

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- COVID-19
- Virtual Forum
- NEW Membership Benefits
- 9th Annual RVTS



**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Unprecedented: COVID-19	1
Forum 2020	2
Membership Benefits	3
2020 Board	3
Upcoming Training	3
9th Annual RVTS	4
Member Spotlight	6
COVID-19 Resources	7
Procurement Month 2020	7
NIGP-CPP	8
NIGP Performance Standards Seal	8
Membership Updates	9

Procurement Prose

IDAHO PUBLIC PURCHASING ASSOCIATION'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2020

Letter from the President



Hello!

Well what a 2020 we have had so far this year...and it's quick-

ly passing us by. I sure hope everyone is staying safe and healthy out there and adjusting to this new "normal" while giving yourselves some time for self-care.

Our Board met in February with so many exciting goals and objectives for the upcoming year including many in-person trainings and Lunch & Learns, social and philanthropic events, and outreach to other parts of the state including possible trainings and/or events not just in the Treasure Valley. Well we started off with a bang with a couple of

NIGP trainings, our Winter Dinner Meeting where we swore in our new Board of Directors, and celebrating Procurement Month in March. Soon after that we had to start cancelling upcoming events and put some on hold as things have been changing almost weekly. We had to start thinking outside the box.

The first thing that came to my mind when all of this started was: *how do we continue to provide value to our members?* This is really important to me as your president - to continue to provide value as an organization while many work from home. So we immediately started brainstorming and talking as a Board about ideas to keep you all engaged and how to provide tools and education to you during this difficult time.

We've tried our luck at virtual and I think it's been going well!

Thank you for supporting us in this change and for interacting during our meetings and trainings. We've received good feedback so far and hope to continue to be able to provide more of these trainings free of charge or at a minimal cost since some are experiencing budget cuts. A big change to note will be the upcoming RVTS in November. Our committee has been hard at work—we hope you will join us in this exciting virtual show.

We are here for you as a resource so if there's any way at all we can help or support you, please reach out. I look forward to being able to meet everyone and converse in person again....until then, "virtual handshake!" I hope everyone has a great rest of your summer and has a chance to enjoy some sunshine.

- Alyssa Ellington, NIGP-CPP, CPPB, IPPA President

Unprecedented: COVID-19 & Procurement Processes

Around February and March 2020, life changed drastically around the U.S. and in Idaho. The once elusive virus that originated in China and moved to parts of Europe and other countries now made it to our shores, changing how Americans live, work, and play. We were thrown into a new way of doing

business: working from home. This proved well for those procurement professionals with the appropriate technology and e-procurement systems, but for those without as many technological resources, it was more of a transition. For example, Ada County Procurement was lucky enough to have already put in



place their e-Procurement system, Bonfire, in late 2019, so it was almost a seamless transition working in the office to working from their living rooms. Other agencies in the Treasure Valley have implemented e-Procurement systems or bid notification systems, including

Unprecedented: COVID-19 Cont.

The City of Boise who uses DemandStar and BidNet and The City of Meridian who has also recently implemented Bonfire. Having these systems already in place helped these and other procurement agencies across the country get their business done effectively and efficiently while forced to work from home.

Another major and swift change was agencies having to learn quickly how to source the critically needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This was made more difficult with the bombardment of email blasts and phone calls from suppliers that no one had ever heard of previously. Extra work had to be done to verify that suppliers were legitimate and actually had the inventory they said they had. Many of us

must be old pros at obtaining PPE now!

It has been an interesting and unprecedented time for the country, government agencies, and especially those in public procurement. We have demonstrated again as procurement professionals that we can offer our services in unique and beneficial ways when the need calls for it.



"You are our heroes and represent public service at its best."

NIGP Forum 2020

We were so excited this year to celebrate the milestone 75th anniversary of NIGP in Chicago, attend the beautiful gala, and experience the usual wonderful networking and educational opportunities that NIGP Forum has to offer. Un-

fortunately, the pandemic made this morph into a different event. Even though it did not occur in Chicago, NIGP blew us away with a completely virtual show that still offered amazing keynotes, numerous educational sessions, and even



On behalf of NIGP, I want to express how thankful we are to our public procurement community for working tirelessly and doing whatever it takes to keep us safe during these unprecedented times.

Whether it's procuring testing kits for COVID-19, medical supplies to support hospitals, supplies and equipment for emergency command locations, protective gear for first responders, or chemicals to keep our water free from contaminants – your efforts save lives.

