

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022



Official Chapter **NIGP** The Institute for
Public Procurement

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UPCOMING:

Virtual RMGPA Board Meeting July 27



Submissions needed: Articles, news about your agency, awards/accomplishments, photographs, etc.
Email submissions to:
newsletter@rmgpa.org

Letter from the President



Jon Babcock, NIGP-CPP, CPSCM

Hello fellow RMGPA members!

It is hard to believe that it is already April and Spring has sprung. I hope you all were celebrated during March for Procurement month. You deserve recognition for all that you do throughout the year, but having one of the twelve months is pretty special, I think.

Your Board of Directors and I have been working on plans for this year and are very excited to start to get back to normal where we can. Our vision has everything to do with the continued education of our membership and we are working on aligning our goals and our opportunities with that in mind.

You should know that you have a great group of volunteers behind everything that RMGPA does that are very interested in you and how we can provide the best experiences for you and all members.

As we get the year planned out, keep in mind that there are many opportunities for you to help out on a committee or be a part of the Board. If you are new to RMGPA and looking for ways to network or make a difference, or if you have been with us for a while, but now are feeling like you want to get involved, we would love to talk with you. Please reach out to me or Vice President, David Musgrave, to learn more: president@rmgpa.org or vicepresident@rmgpa.org.

Thank you for being part of RMGPA and I hope to see you at one of our classes, meetings or events soon!

Jon Babcock

President - RMGPA

RMGPA Needs You!

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." –Winston Churchill

RMGPA is a membership organization supported by volunteers willing to lend a helping hand. Since the organization's conception in 1982, we have been honored to have such great support over the years. Together we "provide our members with the education, professional development, and technical assistance required to secure the public trust through the promotion of excellence and effectiveness in Public Procurement."

As your Vice President, **I invite you to consider taking an active role and volunteer for RMGPA** to fill the vacancies we currently have on the Board. **THANK YOU to everyone on our Board working for YOU, the membership, and your interests!**

On the following pages, you will find a list of our current Board members as well as which committees currently have vacancies. If there is an area that interests you, please reach out to me or the [Chair of the committee](#) to receive more information on how to get involved.

More volunteer opportunities are expected to be announced soon!





2022 Board Roster & Listed Vacancies

Committee	Objective	Chair	Co-Chair
Awards	Committee receives nominations for buyer and manager of the year and recommends lifetime membership, distinguished service, and other special awards. The committee coordinates submission of awards to NIGP.	Sherri Maxwell	Mandy Zila
Chapter Enhancement Vendor Liaison	Committee researches, develops, plans, and implements programs that bring value and revenue to the Chapter. This may include trade shows, marketing, outreach to purchasing professionals, and the vendor community.	Shelly St. Pierre	Vacant
Communications	Committee designs and maintains content of the Chapter's website and keeps membership informed of current information on behalf of the association and implement communications actions authorized by the Board.	Molly McLoughlin	Tim Wellmann
Education/Professional Development	Committee plans, develops and implements training programs and administers the Association scholarship program subject to the approval of the Board. A scheduled training plan is submitted to the Board at the first meeting of the year.	Vera Braeckmann-Kennedy	Valerie Scott
Elections	Committee considers and evaluates recommendations from membership regarding potential candidates for all offices. A slate of eligible nominees to the Board shall be submitted in time to be voted on by the membership before the fourth quarter meeting of each year. The Committee prepares ballots and administers the election prior to the annual meeting.	Skyler Thimens	Tim Wellman
Historian	Committee responsible for storing, maintaining and exhibiting two sets of the Chapter albums. Attends all functions and gathers information for the albums. Working with the Board, submits the Chapter of the Year application to NIGP.	Pat Johnson	Co-Chair not needed at this time
Legislative	Committee monitors legislative and legal issues and actions that may impact the public purchasing profession and reports to the Board and membership as required.	Farrah Bustamante	Nancy Allen
Marketing	Committee works with Committee Chairs to advance the Chapter brand and its members through innovative and effective marketing, branding and media. Committee ensures a unified presence (i.e., forms letterhead, certificates, press releases, etc.).	Brenda Hannu	Vacant

Membership	Committee maintains and increases the membership of the Chapter and reviews application for membership and advises the Board concerning eligibility of applicants for membership.	Doug Clapp	Jim Walker
Newsletter	Committee gathers information pertinent to the Chapter and publishes a newsletter.	Chelsey Axtell	Kelly Wooden
Programs	Committee research, plans and arranges programs for the general meetings of the Chapter. An annual schedule shall be submitted to the Board.	Cheryl Gray	Traci Burnett

-If you have ideas or are looking for other ways to engage with the RMGPA membership outside of participating on the Board, please contact me.

