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THE NORTH FLORIDA PROCUREMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

RANDY WALLIS

October 15th is our Annual Membership Appreciation Meeting. Our last two Membership Appreciation Meetings have been great, but I think this one is going to be our best one yet. Not only do you get a great shot at winning door prizes, and vote on who will be leading NFPA in 2009, this year we have the honor of having the newly elected President of NIGP, Kirk Buffington, as our guest speaker. If you have been in Public Procurement in Florida for long, you know Kirk. He has been instrumental in putting Florida second to none in Public Procurement and I think it is safe to say that Kirk is the face of Public Procurement in our state.

Our Grand Prize once again is two tickets to a Jaguar Game. This year it will be the November 16, 2008, game against the Titans. Since we played the Titans the opening Sunday game and lost, I am sure it will be an exciting contest. The Jags have not started out great but all their games have been close and they have always played their best games late in the season so it promises to be a great match up. Of course, besides our Grand Prize, we have several restaurant gift cards and gas cards to give away and TidBits always puts together a great lunch.

Lastly, this will be my last meeting before I turn the gavel over to the new President and it has been a great honor to serve as your President for the last two years. Even though I am leaving the Presidency, I am staying on the Board and will be an active member of the organization. I would like to thank you all for your support over the last two years. Since I have never been a part of NFPA when I was not a Board Officer, I am looking forward to seeing it from the other side. I would also like to say a special thank you to Larry Ganger, our Vice-president. When Tammy Bong had to step down, I knew Larry would be an outstanding Vice-president (and had to persuade him a little) and I was right. The Vice-president may look like an easy job but there are a lot of phone calls, meetings, and work that goes on behind the scenes that you may not be aware of. Larry chose not to ascend to the President position but the organization owes a lot of its success to him and I thank him for his service.

Thanks again, and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Since it is Membership Appreciation, it is **FREE**. However, please remember you need to register so we will have the correct food count. See you on the 15th!

Randy D. Wallis, MSA, CPPB

President NFPA

Did you know?

Many agencies cite the
*Florida Inter-local
Cooperation Act of 1969*
(F.S. 163.01) as their
authority to purchase
from contracts of other
organizations and
political entities, both in-
state and out-of- state.

THE QUOTE OF THE DAY

We don't accomplish
anything in this world
alone ... and whatever
happens is the result
of the whole tapestry
of one's life and all
the weavings of
individual threads
from one to another
that creates
something.

Sandra Day O'Connor
(1930 -)

FROM LARRY GANGER, VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all our NFPA members. It seems once again the year is fleeting by. Fall is already upon us. I'm sure everyone has had a very busy year and many entities are struggling with budget woes from falling revenues (I know we are). All the more reason for us to escape our offices and shed some stress for while to attend the Annual NFPA Membership Appreciation Meeting! This meeting always gives us one of those too-seldom opportunities to interact with our fellow professionals in a casual setting. Please make a point to attend this enjoyable and educational event. You'll be glad you did!

As Randy mentioned, I have chosen not to be a candidate for the position of NFPA President. Though I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as an officer, I don't believe I could do justice to the office of the President. Besides, Randy is a tough act to follow! ☺ I will, however, continue to participate as a member of the Board of Directors and remain involved with committee activities.

So, thanks to everyone! I hope to see you all on October 15th! Be sure to mark your calendars!



2nd QUARTERLY MEMBER MEETING

Our Annual Membership Appreciation Meeting will be held on at **11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 15th**. Lunch will once again be provided by Tidbits. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Kirk Buffington, this year's distinguished President of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP). Kirk will address the audience regarding the benefits of membership and the exciting developments in the organization. This presentation will undoubtedly be an interesting and informative event.

About Our Speaker: Kirk Buffington is currently the Director of the Department of Procurement Services for the City of Fort Lauderdale, FL, having recently been promoted from Assistant Director of Administrative Services. Before coming to the City of Fort Lauderdale, Kirk was the Purchasing Agent for Osceola County. In addition Kirk has purchasing experience with the Orange County School Board, and in the private sector, as a Grocery Buyer with the Wal-Mart Corporation, and as a Receiving Supervisor with the Walt Disney World Co.

Kirk has a B.S. in Business Administration from Florida State University, and an MBA, with an emphasis in Procurement Management, from Webster University, St. Louis, MO. He is currently pursuing his Masters in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University.

Kirk has been a Certified Purchasing Manager since 1995, having just recently received his lifetime certification, and is also a Certified Public Purchasing Officer (CPPO/NIGP).

Mr. Buffington has served as President of the Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers, and previously served as Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-President. He has served on the NIGP (National Institute of Governmental Purchasing) national FORUM committee, and is past chair of the NIGP Research Committee. In July of 2003, Kirk was elected to the NIGP Board of Directors, representing Region VII, including Florida, Guam and Puerto Rico. Mr. Buffington, was elected to the Executive Committee of NIGP in 2007, and currently serves as the First Vice-President. He will serve as the 2008 Institute President.

In addition to his activities with NIGP, Mr. Buffington has also served the National Purchasing Institute, NPI, on their Selection and Evaluation Committee for the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award.

Mr. Buffington co-authored the new NIGP LEAP text "The Legal Aspects of Purchasing" now being used in the LEAP curriculum for certification and educational development. Additionally, he has published numerous articles in the NIGP Tech Bulletin, and various articles concerning Procurement Case Law in the state and local NIGP and FAPPO newsletters. He has also participated in writing two white papers on e-procurement and e-signatures for the National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council (NECCC).

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO CONTINUE
TO MAKE NFPA A SUCCESS!!