You are our heroes and represent public service at its best. Forum is a celebration of our community and the support we give one another in good times and in bad. This year we come together virtually to share your greatness, engage and inspire one another and develop strong meaningful connections for a better tomorrow because you define and embody procurement excellence.

The NIGP Forum 2020 is a celebration for you and about you. Enjoy this unique five-day virtual learning extravaganza.



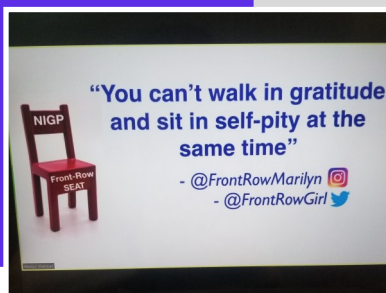
Rick Grimm, CPPO, CPPB, FCIPS
Chief Executive Officer, NIGP

some virtual networking opportunities! August 24-28 included a variety of sessions from topics on construction to COVID-19 to sustainability and the best part, they are available on demand through the end of the year (a perk we

don't usually have with Forum.) There was also an impressive live virtual exhibit hall every day where you could check out the vendors involved and interact on a live chat.

Due to saving money from not having to travel to Chicago, IPPA was able to offer nine scholarships to our members to attend the Virtual Forum. Because of this we had the most ever IPPA member attendees at one time at a Forum.

Although we did not get to meet in Chicago, we left feeling energized with lots of great information and ideas to bring back to our agencies and we hope to see you next year in Anaheim!



New Membership Benefits

New Member Directory

IPPA has always managed a membership directory via Excel, but now we have added a feature to the website to make it easy for members to get up-to-date contact information. This way you can see your own profile information quickly and most importantly you can find other procurement professionals' information!

Make sure to log in and then you will be able to access the Member Directory under the Member Area menu. There is a search function where you can search by name, board member, or type of member group (e.g. National Member, Regu-

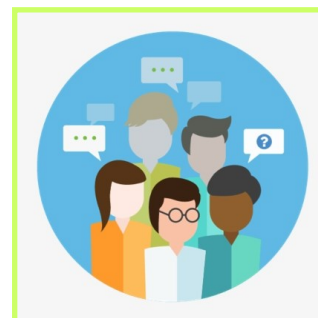
lar Member, Retired, etc.). So you can still keep in contact with those who have retired! This functionality should allow you to easily find anyone on the board or any member. Our Membership Chair, Kelly Ollivant, just went through every member profile and made sure everything was up-to-date. If you find that any information needs to be corrected, please let Kelly know at: membership@nigp-idaho.org or you can update your own profile yourself just by logging into your account.

Forum Page

We recently activated this useful resource on our IPPA website—it's

an area where you can pose questions to your fellow procurement professionals in a discussion forum-like format. You can check out a few test threads we created to get a feeling for the format. Also, keep in mind that you will need to subscribe to each individual thread to receive notifications.

Now there is another way to participate in the Idaho public procurement community. Hopefully this will foster more communication between different regions of the state too! Check out the new forum page here: <https://nigp-idaho.org/forum.php>



Meet Your 2020 Board

In January of this year we had our Annual Winter Dinner Meeting to celebrate the successes of the previous year and install our new 2020 Board of Directors.

New to the board this year is Ryan Blaine (ITD), Director-at-Large (One-year term), Kelly Ollivant (Bureau of Reclamation), Membership Chair, and Drew Evans (IDL), Professional Development Chair. We're looking forward to these board members bringing some fresh and exciting ideas to their positions and have already gotten a

taste of it the last few months.

Additionally, Karl Augustine (ACHD) who was retiring soon was honored with an IPPA award acknowledging his dedication and service to IPPA and the public procurement profession.

Welcome our 2020 Board of Directors!



Have any training or lunch & learn topic suggestions? Send them to our new Pro-D Chair, Drew Evans, at training@nigp-idaho.org

Upcoming Training



Course	Dates	Instructor	Course Cost	Location
NIGP Core Certificate: Foundations in Strategy and Policy (Virtual)	October 13-14, 2020	Mrs. Marcheta E. Gillespie, CPPO, CPPB	\$595 Member \$695 Non-Member	Zoom



Take a Flight to the 9th Annual RVTS!

We are so excited to present to you the 9th Annual Reverse Vendor Trade Show! Our RVTS Commit-

tee has been hard at work behind-the-scenes planning and preparing all of the various elements to this highly anticipated annual show. We chose the playful theme of "Passport to Possibilities" because we thought it would be a great representation of what this show provides to attendees, and includes a fun travel vibe that you'll see in our marketing materials.

