



January 2021

Procurement Pulse

Happy New Year!

President's Corner

Thank you for allowing me to lead our Chapter. Due to COVID-19 we will continue to conduct both monthly Co-op meetings and quarterly Chapter Business meetings virtually to ensure your safety and ability to participate in both meetings. The Meeting ID and Password for all virtual meetings will be distributed via email and included on the meeting agenda. Meeting log in information will not be posted on the Chapter website. NIGP classes will continue in a virtual format as well.

Don't forget to submit your Chapter Scholarship application for 2020 to earn scholarship funds, which can be used for classes, National, Chapter and other procurement organization membership dues and conference registration fees. Scholarship applications must be submitted to Scholarship Committee Chair Leah Grothe by no later than January 31, 2021. The Scholarship Application is located in the "Documents and Files" in the "Member Services" on the home page of the Chapter website. Please contact Leah Lavogard@sfwmd.gov with any questions.

Be active in our Chapter and share your ideas with the Board. We serve you the members and are only a click away on the Contact Us page on the Chapter website.

Please do your part to observe social distancing, wear a mask and support our local restaurants and other businesses impacted by COVID-19. Small acts of kindness now mean more than ever before. As procurement professionals, we will face these challenges together, support one another and make a difference for our agencies and those they serve.

- Cassandra LeMasurier, Chapter President



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHAPTER BOARD

The 2021 Chapter Officers are excited to bring you some fresh enrichment opportunities! There is no better time to be an active and participating Chapter member. If you are looking for ways to get involved, please reach out to **Cassandra LeMasurier**, president, at cassandra.lemasurier@copbfl.com or any of our board members!



Getting to Know Your Board



Cassandra LeMasurier
President
Real Property Manager
City of Pompano Beach

PERSONAL HISTORY

I was born and raised in Kansas and relocated to Florida in 2003 for the warm weather and great scuba diving.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

I joined the City of Pompano Beach General Services Department as the Purchasing Supervisor November 2014 and became the City's Real Property Manager April 2018. I served as the Secretary for the Southeast Florida Chapter of NIGP in 2016 and 2017, Vice President for the Chapter in 2018 and 2019 and as President since 2020.

WHAT DRAWS YOU TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT?

I enjoy helping users get the supplies and services they need at the best value. It makes me proud when I can look at a new Civic Center or Cultural Arts Facility and know that I had a hand in helping make it a reality instead of just a rendering.

WORD OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT.

Take advantage of NIGP's mentorship program and classes. Keep asking questions of those more experienced procurement professionals. Chances are if you have a question they have been there, done that and will have some helpful insights.

ALL TIME FAVORITE BREAKFAST?

Loveless Café Nashville, Tennessee best homemade biscuits and gravy ever!

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT AND WHY?

Roatan Honduras, Anthony's Key Resort. Beautiful individual cabins on the Ocean with great diving. Plus I got married there.

FAVORITE QUOTE OF ALL TIME?

"Anything worth doing is worth doing well." from my Mom. The original author of the quote is Phillip Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield



Katia Sarley, MPA, CPSM, CPPO
Vice President
Sourcing Analyst
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

PERSONAL HISTORY

Emigrated from Syria at the age of 6 to South Florida and have never left. I've been married for almost 37 years, have two daughters, and two grandsons. So blessed to have landed in Paradise.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

I've spent approximately 32 years in procurement. First 20 years I spent in the Private Sector with Motorola, and the remainder with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

WHAT DRAWS YOU TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT?

After 20 years in the Private Sector, it is gratifying to give back to my community in the Public Sector. I am able to use my experience to get the best value for the tax payers of Palm Beach County.

WORD OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT.

Learn all that you can by pursuing higher education and certifications. You serve your community by making sure that public procurement is done ethically and effectively.

ALL TIME FAVORITE BREAKFAST?

Lemon Ricotta Pancakes

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT AND WHY?

I love the Smokey Mountains. The beauty of the majestic mountains especially in the Fall when the trees are on fire with color absolutely takes my breath away.

FAVORITE QUOTE OF ALL TIME?

*"Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly."
– John F. Kennedy*

Your Board continued



Monica Powery, CPPB
Secretary
Director of Purchasing
City of Greenacres

PERSONAL HISTORY

I am a local Floridian. I met my husband when I was 18 years old. We have been happily married for 19 years. We are blessed with two amazing daughters. We are a very outdoorsy family, we love fishing, surfing, snorkeling, hiking, traveling and exploring nature. We also have a deep love for music, dancing, dining and DISNEY.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

I began my career in Public Procurement 15 years ago. Like most people, I fell into it by chance. I fell in love with the profession immediately. This year, I was promoted to the Director of Purchasing in my agency.

WHAT DRAWS YOU TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT?

The most amazing thing about Public Procurement is being able to set the foundation for every project for the City. You have your hand in helping residents, the departments, and vendors.

WORD OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT.

Remember that the using department has a job that needs to be done, be the person that makes it a mission to help solve the problem not the road block.

