

MIDDLE TENNESSEE PUBLIC PURCHASING NEWS

JANUARY, 2007



CCURRY'S CORNER:

Well let me begin by saying Happy New Year to each of you! I know you will join with me in applauding Stan Melton for his dynamic leadership and accomplishments while at the helm of our chapter for 2006. Dave Hatcher and Kim Marable also deserve congratulations for each one being named "Member of the Year" for 2006.

While we can take pride in how far our Middle Tennessee Public Purchasing Association (MTPPA) has come, we look forward with great anticipation and vigor to conquering the challenges that lie ahead.

I hope to see you at our January 2007 meeting. Let's make it a record breaking attendance for the New Year!

Thanks in advance for your participation, suggestions, and innovative ideas as we work together in growing our chapter.

Curry

Curry Corder, Chapter President

MIDDLE TENNESSEE PUBLIC PURCHASING ASSOCIATION

NIGP CHAPTER #22 NEWSLETTER JANUARY, 2007

January Meeting

Who is the Speaker? Nancy A. Vincent

What is the program? Legal Aspects of Government Procurement and Contracting

Where is the meeting? Nashville Electric Service, 13th Avenue (D.B. Todd) & Church Street

When will it be? 11:30 a.m. Thursday January 18th Finished before 1 p.m.

Why are we meeting? To hear a good speaker, network with others, and professional development

How can I make a reservation? Email Chapter Secretary Jay Thompson
jethompson@nespower.com





**Minutes of the Middle Tennessee Public Purchasing Association
December 12, 2006**

December 12, 2006

After a wonderful holiday meal accompanied by music from Donna Melton, President Stan Melton called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30. The group then sang "Winter Wonderland". At this time Curry Corder led some of the gentlemen in singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and Cheryl Ralston led some of the ladies in singing "Silent Night".

The following members were presented a gift of appreciation for their various services during 2006. Curry Corder, Kim Marable, Helen Crowley, Robin Dieterich, Dave Hatcher, Angie McDonald, Sondra Howe, Paula Cole, Ken Hackett, and Donna Melton. Stan then awarded Kim Marable and Dave Hatcher as MTPPA members of the year.

Helen Crowley presented Stan with a gift of appreciation for his service as President in 2006 and Curry Corder also presented Stan and his wife Donna with a gift of appreciation.

Stan swore in the following members as 2007 officers by a candlelight ceremony.

President – Curry Corder
Vice President of Programs – Amanda Cochran
Vice President of Professional Development – Dave Hatcher
Vice President of Membership – Robin Dieterich
Secretary – Jay Thompson

Ken Hackett will be sworn in as Treasurer at the January meeting

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Hatcher, Secretary



JANUARY SPEAKER

Nancy A. Vincent

Nancy A. Vincent is an attorney in the Nashville office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, and Berkowitz. She is a member of the Firm's Corporate group, and concentrates her practice in the areas of government contracts, including state and federal procurement transactions and administrative law. Ms. Vincent advises companies on regulatory matters, and has particular expertise and experience in federal and state procurement and construction laws and regulations. She advises companies with regard to government procurement processes, both formal and informal, from developing the regulations and solicitations, through the award and contracting process. She served as Vice President of Legal Affairs & Government Relations for the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority from 2003 to 2005, where she was primary counsel in connection with all bids and contracts relating to all aspects of procurement and government contracts, including design and construction services, the acquisition of goods, and the acquisition of general professional services. Ms. Vincent also represents owners and professionals in construction law disputes and governmental entities in administrative matters and disputes.

Ms. Vincent attended Vanderbilt University School of Law, J.D., 1993; University of Kentucky, M.B.A., 1987; and Western Kentucky University, B.S., Electrical Engineering Technology, 1981. Her professional honors and activities include:

- Secretary and Treasurer for the Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization
- Member and a former Second Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Nashville Bar Association
- Member of the Lawyers' Association for Women
- Member of the District 5 Committee of the Board of Law Examiners
- Member of the Vanderbilt University Conflicts Committee
- Former Board Member of the Nashville Bar Association Pro Bono Program
- Former Hearing Committee Member of the Board of Professional Responsibility for the Supreme Court of Tennessee
- Former member of the Board of Advisors for the Center for Entrepreneurship at Belmont University
- Member of the Napier-Looby, Nashville, Tennessee and American Bar Associations

She has been admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. She is also a member of the Metropolitan Charter Revision Committee, Board of Directors of the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley, Rotary Club of Nashville, Board Member - Center for Nonprofit Management, and Executive Board Member - Harry Phillips American Inn of Court (1998-2007), member since 1997.