The question that has been looming over everyone's heads is: **Will it be going virtual with the pandemic and current**

events happening? The answer is yes.

We made this difficult decision on September 1st. We are working hard to look at all aspects of the event so that we don't lose any elements of our annual show. In addition, we are looking to other chapters and

organizations for best practices when going virtual, as well as thinking outside the box for creative ideas.

Please review the email blast that went out recently about the changes. The biggest part to note for you as agencies is we are asking you to host a 30-minute "virtual booth" where vendors will attend to learn about your agency and have the opportunity to ask questions about doing business. We will encourage one-on-one meetings with them after the event and they will also have a place to showcase their business information on our new RVTS page [here](#).

Vendors

If there are specific vendors you'd like to see and connect with at the show, we could use your help to get the word out. Please pass along our email blast or send along their contact information. We will make sure to include them on our mailing list. We are also looking for sponsorships from vendors. If you have a vendor that you think would be interested in this, please give us their information and we'd be happy to reach out. Sponsorships help make our event possible and they get some great benefits out of it too!

Break-out Sessions

We plan on including a robust track of break-out sessions again this year. We will be including a variety of topics for both buyers and vendors alike

that you won't want to miss. We are still finalizing these so if there are specific topics you want us to cover, please let us know soon!



Philanthropy

You may have noticed that we have a new philanthropic partner this year, JEMfriends. They are a local non-profit that supports youth aging out of foster care and they run three homes here in Boise. They envision that each child aging out of foster care has opportunities to flourish in a society that understands their adversity and supports them in becoming loving adults. We are excited to be doing a winter clothing drive for them at the event this year, so please bring new or gently used winter gear or a gift card to the show to support this great cause. We have all the specifics on the RVTS event pages on our website.

We can't wait to see you all to network and share ideas at our most anticipated event of the year. Whether it's in person or virtual we know it will be a great event and worth your time! Thank you in advance for your support.



Questions?
Email RVTS@nigp-idaho.org





9TH ANNUAL REVERSE VENDOR TRADE SHOW

Gone Virtual!

PASSPORT TO POSSIBILITIES

Please join us for our 9th Annual RVTS!
November 4-6, 2020

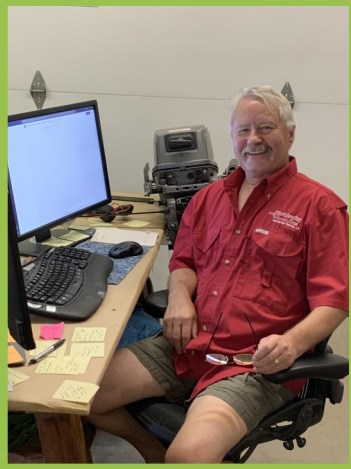
Your registration includes:

- Networking with local & regional businesses
- Direct access to Idaho governmental agencies in individual virtual meetings
- 2020 Edition of the Idaho Buyers Directory
- Lunch Session featuring keynote speaker
- Educational break-out sessions
- Philanthropy partnership with JEMfriends

Sessions will all be available virtually - more details on the IPPA website

Registration and sponsorship packages available now at nigp-idaho.org

Member Spotlight: Kirk Anderson



Kirk's home office during COVID-19 Pandemic

"My most notable project was the purchase of a state airplane for ITD."

Can you say small town Idaho? Potatoes? Wind? Engaging Community? This describes my home-town of Dietrich, Idaho (and I suppose many other towns in the southeast region of Idaho); especially when you use the 4-letter word **WIND**.

I grew up on the family farm where I lived and worked with my parents on our potato farm. In addition to potatoes, we raised hay, grain and ran a small herd of beef cattle.

I am a graduate of Dietrich High School – graduating class of 12!! I played offense and defense on the 8-man Dietrich Blue Devils football team and varsity basketball. Summer fun included swimming in THE DROPS in Shoshone and hanging out with friends under THE BIG TREE (shade tree on the main street of Dietrich).

Golf is my "go to for fun" activity; and I enjoy golfing with colleagues on the ITD Monday Twilight Golf League as well as on weekends. My wife and I love our hot Idaho summers and spending time on our boat and camping with Pavlov, our Miniature Schnauzer; and traveling. Our most memorable adventure was in the early 1990's when we were the guests of then Mayor of Boise – Brent Coles and his wife Julie – for a day trip on the USS Boise Nuclear Submarine, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. It was a once in a lifetime experience and one we will never forget.

Following high school, I moved to Boise where I attended Boise State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Communication. One of my favorite college activities was being a DJ for 2 semesters at KBSU.