David Musgrave

Vice President

vicepresident@rmgpa.org

Dedicated to Excellence in Public Purchasing



Supplier Inclusion Program

Alicia Armentrout, Assistant Supplier Inclusion Program Manager
CSU Procurement services

The Supplier Inclusion program at Colorado State University (CSU) aims to leverage our purchasing power to promote inclusive, equitable, and socially responsible purchasing. Our program both intends to encourage the utilization of small, local, and diverse businesses, as well as to ensure compliance with applicable federal regulations related to research contracts.

We recently changed our program name from supplier diversity to supplier *inclusion*, as inclusion expresses not only our intentions, but the *actions* we will take to ensure small, local, and diverse suppliers participate in our processes. As a team, we continue to balance the professional ethics of public procurement and our institutional policies with removing barriers and enhancing the participation of these businesses. Our strategy focuses not only on supplier outreach, but inreach. That is, internal training and communications through all and any channels and cadences within the university ecosystem.

Additionally, supplier inclusion ties to the greater goal and ideals of economic inclusion and sustainability. Economic inclusion has been defined as “the creation of sustainable value through a diverse supply chain ecosystem generating social and business impacts in terms of equal opportunities, growth, stability, and participation” (Procurement Leaders, p. 6). For this reason, I always say in my conversations that we should never understate the stakes related to purchasing! Procurement efforts have the potential to invest in and benefit the communities and constituents we serve, while supporting external efforts to build capacity in small, local, and diverse businesses.

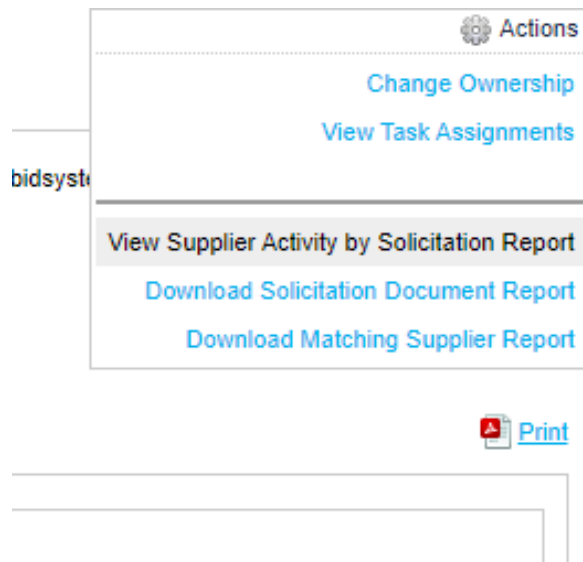
Indeed, [CSU Spur](#) has taken this mission to heart by committing to the anchor institution model of engaging with the local community in mutually beneficial ways. In a recent RFP for custodial, grounds, and maintenance, we leaned into our environmentally and socially responsible purchasing policy to include questions for the bidders around local workforce hiring, utilization of small and diverse firms, and the company’s social responsibility initiatives.

Collaboration continues to be key as the program grows. In addition to working on incorporating this topic into some of the offerings the RMGPA programs committee provides, I serve on the National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP)’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, which oversees NAEP’s Supplier Diversity Institute. I am also active with the Denver Anchor Network. Working together we both understand (and commiserate about!) the common struggles in this work, which often rests on tracking and maintaining clean data. How can you have a goal to increase spend if you don’t know your baseline spend with diverse and local suppliers? Or even, how can you evaluate the spend with such groups if you aren’t sure what categories your supplier would be in because that hasn’t been tracked in the past? Working together, we hear about strategies other groups are using and, in the case of the Denver Anchor Network, we are working to standardize the tracking so we can evaluate the impact of the larger group.

Supplier Inclusion Program (Con.'t)

Alicia Armentrout, Assistant Supplier Inclusion Program Manager
CSU Procurement services

As another data point, we are also starting to look at our engagement with suppliers on bids. Specifically, we are tracking what suppliers were notified of opportunities, how many responded, and how many won a contract. If you are utilizing BidNet, you can pull a report on any bid, by going into the bid, finding the actions button, and choosing the "View Supplier Activity by Solicitation Report."