FROM AMANDA COCHRAN- VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAMS

UPPCC Announces New Exams in 2008

The Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC) announces it will introduce new examinations for its public procurement certifications - Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) and Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO) in 2008.

The announcement comes on the heels of UPPCC's first Item Writing Workshop attended by over 100 certificants in Tampa, Florida on August 5. Through their participation, 600 new examination questions were created. The UPPCC plans to offer question writing workshops on a regular basis to current certificants who are interested in contributing to the on-going success of the certification programs. Questions produced during these workshops will be used to build new exams.

Workshop participants receive specialized instruction on how to develop high-quality, situational test questions. Among testing professionals, the situational-type question is the preferred method for assessing a candidate's knowledge, skills, and abilities for the purposes of professional certification. Situational questions require candidates to use a combination of skills which includes practical on-the-job experience and textbook preparation/study.

"The UPPCC is committed to continuously upgrading the content and the quality of our examinations as we strive to become the globally accepted certification(s) for public purchasing professionals" said UPPCC Council Chairman Don Buffum, CPPO. *"We've consulted with the best in the professional credentialing field and will be building the new exams and enhancing the overall programs based on best practices in certification."*

Above from NIGP Buy Weekly December 20, 2006

UPPCC Discontinues 'Delayed Eligibility' In August 2007

Since 2002, the UPPCC has offered applicants the option of applying for certification under delayed eligibility status. Delayed Eligibility allows individuals to take the certification examination(s) prior to fully meeting experience and/or coursework requirements. If successful on the examination(s), the UPPCC withholds the certification until all requirements are met. Delayed eligibility status has allowed applicants to pursue certification and earn practical experience and coursework hours simultaneously.

With the introduction of situational questions into the new examinations in 2008, it will be essential for all exam candidates to possess the prescribed practical experience listed in the appropriate eligibility schedule prior to sitting for the examination. Therefore, the practice of applying under delayed eligibility is being phased out of the UPPCC application process. *"The Council is dedicated to ensuring that all candidates are given equal opportunity to be successful in their certification endeavors, thus we feel it our responsibility to ensure that all applicants have met all eligibility requirements including education hours and experience before testing occurs,"* added Buffum.

What does this mean for candidates "in process" under Delayed Eligibility? Individuals with applications on file under delayed eligibility will be permitted to continue based on the previous delayed eligibility policy under which the individual applied.

If it becomes necessary for those applicants to reapply, the program policies in effect at the time of re-application will apply. All current candidates in delayed eligibility status will receive correspondence from UPPCC staff confirming their status as well as identifying any outstanding experience and/or coursework requirements within thirty (30) calendar days of this announcement.

What does this mean for new applicants for certification requesting Delayed Eligibility?

Delayed eligibility will be phased out over the coming year. Though new applicants may still apply under delayed eligibility status through August 31, 2007, they should recognize that any outstanding experience or coursework requirements must be met by the end of the phase out period of August 31, 2007. As of September 1, 2007 any applicant applying for UPPCC certifications must fully meet all eligibility requirements at the time of application.

Certification fees will remain the same, however those applicants who cannot qualify and will no longer have the option of delaying eligibility may request a partial refund of certification fees. Certification fees (application, initial exam(s), and administrative fees) are combined into one payment payable to UPPCC at the time of application. However, in the event the application is not approved, the applicant may receive a refund representative of the portion associated with the examination fee(s).

The "[Handbook for Professional Certification in Public Procurement](#)" has been updated to reflect the changes in this announcement. Applicants for certification must utilize the current edition of the application (September 2006) and are responsible for program policies and procedures as outlined in the current Handbook (September 2006).

For more information please visit the Frequently Asked Questions on www.uppcc.org.

