As incoming President, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year. I also extend the same wishes to the MPPA. I am confident that 2006 will see this Association continue to grow and further promote our primary objective of professional development.

I have been involved with MPPA since the mid-eighties and have witnessed its development into the truly professional organization that it is today. I am quite proud of this Association and my involvement in it. I am proud of our members and encourage all of you to increase your involvement as well. Several years ago, I had conversations with two of MPPA’s most respected members and I will never forget the inspirational message they both left with me. That message was simple, its time to give something back. I have taken their message to heart. Again, I encourage you to do the same. The procurement profession has been good to me, so has the MPPA. I sincerely believe that the least I can do at this stage of my career is give something back to this Association, my profession and my peers. As MPPA’s President, I am dedicated to doing just that.

It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge and thank some people who have been mentors and friends throughout my career. My thanks to: the late Dick Conway, Lucy Slaich, Harry Bain, Paul T. Harris, Sr., Bill Schull, Mike Haifley, Brian McAllister and our 2005 President Steve Ports.

On the business side, the MPPA Board has been looking into ways to further assist members with financing personal educational, training or certification endeavors. I thank Darla Herbold for her help in creating and revising the necessary forms. Our efforts have been focused on two areas. Beginning this year, MPPA will provide examination fee reimbursement to members who successfully obtain a professional certification without any financial assistance from their employer. Secondly, and equally important, major revisions have been made to the Zemansky Educational Aid...
application and process. The previous application process was deemed to be cumbersome and an impediment to those wishing to participate. By streamlining and simplifying this process, the Board hopes and expects members to take advantage of this financial support opportunity. Details on these initiatives will be available on the web site.

I look forward to seeing you and serving the MPPA in 2006. I am honored to be the incoming President, following in the footsteps of many MPPA legends. More good things are on the way. Should you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at mpemberton@mdot.state.md.us and I’ll be glad to listen.

MESSAGE FROM OUR NIGP REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

"As your regional Representative I am pleased to inform everyone that the Delaware Chapter will be hosting the 2006 Regional 2 annual conference. The chapter is hard at work already and the dates have been set for October 25-27. On the 25th a one-day seminar on "Principals and Techniques of Problem Solving" will be conducted. Additional information will be forthcoming in the very near future. Please take these dates into consideration when planning your chapter activities next year and please encourage your membership to participate. These regional conferences are getting better each year and are a great means to afford education opportunities to the entire staff."

Thanks.
Ed Grant  609-465-1181

EDUCATION
Rich Shelton

No new news on the education front. We hope to have a fiscal year class/testing schedule out January of 2006. If you have a special class request you may e-mail me at rshelton@ccg.carr.org

Current 2006 Class Offerings Include:
1. Sourcing the Public Sector - March 1, 2, and 3 @ Carroll Community College (CCG)
2. Developing and Managing RFP's in the Public Sector - April 5, 6 and 7 @ CCG
3. Contract Administration - May 3, 4 and 5 @ CCG

MEMBERSHIP
Darla H. Herbold, CPPO

MPPA warmly welcomes the following professional purchasing practitioner who was accepted into membership on December 14, 2005, by the MPPA Executive Board

MEETING:
Jackie R. Wolfe
Contract Specialist
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Greenbelt Road, Building 17
Greenbelt, MD 20771
Phone: (410) 919-7207
Fax: None
E-mail: Jackiewolfe@gmail.com

RECOGNITION REPORT
Pam Jones, CPPB, MBA, CPM

Announcements
Please remember, if you’d like to forward information to be published (e.g., recent certification, promotion, etc.), please contact me at pam.jones@montgomerycountymd.gov or Tom at thomas.savoie@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Awards
Reminder—the recipients of the Zemansky and Distinguished Service Awards will be announced and presented with their awards at the Installation of Officers and Directors Reception on January 28, 2006 at the BWI Marriott.

Please begin gathering your documentation early if you are interested in being considered for the Buyer or Manager of the Year Awards for next year. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else deserving, an application for candidacy will need to be submitted. Applications will be due sometime in March to my attention for submission to the Board. To get an early start, you can review the criteria, directions, and entry forms on NIGP’s website at http://www.nigp.org/awards/Individual.htm; look on the right table for the links to Buyer of the Year and Manager of the Year.

Educational Aide
The Stanley D. Zemansky Scholarship Program Application Procedure has been redesigned. The new procedure captures the required information in an application format. We hope this will make applying for the scholarship more user-friendly and encourage more eligible MPPA members to apply. The new instruction and application should be on the MPPA website as of January 1, 2006.

