

**63rd Annual IAAP International
Convention & Education Forum
July 26-31, 2008
Hilton Riverside – New Orleans, LA**

**Report of the Cape Cod Chapter Delegate
Sharon K. McPherson, CAP**

It was my pleasure to serve as the Cape Cod Chapter's delegate to the 63rd Annual IAAP International Convention and Education Forum. This was my fifth opportunity to attend the annual convention and third serving as the chapter's delegate. Sandra Cashen, CAP attended as the chapter's alternate. No other members of Cape Cod Chapter were in attendance.

Our journey to New Orleans began on Friday, July 25, 2008 when we traveled to Boston and met up with members of the Connecticut River Valley Chapter. We enjoyed a nice dinner and spent the night at a Courtyard Hotel as we had an early flight on Saturday morning. When we arrived at Logan airport, we met several other GNED members who were taking the same flight.



We proudly wore our New England "uniforms" to travel to New Orleans.

Upon our arrival in New Orleans, we settled into our hotel, picked up our registration materials and selected seats for the banquet. Later that evening, Sandy and I accompanied Bob Marshall and Linda Edwards (CT River Valley Chapter) to a WalMart Superstore where we shopped for groceries. Since the four of us were staying at a Residence Inn, we were elected to host the GNED convention social – a barbecue on Monday evening. We had to shop for the barbecue as well as our groceries for the week. When we finished, we had a total of four full carts; one for Sandy and I, one for Bob & Linda and two for the BBQ. A severe thunderstorm struck as we reached the exit and Bob called for a taxi. We waited and waited and waited . . . it was one and a half hours later before we finally got a taxi. We all got soaked as we loaded the groceries in water up to our ankles and pouring rain. We didn't think it was funny at the time but we now have a good story to tell.

The business session opened on Sunday morning with the Parade of Nations, Presentation of Colors, Inspirational Message and singing of the National Anthem. The Inspirational Message was a bit different than what we are accustomed to. A jazz band from the New Orleans High School for Gifted and Talented Students performed a musical jazz funeral. After routine business and announcement of attendance (434 delegates and proxies, 1976 total attendees), candidates for International Office were allowed to speak to the assembly for two minutes each. This year was a bit different as there were several candidates running from the floor and a contest for each office except for President. Judy McCoy CPS/CAP, our 2007-2008 International President addressed the assembly as well as Executive Director Don Brethauer. Following the addresses, watches were presented to the Distinguished Chapter Presidents and then we headed off to the Office Expo where we had the opportunity to speak with vendors and collect some great sample products.

On Sunday afternoon delegates and alternates were afforded the opportunity of meeting with candidates and the Evening of Welcome took place on Sunday evening with another opportunity to speak with candidates and a "Mardi Gras" with music and dancing.

On Monday morning we listened to keynote speaker Simon T. Bailey on "Kick It Up a Notch". Mr. Bailey's presentation was inspiring and engaging. Voting occurred on the proposed bylaw amendments: Amendment 1 – Passed; Amendment 2 – Failed; Amendment 3 – Passed; Amendment 4 – Passed. Standing Rules Amendment 1 – Failed; Amendment 2 – Passed. (copies attached) Before the session ended, members of the Great Lakes Division presented two motions for delegate's consideration on Tuesday.

We attended the Leadership Luncheon with Brian Blasko presenting "Cruising through Life at 35 MPH: Strategies to Keep Your Internal Engine Running Smoothly."

Monday afternoon was spent voting (two ballots were necessary) and working at the 2010 Boston Convention Booth at the Office Expo in between ballots. It was a great opportunity to meet folks from around the world and we also raised some much needed funds for the convention with raffles and the sale of bean pot pins. Judging from the comments of those who visited the booth, the 2010 convention should be well attended.

As I mentioned earlier, Sandy and Linda Edwards assisted Bob Marshall and I in hosting the GNED Social (actually we couldn't have done it without them). We prepared salads, hotdogs and hamburgers for our 34 guests. Initially we were to hold the event in the courtyard of the hotel near the barbecue area but because of the extreme heat and humidity we moved indoors to one of the meeting rooms. It was a great evening and opportunity to network with our friends from the Northeast District.

On Tuesday morning we learned the results of the elections and the following officers were installed:

Barb Horton CAP, President
Susan Shamali CPS/CAP, President-Elect
Mary Ramsay Drow CPS/CAP, Vice President
Janine Joy Riemersma CPS/CAP, Secretary
Karlana Rannals CPS/CAP, Treasurer
Jennifer Hinkson CMP, Affiliate Representative
Judith Yannarelli CPS/CAP, Northeast District Director
Valerie King CPS/CAP, Northwest District Director
Antoinette Smith CPS/CAP, Southwest District Director

Katherine Fogal CPS/CAP, Canada District Director; Sam Gill CPS, Great Lakes District Director and Tamra Goodall CPS/CAP, Southeast District Director will serve their second year of a two year term in 2008-2009.

Three members of the GNED were unsuccessful in their election bid: Linda Lorden CPS/CAP, Vice President; Gerry Brunell CPS/CAP, Secretary and Claudette Renock CPS/CAP, Treasurer.

Motions put forward by Great Lakes members were voted on:

Motion 1: I move that the International Board of Directors compile behavioral guidelines that define/describe "misconduct" as applies to any IAAP officer at any level of the association. These guidelines should include the wording, "including, but not limited to," and should also define appropriate levels of sanction up to removal from office for violation of the guidelines. This should be accomplished in time for submission to the delegates for their approval at the 2009 international convention.

Motion Passed

Motion 2: I move that all chapters of IAAP be given online membership registration capability with implementation no later than January 1, 2009.

Motion Passed

On Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday, workshops were offered. If anyone is interested in learning more or receiving copies of the handouts from those listed below, please contact us:

Sharon

Making, Managing, Enhancing and Using Digital Images
Cool New Software
Overview Microsoft Office 2007
Excel Tips and Tricks

Sandy

Business Etiquette: The Little Things That Make the Difference
Writing Compelling and Results Oriented copy for the Web
Creating a Charmed Life
Creating Confidence Out of Chaos

Tuesday evening Andy Childs performed at the Evening of Entertainment and on Wednesday evening the banquet was held, President Horton gave her incoming speech via video* and division awards were presented.

On Thursday morning we both attended the post-convention leadership workshop where the Pathways to Excellence Program (copy attached) was discussed and Cal Lemon presented "Leadership Responses to Moving the Furniture."

On Thursday afternoon we had the opportunity to tour the city via streetcars. One of the highlights was City Park that just reopened two weeks ago. We also had an opportunity to visit the French Quarter and Café Dumonde where we sampled Beignets - - they are simply sinful! All in all it was a very busy but good week.

Friday morning came quickly and we returned home.

By the way, when you see Sandy be sure to ask her how she enjoyed Bourbon St.!

*President McCoy announced that Ms. Horton has been undergoing chemotherapy treatments for cancer (did not disclose what kind) and therefore had to limit the amount of time that she was with crowds because she could not risk catching a cold or some other illness. She attended the business sessions and addressed all other gatherings including the banquet and leadership workshop via video.