Ultimately, we are looking forward to the journey ahead. Let's collaborate! Contact me to discuss additional action items.

Read more:

[Proposed legislation in Colorado](#) – Hearing on April 4, 2022

[From Supplier Diversity to Economic Inclusion](#) article

[Leveraging Anchor Institutions for Economic Inclusion](#) article

[Drexel University Supplier Inclusion](#)

[Penn's Economic Inclusion Initiatives](#)

[Portland's Annual Equity Reports](#) and [Related Policy](#)

Reference

Procurement Leaders. *Making a Difference through procurement: From supplier diversity to economic inclusion*, p. 1-13. <https://www.kearney.com/procurement/article/?/a/making-a-difference-through-procurement-from-supplier-diversity-to-economic-inclusion>

SPOTLIGHT:



Shelly St. Pierre

Tell us about your background.

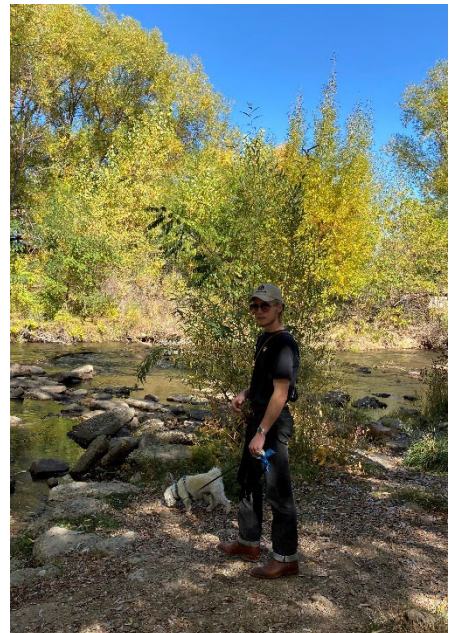
I grew up in Craig Colorado. I am the youngest of three girls. I moved to Denver for college where I received my degree in Fashion Merchandising. After five years in Denver, I moved back to the Yampa Valley and landed in Steamboat Springs about 45 miles east of Craig. I got married and raised two amazing boys in Steamboat.

My oldest son, Marty, is a Ballet Dancer. He studied at Colorado Ballet here in Denver and then at State Street Ballet in Santa Barbara. He is now back in Steamboat teaching dance and running an arts program.

My youngest son, Remy, is a sophomore at the University of Denver/Daniels School of Business. He has Spinal Muscular Atrophy and is in a power wheelchair. He requires a full-time caregiver which is what brought me to the Front Range again in September of 2020. I spent his freshman year living with him in the dorms on campus. I teased my family that for my midlife crisis I went back to college as a freshman. It has been an adventure.

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

I worked in the hospitality industry for about 12 years, starting in Denver at the Westin Tabor Center, then a small hotel in Steamboat called the Iron Horse Inn and finally at the Sheraton in Steamboat. I held various retail jobs, waited tables, worked for a property management company, and a garden center prior to starting in public procurement.



SPOTLIGHT: (Con't)

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

St. Vrain Valley School District. I started October 14, 2020 and by November 4, 2020, we were sent to work from home. It was a very interesting transition to a new job coming from a job I had been at for fourteen years. Luckily before Thanksgiving, my son and I moved from a dorm room to a two-bedroom apartment on campus which made it a lot easier since most of his classes were online and I was working from home.

How did you get into the procurement field?

Somewhat by chance. I always enjoyed purchasing which follows my degree—I just never thought it would be for public sector. I was working at a garden center as the office manager and doing some retail there as well, when I saw a job posting for a Procurement and Risk Management Technician for the City of Steamboat Springs. I thought that was an interesting combination and it would be nice to be in a more year-round position. I interviewed and the next day they offered me the job. I learned from two great ladies (Wendy Dubord and Anne Small) who pushed me to the buyer I am today.

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

The City of Steamboat Springs owns a ski area (Howelsen Hill) and an airport. Purchases for those were always outside the normal box and very challenging. For the Airport, we did a runway project. It involved five different federal grants for the project. It was very complicated keeping each part separate for the grants. For Howelsen hill, right before I left, we did an RFP for a new ski lift.