ALL TIME FAVORITE BREAKFAST?

Crepes with Nutella, strawberries and bananas.

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT AND WHY?

I would love to explore Ireland. Their vast picturesque landscapes intrigue me from their rugged mountains to their wild storm lashed beaches and captivating castles.

FAVORITE QUOTE OF ALL TIME?

"Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still."
Chinese Proverb.



Indra K. Sarju, CPPB
Treasurer
Purchasing Agent
City of Aventura

PERSONAL HISTORY

I migrated from Guyana to the Empire State in 1977 and relocated to South Florida 1998. I've been married for 31 years and have 4 kids, two girls and two boys. I love gardening, dancing, and cooking.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

I began my career in Public Procurement 21 years ago as a Purchasing Clerk and have enjoyed learning the various aspects with the profession.

WHAT DRAWS YOU TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT?

Having the everyday contact with various City departments. The discipline to stay focused on the task and researching the new products on the markets.

WORD OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT.

If you're an individual that likes constant change in the environment then Public Procurement is for you!

ALL TIME FAVORITE BREAKFAST?

Pancake, eggs and fruits!

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT AND WHY?

I love cruising the vast oceans without any distractions and the peaceful scenery.

FAVORITE QUOTE OF ALL TIME?

"Who moved my cheese."
- Spencer Johnson

BULLETIN *briefs*

- ▶ It's our month and it's coming up soon! **March is Procurement Month!** Don't forget to pat yourself and your staff on the back this month! Find out how other public procurement agencies are celebrating and get some ideas for what your agency can do by visiting the **dedicated NIGP website** for Procurement Month.
- ▶ **Welcoming New Committee Chairs:**
 - ▶ Thank you to **Ivelsa "Evie" Guzman** who diligently served as Time and Place Committee Chair since 2014. **Asha Benjamin** of the City of Coconut Creek has volunteered to serve as our new Time and Place Committee Chair.
 - ▶ Thank you to **Ilyse Triestman** who diligently served as our Awards Committee Chair for the past 5 years. **Randi Frieze** with the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office has volunteered to serve as our New Awards Committee Chair.
- ▶ The **NIGP Annual Forum and Products Expo** is scheduled to be in Anaheim, California this year at the end of August. Click here to stay informed on the details.
- ▶ The **53rd Annual FAPPO Conference and Trade Show** is fast approaching! The forum will be a virtual format and the dates are soon to be confirmed for May. Click here to stay informed on the details.
- ▶ The brand new **NIGP Mentorship Group** is off to a great start! From the NIGP website: *"Lifelong learning should be supported by intentional relationships established to guide your professional development and career growth. The NIGP Mentoring Facebook page is designed to help you by connecting junior members with more experienced practitioners who can offer mentoring advice to help you progress in your career. Mentors can be a neutral sounding board, they can help you handle difficult or unusual situations you may face in your role or in your career, and they can provide feedback regarding growth opportunities to support your long-term career development."* The FB group is private so please contact **Keith Glatz** for the link to join.

PROCUREMENT SPOTLIGHT: GENESIS CUEVAS, MPA, CPPB

Purchasing Administrator, City of Sunny Isles Beach and Chapter Audit Committee Member & Secretary of Correspondence for the Southeast Florida Governmental Purchasing Cooperative Group "Co-op"



1. What was your very first paid job? My first job was as a shallow water (kiddie) pool attendant at the City of North Miami Beach.

2. How did you get into the field of

Procurement? I came back to the City of North Miami Beach as an intern with the CRA department during my MPA program. While interning a position opened in the Procurement Department opened which I applied for without knowing what procurement was.

3. What is the most interesting/strangest project you've had since you started

in this field? BID PROTEST. Although this was challenging experience, I'm glad to announce that the City won the hearing, and the construction for the community center is successfully moving forward.

4. What do you enjoy most about this field? I enjoy the interactions with the multiple departments, and the opportunity to use critical thinking skills to come up with viable solutions.

5. What is your best advice to anyone starting a career in Public Procurement? "Procurement is a foreign language, however you will understand and learn how to speak soon, so don't panic!"

BUYER SPOTLIGHT: GENESIS CUEVAS

7. What quote do you live by? I stole this quote from Christina Semeraro, after I saw it in her office one day, and it truly resonated with me, "Always go the Extra Mile. It's never crowded."

8. What the first competitive bid you did? An HVAC installation bid for City Hall.

9. What was your most recent competitive bid? Professional Engineering and Architectural Services for Pedestrian Bridge with Park Elements Across A1A at 174th St. (CCNA).

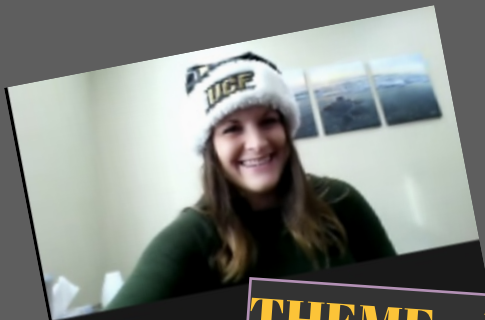
10. What is your personal "breakfast of champions"? Empanadas, and a latte dashed with cinnamon.