During my college tenure I worked with friends in their wood furniture making and construction business. I became proficient in making custom-

order wood furniture. What an experience it was crafting a piece of wood into a desk, file cabinets, end tables and bed frames.

After college I worked as a gallery manager for 20 years in retail limited-edition art gallery sales and picture framing industry. My passion for wood working was a bonus - we crafted original picture frames for the art we sold as well as frames for our customer's one-of-a-kind child's crayon art!

During the 2008 economy downturn, I worked as a contractor for General Services Administration (GSA) in the building leasing program. I worked there for approximately five years prior to my new career journey with Idaho Transportation Department when I was hired as a technical records specialist for the Business and Support Maintenance (BSM) division in 2013.

In 2014, I moved into a Buyer position at BSM and am now a Senior Buyer for the division. My most notable project was the purchase of a state airplane for ITD. This plane is utilized for search and rescue, public lands survey, government official travel, agency and supply deliveries, to name a few. It was an added bonus that the winning vendor was an Idaho business, Quest Aircraft, located in Sandpoint, where they build Kodiak airplanes.

The in-depth knowledge of the GSA leasing program, and the many rules and regulations, statutes and procedures was indeed a stepping stone for me as I started in my new position as an ITD buyer. Such words as contract management, solicitation and awards came natural to me as I learned about state statute, and read and interpreted Idaho State Purchasing and Idaho Public Works processes, procedures, and codes.

Road trips in Idaho have taken on a whole new meaning for me during my ITD tenure. My travel oftentimes take me by the many projects I may have contracted for,

worked on with ITD team members, or read/heard about in the local news, i.e., rock slides, snow slides, asphalt paving projects, guard rail replacements, overpasses and bridgework.

During the fall of 2018, I had the opportunity to attend the Institute for Public Procurement (NIGP) forum in Nashville, TN. This event was very enlightening and I learned a lot about contracting language and procurement methods. I met several procurement professionals who I have kept in contact with and they are a valuable resource to me. I highly recommend this to people in public procurement – it was an amazing opportunity.

I work with an amazing group of people on the ITD purchasing team and am grateful for all that we accomplish as a team. I enjoy our morning "Teams" stand-ups and the friendship we have garnered...especially during this time of remote offices, meetings and cyber discussions.

We are all in this together!



"ITD may want to rethink the signage at the Rockslide on 55" - Kirk Anderson.

If you want to see what happened to this boulder, check it out here:

<https://>

www.facebook.com/117044135546/posts/10157592029075547/?vh=e

IPPA COVID-19 Resources Webpage

COVID-19 RESOURCES

When we were all getting into the thick of it with COVID-19, we thought as an association all about sharing resources, we should post on the website any supplies/resources that our various agencies had received. So that we did!

These resources are featured under the Announcements section on our home page.

You can check it out directly here: [COVID-19 Resources](#). We have included a link to what NIGP is offering, which includes webinars, sourcing options, technology tools,

among other items. Also, we highlighted resources specific to Idaho in an effort to support our local businesses and so agencies are aware of places where they can receive their supplies more quickly.

The State of Idaho Division of Purchasing is also helping out

during this time and has constructed a supplies site for agencies to access: [State of ID Sourcing Program!](#)

We would like to give a shout-out to members from Ada County & ITD for providing a lot of the resources listed. If you have any additional resources you would like to share, please contact Robyn Swaney, Communications Chair.



Bob Perkins, Ada County Procurement Director, pictured with PPE supplies for the county.

Procurement Month 2020

See all we did in Announcements on the [website!](#)

Probably more than ever, this Procurement Month celebration was extremely important. Many procurement professionals across North America and the world put on their emergency hats and became integral in getting the necessary PPE to our first responders and hospitals.

Right before COVID-19 hit Idaho hard in mid-March, we were able to start our Procurement Month 2020 off right. We were lucky enough to celebrate most of the activities planned for this year!

First, we continued our acknowledgement of dedicated procure-

Happy Procurement Month 2020!

Celebrating public procurement professionals



ment agencies by dropping of donuts, thank you cards, and Procurement Month flyers to various teams, including DEQ, LUMA, ITD, Canyon County, DOP, and ISP.

At the beginning of March, IPPA hosted a wonderful NIGP Contract Administration in the Public Sector class and our Spring Dinner Meeting featured the instructor for that

Also, we put on an interactive and online Scavenger Hunt where players had to find procurement-related items at their office or online.

