTH into WFH-ME (More Efficiently)

Many people have already found WFH to be more efficient because there are few unscheduled interruptions. No one is 'shadowing your door'. The commute is a breeze, so you're not as tired. Ask yourself – I have 15 minutes, so what is the best use of my time right now? You may decide to start a simple new habit such as using the [pomodoro technique](#) to work better, concentrating in short bursts.

Try this technique with Procurement assignments if you...






- Have lots of open-ended work that could take unlimited amounts of time such as contract drafting, scope of work revisions, or RFP development
- Are overly optimistic when it comes to how much you can get done in a day

- Consistently work past the point of optimal productivity
- Find that those little distractions often derail the whole workday

When someone dropped by our office in person, we would prioritize their request. Now, even if you receive a chat, you tend to continue your uninterrupted task (pomodoro).

WHAT IS THE POMODORO TECHNIQUE?

A method for staying focused and mentally fresh

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| STEP 1 |  | Pick a task |
| STEP 2 |  | Set a 25-minute timer |
| STEP 3 |  | Work on your task until the time is up |
| STEP 4 |  | Take a 5 minute break |
| STEP 5 |  | Every 4 pomodoros, take a longer 15-30 minute break |

And for me, the RP? Like many, I not only spend time out of doors, but I have also dived into cooking and baking. Mom's recipe for that meal that takes 4 hours to roast, low and slow? – We can have Sunday dinner on Wednesday! I schedule more yoga classes. I now ride the bike nearly 14 miles on any given day. NIGP education projects continue. I write newsletters for my local Chapter, and I send best wishes to those of you in the trenches, with not-so-reasonable deadlines every day, and on weekends.

Best wishes to you, your families, and your friends for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Naples, Florida 2020-02



MAKE YOUR OWN AUTHENTIC KEY WEST KEY LIME PIE!

4 Egg Yolks • 6 Egg Whites
 ½ Cup Key Lime Juice • ½ Cup Sugar
 1 Can Sweetened Condensed Milk
 ½ Teaspoon Cream of Tartar • A Pinch of Salt

Beat egg yolks until lemon in color then blend in the condensed milk. Slowly add lime juice, salt and mix well.

Add the cream of tartar to the egg whites, and beat until foamy.

Continue beating, adding sugar one tablespoon at a time until egg whites peak.

Fold six tablespoons of meringue into the filling mixture and pour into a nine inch graham cracker pie shell.

Top with the remaining meringue, sealing edges carefully, and then bake in a slow oven at 330 degrees until golden brown.



Highline Canal, 2020-10



2021 RMGPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Diana Cantu, CPPB	president@rmgpa.org	303-702-7715
Vice President	Jon Babcock, CPP, CPSCM	vicepresident@rmgpa.org	970-490-3545
Secretary	Jamaica Watts	secretary@rmgpa.org	970-384-5018
Treasurer	Marisa Donegon, CPPB	treasurer@rmgpa.org	970-416-4377
Past President	Traci Gorman	pastpres@rmgpa.org	303-805-3188

2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CHAIR NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Amanda Zila, CPPB	awards@rmgpa.org	303-866-4005
Chapter Enhancement / Vendor Liaison	Vacant		
Communications	David Musgrave	info@rmgpa.org	303-757-9861
Education & Pro-D	Nikita Hildebrandt	prod@rmgpa.org	719-660-2476
Elections	Skyler Thimens	elections@rmgpa.org	970-443-4780
Historian	Pat Johnson, CPPB	historian@rmgpa.org	970-221-6816
Legislative	Nancy Allen	legislative@rmgpa.org	720-898-7093
Marketing	Brenda Hannu	marketing@rmgpa.org	720-913-8118
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Programs	Vacant	programs@rmgpa.org	

2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CO-CHAIR NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Curt Decapite, CPPB	awards@rmgpa.org	
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Communications	Molly McLoughlin, CPPO, CPPB	info@rmgpa.org	720-561-5045
Education & Pro-D	Cheryl Dye, CPPB	prod@rmgpa.org	303-987-7885
Elections	Tim Wellmann, CPPB	elections@rmgpa.org	303-702-7734
Legislative	Farrah Bustamante, CPPB, MBA	legislative@rmgpa.org	970-949-1199 x2
Marketing	Nicol Suddreth	marketing@rmgpa.org	720-865-7508
Membership	Jim Walker, CPPO, CPPB	membership@rmgpa.org	720-442-0708
Newsletter	Kelly Wooden, CPPO, CPPB	newsletter@rmgpa.org	970-490-3617
Programs	Beth Hewes	programs@rmgpa.org	720-913-8109

Happy New Year Everyone!