When did you join RMGPA and what have you enjoyed most about being a member of our organization?

I joined RMGPA in 2006 when I started at the City of Steamboat Springs. Going to the conferences is a great way to network and get to know others in our field. I really enjoy the professional development opportunities—the classes have helped me tremendously in my career advancement.

SPOTLIGHT: (Con't)

How long have you been RMGPA's Chapter Enhancement committee chair and what responsibilities do you have in this role?

I was coerced into taking the position after the Winter Conference, LOL. Just kidding. Prior to Winter conference, I volunteered to get the trade show in place. I have always enjoyed planning and coordinating training sessions so this was a great fit for me. I loved attending vendor trade shows when I was a buyer for the Sheraton Steamboat Golf Course so this is fun planning the other side.

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

I achieved my CPPB in May of 2016 and then my NIGP-CPP in April of 2021. I have never been a great test taker so getting through both of these gives me great pride.

In 2007 another mom and I co-founded and co-chaired a group called Let's All Play with the goal of raising money for universal playgrounds at both elementary schools in Steamboat Springs. After two years of fund raising, we raised almost a million dollars, held a community build in conjunction with Rotary, and completed two universal playgrounds at both elementary schools that included an ice melt system under the playground material for year-round play.

Tell us about your interests/hobbies outside of work.

As you can imagine, my career and caring for my son leaves me with limited free time. My son and I like to binge watch shows and cook breakfast on the weekends. I enjoy hiking and playing with my dog, Abel, when I have the chance. Abel had to stay in Steamboat since I was in the dorms and am now in an apartment.





2022 Awardees

The RMGPA Rewards Program is to recognize RMGPA members who actively participate in the Chapter and the activities organized, hosted or sponsored by NIGP. Awards for \$200 will be given to provide RMGPA members additional education and professional development opportunities.

Diane Britton

Academy School District 20

Melanie Ortiz

Jefferson County

Yana Radu

City of Centennial

Ashley Stogner

Academy School District 20

Congratulations!

Diana Cantu

RMGPA Past-President

Rewards can be used for:

- ❖ CPPB/CPPO Classes
- ❖ CPPB/CPPO Test Application
- ❖ NIGP-CPP Test Application
- ❖ CPPB/CPPO Recertification
- ❖ RMGPA Sponsored NIGP Courses
- ❖ RMGPA Conferences
- ❖ NIGP Forum Registration
- ❖ Any approved NIGP Function

CONGRATULATIONS

The following RMGPA member received
her NIGP-CPP:

Nikki Pollack
Colorado Sate Purchasing Office





WHEREAS, public procurement is an essential function of state government, providing for the purchase of goods and services necessary for the safe and effective operations of the state, including purchases for education, health and human services, transportation, administration, and others; and
WHEREAS, the work of the state procurement office benefits state agencies and citizens alike through the application of the principles of fiscal responsibility and ethical use of taxpayer dollars for the operations of the state; and
WHEREAS, public procurement requires specific knowledge and skills to maintain fair and competitive bid practices, conduct thorough market research, administer effective negotiations for the mutual benefit of the state and supplier, and successfully monitor and evaluate all state contracts; and
WHEREAS, the State of Colorado is supported by a highly qualified and dedicated state procurement staff and governmental procurement organizations that demonstrate professionalism and integrity on all levels and understand the importance of the work they perform for the state, municipalities, counties higher education, school districts and other entities as well as the public; and
WHEREAS, Colorado provides an environment where all organizations are afforded an equal opportunity to compete for business within state, municipal, county, special district, higher education, school district, or other local-area government agencies; and
WHEREAS, governmental procurement organizations across Colorado are committed to the highest ideals of honor and integrity so as to merit the respect and confidence of state, municipal, county, special district, higher education, school district, or other local government agencies, as well as the public, whom they serve; and
WHEREAS, twenty twenty-two marks the 75th Anniversary of the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), which initially formed to help state procurement effectively and efficiently distribute surplus World War II materials and continues to connect state procurement offices across the country for education and networking; and
WHEREAS, twenty twenty-two also commemorates the 30th anniversary of NASPO ValuePoint and its predecessor, the Western States Contracting Alliance, created to offer cooperative purchasing solutions for the benefit of the states and continuing to offer high value, reliable, and competitively sourced contracts; and
WHEREAS, the month of March has been designed as National Procurement Month;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2022 as

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of March, 2022



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor

How Did You Celebrate National Procurement Month?