Despite the pandemic, IPPA tried their best to celebrate Procurement Month by recognizing our awesome procurement professionals and offering many activities whether in person or virtual, to help us have fun and celebrate our month!



DEQ was recognized with donuts from board members: Carrie, Megan, & Ryan!

class, Peter Rigtterink. He presented on Ethics in the Workplace at Idaho Pizza and IPPA paid for everyone's pizza! There was a great turn-out too!



The folks at LUMA with many of our IPPA board members



NIGP-CPP digital badge you receive once certified!

"Once a chapter successfully meets the standard, a digital seal is issued which the chapter can prominently display to their membership on their website and social media outlets."

NIGP-CPP First Round of Recipients Included One of Our Own!

The new NIGP-CPP certification was rolled out this year in an effort to focus more on competencies and the well-rounded public procurement professional.

NIGP's website states, "The new NIGP – CPP certification program is based on the Public Procurement Competency Framework and shifts the focus from gaining knowledge to building competencies. It complements existing certifications by focusing on the full scope of

your capabilities and includes technical and behavioral skills."

There was a pilot exam session earlier this year and that initial group was awarded on August 24, 2020. Joy Schwank, NIGP-CPP, CPSM, CPPB from the City of Lewiston was one of those first recipients! Congratulations to Joy and being part of this first round of awarded individuals.

Another round of recipients was just announced on September 14, 2020, which includ-

ed Alyssa Ellington, NIGP-CPP, CPPB and Bob Perkins, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB.—both from Ada County Procurement in Boise, Idaho. Our membership is representing Idaho well. A heartfelt congratulations goes out to Joy, Alyssa, and Bob!



IPPA Awarded as Gold Chapter

You may remember the NIGP Chapter of the Year program to recognize successful chapters, especially because we won twice! This awards program has now evolved into two areas: the Chapter Performance Standards Seal and the Outstanding Chapter Awards. IPPA applied in both categories and we were honored with the Gold Performance Standard Seal.

Would you like to know more about what this Performance Standard Seal is? Well, as NIGP's website states, "NIGP has developed a 'standard' in which chapters can strive to follow and advance the opportunities offered to their members. Participating chapters receive a score which records their

progress in achieving excellence. Once a chapter successfully meets the standard, a digital seal is issued which the chapter can prominently display to their membership on their website and social media outlets. The four tiers provide motivation for Chapters to achieve an even higher tier in subsequent years." We are proud to be one of the first recipients of the Gold Performance Standard Seal!

If you were at NIGP's Forum Recognition and Awards event or the Chapter President's Appreciation Hour, NIGP presented these new performance standard seals to some deserving chapters. Also, IPPA had an



honorable mention for a 21% membership increase this year!

NIGP is very excited about the new approach in recognizing and awarding their chapters for their governance, education programs, member benefits and their ability to advocate on behalf of the procurement profession.

Congrats again to IPPA!!



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Email: ippa@nigp-idaho.org



Your Procurement Prose Editor-in-Chief, Robyn Swaney

2020 IPPA Board of Directors

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Membership Updates!



- Jesse Goodpasture is the new Procurement and Contracting Administrator for Ada County Highway District
- Kim Guevara was promoted from a LUMA Backfill Position Buyer at the State of Idaho Division of Purchasing to a permanent Buyer on staff
- Caylie Hansen is a new Buyer at ITD
- Grace Helie is now a Grants/Contracts Operations Analyst at the Department of Health & Welfare
- Jory Lindstrom retired from the State of Idaho Division of Purchasing
- Jolene Merry is a new Purchasing Buyer at the City of Boise
- Maria Minicucci is a new Contract Administrator at the State of Idaho Division of Purchasing
- Drew Ollivant is a new Program Specialist at Department of Health & Welfare
- Kelly Ollivant is now with the Bureau of Reclamation as a Contract Specialist

- Bob Perkins has been promoted at Ada County from Procurement Manager to Procurement Director
- John Shinn is a new Assistant Buyer at Boise State University
- Tessa Stevens has been promoted from Administrative Assistant II to Buyer at DEQ

We'd like to welcome our New Members!

Steve Barclay, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
JP Brady, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Cassandra DiBonaventura, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Janet Gonzalez, Ada County Procurement
Jesse Goodpasture, Ada County Highway District
Justin Gross, Idaho Transportation Department
Caylie Hansen, Idaho Transportation Department
Grace Helie, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Jolene Merry, City of Boise
Maria Minicucci, State of Idaho Division of Purchasing
Drew Ollivant, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
John Shinn, Boise State University
Keith Thomas, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Pat Thomas, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Joa Wright, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare