Dear AZNIGP Members,

Happy Spring and Happy National Procurement Month.

Don’t forget to register for the Career Seminar being held March 13th. Don’t delay as registration closes next week. This event is free to members in recognition of all that you do as procurement professionals and to celebrate Procurement Month. We have a great speaker lined up plus award recognition and scholarship awards to present plus gifts and prizes!

April 9th, we will be hosting our 7th Annual Reverse Trade Show at the Mesa Convention Center in downtown Mesa. We need your participation. It is important to have someone there from every agency to represent! We can’t do this without you so please register for a table today if you have not done so already. You can register online at www.aznigp.org.

We are also in need of someone to volunteer to teach the CPPB and CPPO review sessions. Those that are considering going after their certification this year need your help! Please contact Telma Bearden at tbearden@cap-az.com if you are willing to help and for more information.

We hosted our first NIGP Seminar: Introduction to Public Procurement in February with 19 members in attendance. Thank you, Telma Bearden and Haydee Nora for arranging this professional development opportunity and facilitating this event for our members.

Thank you again for all that you do as members and volunteers of this great organization of ours.

Sincerely,

Kristy Garcia, CPPB
Kevin McCarthy

Kevin McCarthy will be our guest speaker at the March Career Seminar on March 13, 2018. Kevin is a dynamic, inspirational keynote speaker, master trainer & executive coach for Making Better Happen, LLC.

Welcome to The Blind-Spot Zone.

• Learn how to quickly recognize blindspots and intentionally change behaviors.
• Gain a new understanding of and appreciation for how to better work together and serve your clients.
• Discover the recurring patterns that are holding you back from your peak performance.
• Learn how to unmask the hidden biases that creep into every decision-making process.

All attendees will receive Kevin’s new book, Blind Spots—Why Good People Make Bad Choices.
January Business Luncheon Meeting Recap

January’s business luncheon meeting was held at ADOT on January 23, 2018, with 65 members in attendance.

The agenda included committee reports and what is being planned for the year and members in attendance approved the 2018 proposed budget.

The President’s agenda included goals of the chapter and presenting scholarship instructions and helpful tips, a demo of the chapter website, and promotion of our social media accounts.

Our newest CPPB and CPPO designees were recognized and presented with a gift and Gary Barkman received the prestigious RJD Mentoring Award.

Several members won prizes and gift cards as part of the pro-d prize raffle drawing, and Kristen Micurescu, Arizona Department of Health Services, and Ernestine Tesarek, Town of Gilbert, won a free lunch to attend a future luncheon meeting.

Pictured at left: New member, Jennifer Reitan, Arizona Department of Corrections / ACI

Congratulations Gary Barkman recipient of the 2017 RJD Mentoring Award!

UPPCC Class of October 2017

The following AZNIGP members passed the October 2017 UPPCC Exam and earned their professional designations. The coveted Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) and Certified Professional Procurement Officer (CPPO) credentials, recognized throughout the public procurement profession, demonstrate an individual’s comprehensive knowledge of public procurement. Congratulations to you all!

New CPPO’s

Christine Fruitman, CPPO, CPPB
Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)

Deanna Graham, CPPO
Maricopa Association of Governments

New CPPB’s

Kristen Micurescu, CPPB
Arizona Department of Health Services

Diane Shannon, CPPB
Town of Gilbert

Negotiation Training 360

Members in attendance at the Negotiation Training 360 Seminar held 2/26/18

Introduction to Public Procurement

Members in attendance at the NIGP Introduction to Public Procurement Seminar held 2/12-14, 2018
NIGP Leadership Development Symposium
Herndon, VA—February 22-24, 2018

“A leader is someone who helps improve the lives of other people or improve the system they live under.”
- Sam Houston
Procurement Month 2018

When we celebrate Procurement Month, we acknowledge an elite group of professionals that have made a difference in governmental efficiency and effectiveness. This month provides the opportunity to help educate elected officials, administrators, taxpayers and vendors about the procurement process and the admirable work you perform every day.

The underlying theme for all activities during Procurement Month is the promotion and recognition of the field of Public Procurement. Your chapter has obtained an official state proclamation from the Governor and also recognized Professional Buyer’s Day (3/14) with its own proclamation.

We also celebrate during Procurement Month the awards Manager and Buyer of the Year and Forum scholarship winners. What is your agency doing to recognize your colleagues?

Let us know what you did to recognize your agency during Procurement Month. Some ideas include Procurement Month Proclamations, Council/Board recognition, open houses, playful scavenger hunts, trivia games, networking games to a chocolate coined crash course in basic procurement.

Remember to enjoy and have fun...It’s all about you!
The 7th annual Reverse Trade Show is being held Monday, April 9, 2018, at the Mesa Convention Center. Jess Romney with the City of Mesa has graciously volunteered to host this year’s event. Procurement representatives from all member agencies are encouraged to participate by registering for a booth at no charge. Our Reverse Trade Show is an event that allows vendors an opportunity to meet with you! Please invite your vendors to attend. Registration information for vendors and members is available at www.aznigp.org.

