

THE MISSISSIPPI MANAGER

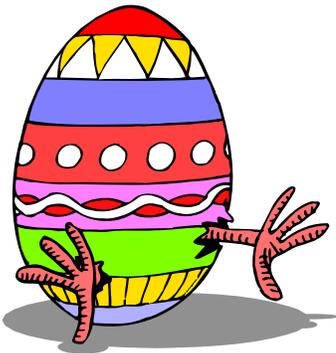


Official Publication of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers

Volume IV, Issue I

Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Public Management

March 2007



**HAPPY
EASTER**

"The most successful individuals in life are those who learn how to move forward with each day, placing yesterday's experience in its rightful place; a place called Yesterday."

"Nacrisa J. Vil"

Inside this issue:

President's Message

Money Issues

MSCPM Conference Info

AACPM Conference Info

Some Useful Thoughts

Legislative Breakfast Pictures

MSCPM - SPB Co-Host Annual Legislative Breakfast



President Ray Balentine and Past Presidents Cheryl Lunsford, Leslie Lloyd and Mark Yeager were on hand to meet and greet legislators.

ing of sausage biscuits and ham biscuits as well as coffee and soft drinks for the attendees. Many MSCPM members attended the event and were given stickers that stated "CPM, Ask Me!" to wear. It was a morning full of visiting with old friends and making new ones!

As a very special surprise, there were three SPB Directors attending the breakfast. They were Don Thompson, current SPB Director, J.K. "Hoopy" Stringer, former SPB Director, and Dr. Bob Robinson, former SPB Director. Other attendees included Past Presidents Leslie Lloyd, Mark Yeager and Cheryl Lunsford, along with our current president, Ray Balentine. Other MSCPM Board members attending the event included Melissa Collier, Bill Greenleaf, Shelly LeGrand and Jennifer Sledge.

A special thanks goes out to Debbie Ferguson and Shelly LeGrand for ensuring that the food and drink arrived safely! And, thanks to all of the society members and others that came out to show their support of the CPM program. For those of you that were unable to attend, we hope to see you at the breakfast next year!

Even the cold weather could not dampen the spirits of those that attended the Annual Certified Public Managers' Legislative Breakfast held at the New Capitol on the first floor rotunda on February 1, 2007. The Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers (MSCPM) and the Mississippi State Personnel Board (SPB) once again co-sponsored the event. The breakfast was held to promote the Society and the CPM Program to members of the legislative body and the public.

The breakfast provided an offering of sausage biscuits and ham biscuits as well as coffee and soft drinks for the attendees. Many MSCPM members attended the event and were given stickers that stated "CPM, Ask Me!" to wear. It was a morning full of visiting with old friends and making new ones!



L to R: Don Thompson, Dr. Bob Robinson and J. K. "Hoopy" Stringer

Cheryl Lunsford, CPM

MSCPM
Executive Board

President
Ray Balentine
MS Dept. of Transportation
601-359-7025
rbalentine@mdot.state.ms.us

President Elect
Rachel Britt
Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility
601-823-5700
rbritt@jrf.state.ms.us

Secretary
Diane Mattox
PERS
601-359-2244
diane_mattox@pers.state.ms.us

Treasurer
Greg Duncan
MS Fire Academy
601-932-2444
gduncan@msfa.state.ms.us

Publications
Bill Greenleaf
MS Dept. of Corrections
601-359-5646
bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us

Membership
Shelly LeGrand
MS Gaming Commission
601-576-3842
slegrand@mgc.state.ms.us

Past President
Cheryl Lunsford
MS Dept. of Transportation
601-359-7125
clunsford@mdot.state.ms.us

Marketing
Becky McNelis
Office of State Auditor
601-576-2648
becky@osa.state.ms.us

Conference/Training
Melissa Collier
Dept of Environ. Quality
601-961-5025
melissa_collier@deg.state.ms.us

CPM Program Dir.
Jennifer Sledge
State Personnel Board
601-359-4115
jsledge@spb.state.ms.us

President's Message



Ray Balentine

I'd like to extend greetings to everyone as we start a new year. It is my honor to have been given the opportunity to serve as your President of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers for 2007. I am looking forward to a great year for our Society and hope that you are as well.

We had a very successful start to the year with the annual Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol on February 1. As we have done for the previous three years, the MSCPM was a co-host of the event along with the State Personnel Board. It was a great chance to interact with members of the State Legislature and to highlight the importance of professional training and education for public managers.