The City of Englewood posted the following article in their monthly newsletter recognizing public procurement professionals.

Procurement Month



March is Procurement Month. It's time to celebrate the role of the public procurement profession! During this month, we acknowledge all our professionals who make a difference in procurement efficiency and effectiveness. This month provides the opportunity to help educate elected officials, administrators, taxpayers and vendors about the procurement process and the admirable work our members perform every day.

Chelsey Axtell was one of the winners of the NCPP Above & Beyond Award for National Procurement Month

Chelsey Axtell

Purchasing Secretary
St. Vrain Valley Schools, CO

Chelsey is the purchasing secretary and staff have nicknamed her the Super Amazing Awesome Chelsey (SAAC) - we use this abbreviation often. Some of her standard secretarial duties to support purchasing: managing warehouse stock orders and inventory; managing vendor setups district-wide for our financial system (applications, W2's, etc.); assisting staff with bid solicitations such as compiling tabulations, etc.; budget tracking; ordering office supplies, etc.; and much, much more! As the purchasing manager, I never have to give her direction. She takes ownership, and on most occasions, has her work completed before even being asked.

In addition to her normal busy schedule, she has managed all the purchasing and supplies needed to address the pandemic, participated on interview panels to hire new staff members, and volunteered her time and serves as Newsletter Chair of the Rocky Mountain Governmental Chapter of NIGP (RMGPA). On February 14th, 2022, she obtained her NIGP Core Certificate - Foundations of Strategy and Policy. How she does it is an inspiration for all.



Procurement Month Celebrations



Happy Procurement Month from MAPO!



David Musgrave and
Molly McLoughlin
celebrating being
Procurement
Professionals

Celebrate

On March 30, 2022, the Colorado Department of Transportation's Center for Procurement and Contract Services celebrated Procurement Month at its headquarters by having a lunch catered by The Accidental Caterer, a minority and woman-owned business. This gathering was extra special as the Procurement and Contracts team had not been together since March 2020 when the pandemic sent everyone home. Marsha Nelson, CDOT's Chief Equity Officer, Anna Mariotti, with CDOT's Civil Rights team, and Maria Johnson, with CDOT's High Performance Transportation Enterprise, joined as special guests. It was a great time to celebrate the work CDOT Procurement and Contracts do in support of the mission to provide the best multi-modal transportation system for Colorado that most effectively and safely moves people, goods, and information.



NIGP Forum 2022 Registration Now Open

Join Us In Boston | August 20-24

Join Us Virtually | August 22-24

The flagship event for public procurement professionals to learn, connect, and explore innovation in our field.

NIGP Forum is where our procurement communities reconnect, reunite, and prepare for what's next in our profession.

- It's where innovative ideas are shared and worked on collaboratively.
- It's where our profession is exposed to new thinking and prepared to develop new solutions that will reshape our work.
- It's where relationships are forged to support you through your career journey.
- It's where you can find indispensable partners to answer current and future challenges.
- It's where you learn, engage and prepare for all the new possibilities ahead.
- It's where you belong.

[Learn More](#)



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This 3-week blended course consists of on-demand and live instructor sessions.



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Instructors:

Lynda Allair, NIGP-CPP, CPPO

Barb Johnson, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB

Price:

Member: \$1,250

Non-Member: \$1,350

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



This course is essential for any procurement professional to perform their position with best practices in mind. The information provided is indispensable.