The 7th Annual AZ-NIGP & GCC-NIGP Reverse Trade Show
Hosted by:

Designed specifically for the small business, new start-up business, local “Mom & Pop” shop, and historically underutilized business owner / operator.

Monday, April 9, 2018
1:00 – 4:30 pm
Mesa Convention Center
201 N. Center Street, Building C
Mesa, AZ 85201
** Free Parking **
Cost: $15.00 per attendee / $20.00 at the door

Registration information on-line at: www.aznigp.org
For information call: 480-644-5798 or email: Jess.Romney@MesaAZ.gov

Learn how to maximize the Public Procurement process for Increased networking opportunities
Learn about upcoming bid opportunities
Break-Out sessions with procurement staff from various agencies throughout Arizona, including cities, schools, counties and State agencies.
Membership Report

Active Members = 482
Pending Members = 2
Expired Members = 3
Vacant Members = 9
New Members = 13

Please report any members that have left your agency so they can be marked as expired and your agency can get credit for a vacant membership. You can apply this vacant membership to any new hire. (same membership year only)

Membership renewals or any new membership is $40.00. Currently all new memberships is only $20 for half year. All NEW members receive a free lunch voucher to attend a chapter luncheon ($20 value).

Benefits to being a Chapter Member include, free webinars, networking opportunities, discounted professional development events, scholarship opportunities, and much more!

Please contact Membership to redeem free lunch vouchers, remove or add any members, and with any questions or help getting registered.

Membership@AZNIGP.org
(tel) 480-644-5052
Member Spotlight: Kristen Micurescu, CPPB

How long have you worked for your employer? I have worked for the State of Arizona for 6.5 years.

How did you get into Purchasing?
I started purchasing items for my parents’ dental office when I was in elementary school. I found it fun to find best pricing on items. It eventually led me to purchase in some capacity for every job I have ever had even if not technically a procurement position.

What was your most unusual procurement? I am not sure that I have had any unusual procurements, but have had a few highly specialized procurements especially when working for the Department of Gaming.

What procurement are you the most proud of? I am actually proud of all my procurements. My favorite though is the one where I was able to negotiate a 40% reduction in initial offer pricing. It was a must for a program that saw their appropriations reduced by 50% from the previous year and meant that they didn’t have to see a price increase from the previous contract.

“My next dream vacation is to visit Romania to see where my husband grew up.”

Before joining my current employer, I was: Working for Marriott and giving riding lessons.

What was your first car? A Ford Contour.

If you could have only one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? Probably pizza.

My favorite place is: Mullett Lake, MI

It’s your day off. What are you doing? Playing with my 1.5 year old daughter.

What makes you laugh? I tend to try to find the humor in every situation and like to laugh often...even in high stress situations.

Where is your home town? Charleston, Illinois

What do you like to do outside of work? I am in a master’s degree program at NAU and am the mother of a toddler. I tend to try to find time to just relax in between the busy life.

Favorite book, movie, dream vacation? My next dream vacation is to visit Romania to see where my husband grew up. Also, Italy and the Mediterranean. I studied Latin and Roman culture and it would be nice to see some of the places I read about.

Any recent accomplishment / recognition you are proud of and would like to share? I recently earned my CPPB.
May Chapter Meeting Luncheon

May’s Chapter Luncheon we want to encourage all members to invite any non-member to attend for free so they can see what we do and hopefully see the value in joining AZNIGP. Especially the supervisor who is not a member.

AZNIGP offers you professional growth that is vital to your career and we would like to share that with your supervisor so they may be more supportive of your chapter involvement.

We would love to have them join our Chapter! Meetings and seminars present professional development and continuing education in the procurement profession. Member benefits include education, resources, and networking.

Mark your calendars and save the date for Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. for the May luncheon. Please visit our website at www.aznigp.org for meeting and registration details. Members please register your guest so we make sure to have enough food.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting! Please contact Kristy Garcia with any questions that you, your supervisor or non-member might have. Thank you.

May’s Chapter Luncheon is free for any non-member! Bring your supervisor or co-worker who isn’t a member as a guest.

DONATION NEEDS

- Diapers sizes 4 and 5
- Toiletries / Hygiene Items
- New socks and underwear
- Clothing sizes newborn—18 years for boys and girls (new or gently used)
- New and gently used books for all ages (activity books, sketchbooks, story books)
- Blankets
- New birthday gifts for all ages of children (0-18 years old)
- School Supplies
- Gift cards for teens

Helen’s Hope Chest

This year our chapter has picked Helen’s Hope Chest as our chosen charity.

Helen’s Hope Chest memorializes the life of Helen Paula Simmons, a former foster child who managed to raise a family of her own despite difficult circumstances.

Click here to read Helen’s story.

Children of every age are a part of the foster care system in Arizona. From newborn babies to young adults, Helen’s provides for foster families. Specifically, Helen’s helps children who have a case with the Department of Child Safety and who have been placed in a licensed foster home or group home.

Please help us help them by providing the needed items at all chapter sponsored events.

There will also be volunteer opportunities to help at their store, back to school events, and adopt a family at Christmas time. Please consider volunteering and look for more information to follow soon.

Thank you!

“Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life.”

Flower of the Month May—

Lily of the Valley