Also, earlier this year the MSCPM was able to recognize one of the leaders of implementing and supporting the CPM program in Mississippi. Dr. Randy Hendrix was honored at a Legislative Reception on January 16 to commemorate his retirement as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. I, along with our two immediate past presidents, Cheryl Lunsford (2006) and Mark Yeager (2005), presented Dr. Hendrix with a clock to express appreciation for the long time support he has given to both the State of Mississippi and in particular to the CPM program and the MSCPM.

Now looking forward to 2007, I would like to mention two things. First, please be sure to put this year's MSCPM annual conference on your calendar. This year's conference will be held May 9 - 11 in Tunica. I hope that you will plan on attending what I believe will be an outstanding program and the chance to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

Secondly, I would like to challenge you to participate in the activities of the Society. My personal goal is to get more members willing to participate in the committees and activities of the society. It is very important to our future that we get more people who are willing to help with the various activities of the Society. There are a variety of ways to help. Take a look at the members of the Executive Board that are listed on this newsletter. They are truly an outstanding group that I feel very good about. If you think you would like to volunteer for a committee, run for an office, or find out how you can help, call someone on that list.

The MSCPM will be as good as we make it, so I challenge you to get involved and let's make this a GREAT YEAR.

Ray Balentine, CPM

“Money — It’s a hit”



Greg Duncan

I would like to first thank the membership for placing their trust in me to handle the money of your organization. Handling and being accountable for somebody else’s money is always an awesome responsibility. I have been busy learning the money handling procedures for the organization. Linda Chase, former treasurer, has demonstrated the “patience of Job” with me. She has been most kind with “showing me the purse stings” so to speak.

In my first article to the organization, I would like to first report some great news- WE HAVE SOME MONEY! Below my comments is the December 2006 Treasurer’s Report to prove it.

In our first MSCPM Board Meeting for 2007, the Board voted to move the \$8,375.18 which was in a low interest money market account into a \$5000 certificate of deposit and the remaining \$3,375.18 into a higher yielding money market account. These moves will allow our organization to earn more interest on our money that can be used, as needed. It will also allow us to have some readily accessible funds available, if needed for emergency situations.

There is one area where I am really having a problem where I need your help. The State of Mississippi requires



all vendors who do business with the State of Mississippi to be paid electronically. MSCPM is considered a vendor with the state. Therefore, the dues for both new memberships and especially renewal memberships are received by our organization electronically. Many of the electronic payment notices do not include a name of the person for whom the dues are being paid. **SOMEBODY** is a member, but I do not know who it is. I have to call the “finance person” with a state agency and ask for help to identify who the dues payment is for to ensure that **SOMEBODY** has a name and is a member. This is a very time consuming undertaking. I had to identify almost 40 dues payments in January. If you are a state employee member, you can help me by making sure that your agencies “finance person” who is remitting payment for your dues sends a copy of your membership invoice to me and puts your name in the description field of the PV to insure that you receive credit for your payment. This measure would help reduce the cost of my headache medication.

I look forward to seeing you at our Spring Conference in Tunica, Ms.

Greg Duncan, CPM



CPM members discuss the program with legislators at the CPM-SPB sponsored breakfast.



Jennifer Sledge, CPM Coordinator and Don Thompson, State Personnel Board Director.

MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGERS

“Life Is a Team Sport”

The Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers (MSCPM) annual conference, being held in Tunica, Mississippi, is scheduled for May 9 - 11th. Once again the Society will be offering dynamic presentations that will educate, inspire and inform public managers.



Our theme for this year is **“Life is Team Sport.”** When we think of team sports, we often stop with baseball, soccer, basketball, and football. These may be the big four, but they're really just a small part of the wide-wide world of team competition. The good news is, we all don't have to be a whiz at hitting home runs or scoring touchdowns to benefit from being on a team. **L i f e i s a t e a m s p o r t .**

Registration is underway and we encourage you to check your mail for more information concerning registration. **Be sure to register early!**

**2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 9 - MAY 11, 2007
HOLLYWOOD CASINO
TUNICA, MS**

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND 2007 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF THE
MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGERS
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND**

“Life Is a Team Sport”