The Board has approved a new educational tool to benefit its membership. MPPA has established educational aide to reimburse eligible MPPA members that pass their certification exam, and whose agencies do not pay for their certification exam, the cost of the exam fee. We hope this will encourage and aid more members in becoming certified in the Profession. This educational aide will be effective as of January 1, 2006; please visit the MPPA website for posting of the instructions and application in January.
New Certification/Recertification

**Note:** NIGP has changed the way it posts certifications on its website. Certifications/Re-certifications are no longer viewable by month historically, but are listed in real time as they are approved and then placed in a database searchable by name. Therefore, please inform me if you have or know of someone that has recently been certified/re-certified to ensure their names are captured and they are recognized. I will work with NIGP to see how I can track the certifications/re-certifications. For this Newsletter, I had NIGP e-mail me a list by month (from May through November).

CONGRATULATIONS to the following individuals:

**New CPPB/CPPO (report from NIGP)**

1. Mary Heckhaus, CPPB, Buyer, City of Rockville (July)
2. Barbara Hufnagel, CPPB, Contract Administrator/MBE Liaison, Towson University (July)
3. Mark Krysiak, CPPO, C.P.M., General Manager, Contract Administration, Maryland Port Administration (CPPO-September)
4. Steven Greber, JD, CPPB, Procurement Officer, Maryland Department of General Services (CPPB-September)
5. Janet Sites, CPPB, Purchasing Assistant, Harford County Public Schools (October)
6. Carol Stock, CPPO, CPPB, Chief, Construction and Maintenance Section, Maryland Aviation Administration (CPPO-November)
7. Marsha Coleman, CPPB, Procurement Specialist I, City of Baltimore Purchase Bureau (November)
8. Karen DeLuca, CPPB, Procurement Specialist I, Montgomery County Government (November)
9. Paulette Gough-Peace, CPPB, Purchasing Assistant, City of Baltimore Purchase Bureau (November)
10. Brian McAllister, CPPB, Assistant Director – Procurement, Maryland Department of Transportation (November)  
    Mark Pemberton, President-Elect and fellow co-worker, says, “That this proves that an old dog can indeed learn a new trick!!”  
    Note: Brian is doing well health wise following his surgery earlier this year.
11. Jeffrey Mullaney, CPPB, Procurement Specialist I, City of Baltimore Purchase Bureau (November)
12. Robert Norris, CPPB, Procurement Specialist I, Montgomery County Government (November)
13. Kevin Schramm, CPPB, Purchasing Agent II, Montgomery Community College (November)

**Retirement:**

Ken Queen was a Buyer for Anne Arundel County for 20+ years prior to being promoted to an Office Automated Specialist for the ERP System Team within the last
year. Ken has accepted a position as a Buyer for Garrett County, Maryland. His retirement with Anne Arundel County will be effective December 31, 2005. Best wishes to Ken in his “retirement” and new position.

RETIRED AGAIN!
As of 30 November, retired MPPA member Paul Harris is retired again! Paul said to tell everyone that he decided to take some time off to "smell the roses”.

Get Well
We have recently learned that Warren K. Wright, CPPO, C.P.M., a former president of MPPA and an initial recipient of our Stanley D. Zemansky Award (presented in January, 1991), is seriously ill.

Warren is known to our early members for his dedication and extensive work in helping found MPPA, gaining charter by NIGP effective 1980. Most recently, he is serving as MPPA Public Affairs Chairman.

MPPA sends our thoughts and prayers to Warren for a full and speedy recovery. Cards or notes with well wishes may lift his spirits; his e-mail address is: warrenkwright@aol.com.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2005

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The next meeting will be held at the BWI Marriott on Saturday, January 28, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost per person is $30.00. Need to RSVP by January 24, 2006 to Pat Tarpley (ptarpley@dllr.state.md.us). Please mail your check to the Treasurer, Donita Hood, 3833 Arbutus Avenue, Gwynn Oak, MD 21207.

DIRECTIONS TO BWI MARRIOTT

The menu includes:
The Cumulus
Caesar Style Salad with Herbed Focaccia Croutons, Grated Parmesan
And Creamy Garlic Dressing
Artichoke, Hearts and Palm and Crab Salad
Marinated Vine Ripened Tomato, Fresh Mozzarella and Basil

Grilled Pork Medallions with Ginger Honey Glaze
Stuffed Breast of Chicken Florentine with Roasted Red Pepper Cream Sauce
Oven Poached Salmon with Caramelized Lemon Butter

Saffron Basmati Rice Pilaf
Vegetable Medley
Assortment of Rolls and Butter
Chef’s Selection of Assorted Desserts
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Assortment of Herbal Teas, Iced Tea

DATES OF FUTURE ISSUES:  March, May, July, September, November 2006

DEADLINE DATES FOR PUBLICATION SUBMITTALS:

Friday, February 24, 2006
Friday, April 21, 2006
Friday, June 23, 2006
Friday, August 18, 2006
Friday, October 20, 2006

Please send all contributions to:

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