To nominate a procurement professional for the Spotlight feature, please email seflnigpnews@gmail.com.

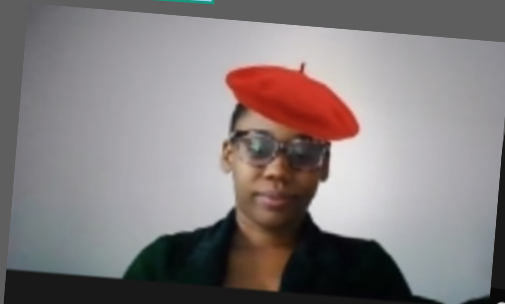



Scenes from the
December 2020
Chapter Meeting

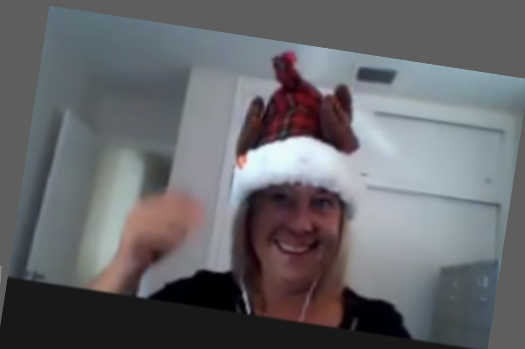
@ VIRTUAL!



 Randi Whitcomb

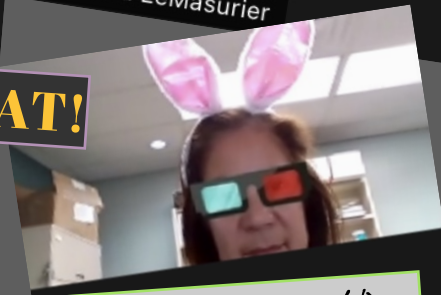


 Rebecca Moreau



Cassandra LeMasurier

THEME = WEAR A FESTIVE HAT!




 Emmarie Yavneh

*We laughed in our hats (many of them holiday-themed!)
And got caught up. The hat contest winner was declared...*

Scenes from the
December 2020
Chapter Meeting @ VIRTUAL!

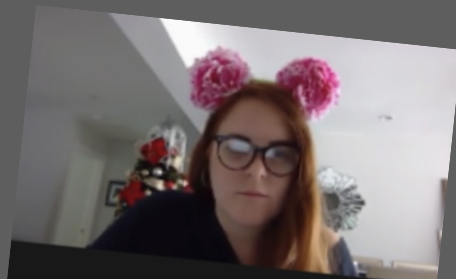


**HAT CONTEST
WINNER!!!**

 Ivelsa Guzman




 Keith Glatz



 Meghan C Bennett



 Natalee Downer



In Memory of Michael “Mike” Walker, Broward Sheriffs Office

It saddens me to inform you of the passing of our friend and associate, Michael “Mike” Walker. Mike passed peacefully in his home on September 3rd after a two-year battle with cancer.

Mike began at Broward County in 1998 and over the years, moved on to City of Fort Lauderdale, City of Sunrise and lastly Broward Sheriff's Office. Anywhere Mike went, he was known as a caring, devoted employee and friend, always willing to lend a helping hand. He will be greatly missed by so many.



A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...



Serving as a Chapter Committee Chair for the past seven years has given me an opportunity to combine skills I am passionate about: public procurement and public outreach. I have made so many wonderful friends and had the privilege of working with incredible colleagues. I am truly blessed to have fantastic mentors in this field while also helping to grow the next generation of procurement professionals with my own mentees, and much of that is attributed to the Southeast Florida Chapter and its stellar leaders. It hasn't been easy juggling so much at once, but I can sincerely say I have enjoyed every minute of volunteering and I highly recommend you get involved in our Chapter if you haven't already! I leave you in good hands with an awesome board and new committee members and I know that our newsletter and social media pages will continue to thrive as our membership grows and we enhance our digital engagement. As the cliché goes, all great things must come to an end, but it usually means we are opening doors to exciting new chapters!

Please take good care everyone and stay in touch via LinkedIn!

**~ Christina Semeraro, NIGP-CPP, CPPO,
Chapter Communications/Newsletter/Social Media Chair
from 2014-2021**

Click the icon to
"LIKE" the Chapter
on Facebook:



Click the icon
to follow us
on LinkedIn:



"Question of the Day"

Studying for the upcoming CPPB or CPPO exam?
Join the free email study resource led by NIGP
certified instructor Dave Nash, CPPO. To help keep
you on your toes for exam day, you will receive a
different question daily in your inbox. Visit
www.qoftheday.net to register!

2021 OFFICERS & CHAIRS

PRESIDENT

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Chapter Ambassador

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Chapter Ambassador