AGENDA

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

- 10:00 - 4:15 Registration
 1:00 - 1:30 Welcome- MSCPM President Ray Balentine and President Elect Rachel Britt and Bill Canter, Tunica Convention and Visitors Center
 1:30 - 2:30 Opening Session - Hank Flick *“Life is a Great Sport; But It’s Not the Sport You Have in Mind”* [1.0 hour CPM credit]
 2:30 - 2:45 Refreshment Break
 2:45 - 4:15 Breakout Sessions
Track 1: Dr. Criss Lott, *“Healing the Whole Person”*
Track 2: Mark Yeager, *“Who Left It There? Attitudes in the Workplace”* [1.5 hours CPM credit]
Track 3: Melissa Medley, *“Motivating Your Team; Coaching to Produce Winners”* [1.5 hours CSM credit]
 5:30 - 6:30 Welcome Reception

Thursday, May 10, 2007

- 7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast
 8:30 - 10:00 Breakout Sessions
Track 1: Grant Hedgepath, *“Identity Theft – What You Should Know”* [1.5 hours CSM credit]
Track 2: Brenda Hiatt, *“Managing Team Conflict Effectively”* [1.5 hours CPM credit]
Track 3: Chris Lewis, *“The Art of Doing the Right Thing”* [1.5 hours CPM credit]
 10:00 – 10:15 Refreshment Break
 10:15 – 11:45 Breakout Sessions
Track 1(a): Tera Wiggins, *“Preparing for the Future”*
Track 1(b): Elizabeth Booth, *“Preparing for Your Child’s Future”*
 [1.5 hours CSM credit for attending both tracks 1(a) and 1(b)]
Track 2: Lynda Hunsicker, *“Do We Really Need A “Team” After Work?”* [1.5 hours CPM credit]
Track 3: Janet Leach & Dianna O’Toole, *“Do You Know What’s in Your Own Backyard?”*
 11:45 - 1:15 Lunch on your own
 1:15 - 2:45 Breakout Sessions
Track 1(a): Kathleen Fewel, *“Essential Estate Planning”*
Track 1(b): Amy Carruth, *“Are You Ready? Retirement Preparedness”*
Track 2: Cille Litchfield, *“Do You Believe in Magic”* [1.5 hours CPM credit]
Track 3: Criss Zebert, *“Enhancing Management Skills through Group Dynamics”* [1.5 hours CSM credit]
 2:45 - 3:00 Refreshment Break
 3:00 - 4:30 Breakout Sessions
Track 1: Bobby Fortenberry, *“Deferred Compensation”*
Track 2: Becky Sanville & Lea Ann *“Team Player or Sideline Coach”* [1.5 hours CPM credit]
Track 3: Linda Foreman, *“Bridge Building”* [1.5 hours CSM credit]
 6:00 - 8:00 MSCPM Networking Dinner Function

Friday, May 11, 2007

- 8:00 - 9:15 Breakfast Buffet and MSCPM Business Meeting
 9:15 - 10:15 Closing General Session - Chris Snopek *“Get on the Field and Off the Bench”* [1.0 hour CSM credit]
 10:15-10:30 Closing Remarks – Ray Balentine, President MSCPM

MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGERS
2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION INVOICE

**Life is a Team Sport
Hollywood Casino, Tunica, MS
May 9, 2007 to May 11, 2007**

Name _____ Agency _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Conference Registration (please check one)

2007 MSCPM Member: **\$175**

Non-MSCPM Member: **\$200**

Registration received after April 20, 2007

2007 MSCPM Member (Late Registration*) **\$200**

Non-MSCPM Member (Late Registration*) **\$225**

*LATE REGISTRATION FEE APPLIES TO ANY REGISTRATION RECEIVED AFTER APRIL 20, 2007.
MSCPM Networking Dinner Function \$20.00 (please check if you plan to attend)

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please fax all registrations to (601) 359-5042. Registration will be confirmed upon receipt. **Please have your billing department type your name in the description field of the PV to ensure that you receive credit for your payment.** Make payments payable to:

**MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGERS
SAAS VENDOR # V0001146820
P.O. Box 3366
JACKSON, MS 39207-3366**

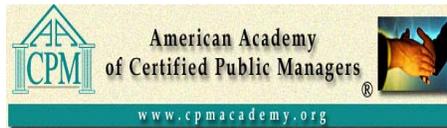
No refunds will be given, but substitutions are welcome. Simply fax the substitute information to the number above.

Hotel accommodations can be made by calling 1-800-871-0711 and providing the agent our group code "**MSCPM**" to receive the \$59.00 per night room rate. **All hotel reservations should be made by April 23, 2007.** Reservations made after this time will be accommodated at the hotel's current rate, subject to availability.