Above from "NIGP Buy Weekly" December 6, 2006.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday January 18, 2007 Lunch Meeting at NES

Thursday February 15, 2007 Lunch Meeting at NES

March, 2007 is Purchasing Month

The 2007 NIGP Annual Forum will be held August 4-8 in Hartford, Connecticut. For information on Hartford, go to: www.enjoyhartford.com/index.cfm

The "Links" tab on our web site (www.mtppa.net) contains many useful websites. When you get a chance, check them out. Please email our webmaster, Donna Melton, if you have other helpful procurement related web sites that need to be added at donna.melton@comcast.net



Photos by Chapter Photographer **Angie McDonald** of December Meeting





Member Spotlight – Bob Watkins



Bob Watkins is the Purchasing Agent for Metro Nashville public Schools. He has been in the procurement profession and an active chapter member for 14 years. His MTPPA involvement includes serving on a number of committees over the years as well as both Vice President and President.

Bob and his staff purchase a wide variety of things needed by the School District. Bob stated that he liked the more complicated or controversial procurement which are usually a lot more interesting. He also enjoys the RFP process.

Bob was asked: What words of wisdom or “lesson learned” advice would you have for people entering into the procurement profession for the first time? His answer was “Never assume that a procurement involves a “simple” commodity or service. Each one has its own unique aspects, some of which will be helpful to know to accomplish the procurement effectively. The best sources of information on this are the vendors who supply the commodity or service. Cultivate relationships with them.”

Bob is particularly proud of the \$2.5 million procurement of copy machines for Metro schools. It was the first time they provided centrally funded copiers so the schools were delighted. He prepared the bid, evaluated them, recommended the award and has administered the contracts for the last five years. The two contractors have performed very well. He is now dealing with a rising number of maintenance issues as the machines age and deciding how to transition from the initial program to a successor. Having had the responsibility for the project from inception and throughout has been quite rewarding.

Bellevue is where Bob and his family call home. He stated that in his hierarchy of values, family is first, personal integrity second and career third. His wife is Kathy Morante, an assistant district attorney for Metro. He has five children: Emily, in law school at the University of Virginia, Ben, a freshman at Tennessee Tech, Karen and Leslie, twins who are seniors at Hillsboro High School and Sybil, in the seventh grade at Martin Luther King Magnet.

His hobbies/after hours activities include walking with a recorded book on his MP3 and he enjoys eating and cooking. His doctor says he needs to walk for 45 minutes at least five times per week and he sometimes exceeds this. He is active in his Church, the Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist.

Bob's listed “trees” as his pets. Another interesting fact about Bob is that he appeared in his bathrobe on the television program *Sixty Minutes* as one of Ronald Reagan's Dirty Dozen (second tier).

Chapter members can network with Bob Watkins at bob.Watkins@mnps.org or phone 259-89488.

\$\$\$ From the Treasurer-Ken Hackett: Membership dues are only \$15 per year and are for the calendar year. Please use the attached membership form and send to me along with your check. Thanks. Ken



Mid-TN Public Purchasing Association

A Chapter of NIGP

2007 Membership Application

January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

Circle one: **New Member** **Renewal**

NIGP Member **yes** **no**

NAME & CERTIFICATION: _____

TITLE: _____

AGENCY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone # _____ **Fax #** _____

E-mail _____

Dues are \$15.00 per person.

Mail completed application and payment to:
Mr. Ken Hackett, Treasurer
Metro Purchasing
222 3rd Avenue North, 6th Floor
Nashville. TN 37201

Mid-TN Chapter of NIGP provides professional enrichment and leadership for men and women employed in the field of public purchasing.

Meetings are the third Thursday of the month. For a schedule of meeting programs and locations, contact the chapter vice-president or visit our web site: www.MTPPA.net.



MTPPA 2007 Chapter Officers

President-----Curry Corder: 271-1743 curry.corder@mnps.org
Vice President-Program Chair-----Amanda Cochran: 747-3759 acochran@nespower.com
1st Vice President-Professional Development Chair--Dave Hatcher: 862-6748 dave.hatcher@nashville.gov
2nd Vice President – Membership Chair-----Robin Dieterich: 741-1010 robin.dieterich@state.tn.us
Secretary-----Jay Thompson: 747-3758 jethompson@nespower.com
Treasurer-----Ken Hackett: 862-6648 ken.hackett@nashville.gov

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Editor – Stan Melton

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Please send chapter news items and articles of interest to:

Stan.melton@nashville.gov