Kaitlyn Wall
Procurement Specialist
Helen Ross McNabb Center

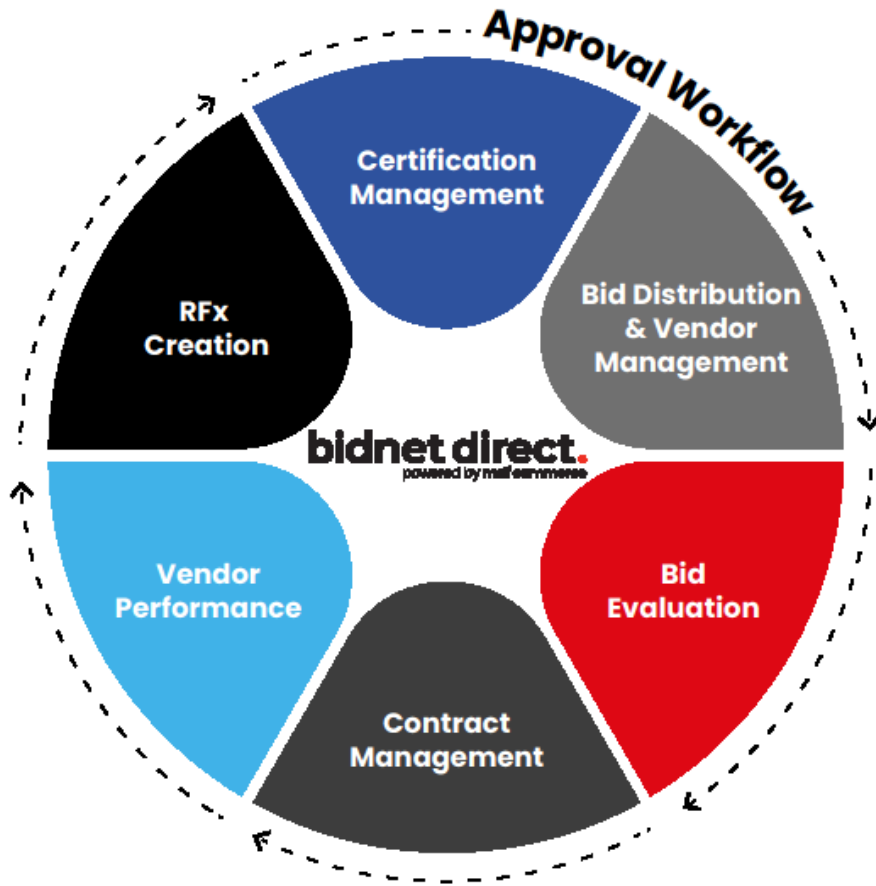
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2022 RMGPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Jon Babcock	president@rmgpa.org	970-490-3545
Vice President	David Musgrave	vicepresident@rmgpa.org	303-757-9861
Secretary	Trudi Peepgrass	secretary@rmgpa.org	303-762-2419
Treasurer	Marisa Donegon, CPPB	treasurer@rmgpa.org	719-641-0402
Past President	Diana Cantu, CPPB	pastpres@rmgpa.org	303-702-7715

2022 STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Sherri Maxwell, CPPB	awards@rmgpa.org	303-866-6212
Chapter Enhancement/ Vendor Liaison	Shelly St. Pierre	vendorevents@rmgpa.org	303-702-8456
Communications	Molly McLoughlin, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB	info@rmgpa.org	720-561-5045
Education/Professional Development	Vera Braeckman-Kennedy	prod@rmgpa.org	303-271-8591
Elections	Skyler Thimens	elections@rmgpa.org	970-443-4780
Historian	Pat Johnson	historian@rmgpa.org	970-221-6816
Legislative	Farrah Bustamante, CPPB, MBA	legislative@rmgpa.org	970-949-1199, ext. 2
Marketing	VACANT	marketing@rmgpa.org	
Membership	Doug Clapp	membership@rmgpa.org	970-622-2292
Newsletter	Chelsey Axtell	newsletter@rmgpa.org	303-702-7769
Programs	Cheryl Gray	programs@rmgpa.org	970-208-9526

2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Mandy Zila	awards@rmgpa.org	303-866-4005
Chapter Enhancement/ Vendor Liaison	Sol Ybarra	vendorevents@rmgpa.org	720-913-8156
Communications	Tim Wellmann, NIGP-CPP, CPPB	info@rmgpa.org	720-702-7734
Education/Professional Development	Valerie Scott	prod@rmgpa.org	303-774-4887
Elections	Tim Wellmann, NIGP-CPP, CPPB	elections@rmgpa.org	303-702-7734
Legislative	Nancy Allen	legislative@rmgpa.org	303-795-4435
Marketing	VACANT	marketing@rmgpa.org	
Membership	Jim Walker, CPPO, CPPB	membership@rmgpa.org	720-442-0708
Newsletter	Kelly Wooden, CPPO, CPPB	newsletter@rmgpa.org	970-443-4780
Programs	Traci Burtnett	programs@rmgpa.org	303-682-7309