GOT QUESTIONS? Call Rachel Britt at (601) 823-5752 or Becky Sanville at (601) 359-2920.



We look FORWARD to welcoming you to Madison, Wisconsin !! for the 19th Annual AACPM National Professional Development Conference at the Madison Concourse Hotel September 9 – 12, 2007



When should I be there and how long should I stay? There are 2 things you should consider: “What are the conference dates?” and “Are there other things I should plan to see & do?” The conference schedule plus planned activities for Saturday and Sunday are shown here. In addition, you can visit our Web site at www.wscpm.org and then click on the link for the 2007 AACPM Conference on the left of our Home Page. From there, you will see a link to information on many sites and activities in and around Madison that will help you plan your trip. You may decide (as others already have) to come well before Sept. 8th and stay after the conference is over to see and enjoy a bit more of Wisconsin, while you are here.

How can I register for the conference? Links to access our registration system are available from www.aacpm.org and www.wscpm.org. (Many thanks to the outstanding coordination by Bill Herman to prepare and test our registration system!)

How do I get there? To help ensure you have an easy & safe way to plan your transportation to Madison, we have provided a link about transportation options on our Web site. Visit www.wscpm.org and then click on the link for the 2007 AACPM Conference on the left of our Home Page.

19th Annual AACPM National Conference

The 2007 Conference Planning Committee of the **Wisconsin Society of Certified Public Managers** has been working diligently to prepare a wonderful experience for you this coming September!

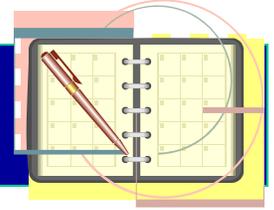
If you haven't made plans to join us already, we urge you to do so right away! This is critical because the IronMan Triathlon will be drawing an additional 20,000 people to Madison the weekend our conference starts. Anyone who has not yet done so should book their lodging quickly. 60% of our room block is already reserved. So if you still need a room, please reserve now.

You can make your reservation using a credit card over the phone and you will NOT be billed for the room until the conference and you can change your payment plan upon arrival.



Madison Concourse Hotel (1 block from the Capitol) Call **1-800-356-8293**, ask for Reservations and then for the AACPM block rooms for Sept. 2007; Rates are \$129/139 single/double occupancy (Governor's Club rates \$159/169) + 13.5% tax.

USEFUL INFO



NATION'S SAVINGS RATE AT DEPRESSION LEVEL

According to the latest figures, people are saving at the lowest level since the Great Depression, and that could be a problem for the millions of baby boomers getting ready to retire. In fact, the Commerce Department reported Thursday that the nation's personal savings rate for all of 2006 was a negative 1 percent, the worst showing in 73 years. The negative rate means people are spending all of the money they have left after paying taxes - and then some. They are dipping into savings or increasing their borrowing to finance current spending.

Surveys indicate the nation's spendthrift ways are not likely to change any time soon. More than a third of 2,000 adults questioned recently by the Pew Research Center said they often or sometimes spend more than they can afford.

The young and the poor have the most trouble saving. Some 42 percent of people 18 to 49 said they are likely to spend more than they can afford. Among those with household incomes below \$30,000, some 45 percent said the same. The 1 percent negative savings rate in 2006 followed a 0.4 percent negative rate in 2005. There have been only four years in history that the savings rate has fallen into negative territory. The other two were 1932 and 1933 during the Great Depression.

Source: The Clarion Ledger, February 2007

"You must make friends while you are young, that you may enjoy them when old. You will find when you become old, it will then be too late. I see my own delinquencies now when too late to mend, and point them out to you that you may avoid them."

Gen. Robert E. Lee
1807-1870

"The same prudence which in private life would forbid our paying our own money for unexplained projects, forbids it in the dispensation of the public moneys."

Thomas Jefferson
1743 - 1826

OUR OBJECTIVES

Promote a standard of behavior which demonstrates a high level of ethical responsibility in the performance of official duties as set forth in the Society Canons of Professional Responsibility.

Promote efficiency and productivity in government and **lead by example and innovation.**

Improve communication, cooperation, and coordination among government organizations.

Pioneer professional works and facilitate positive changes which enhance the delivery of services.





MSCPM
P.O. Box 3366
Jackson, MS 39207-3366

Submission Information

The Mississippi Manager is the official publication of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers. *The Manager* will publish articles and photographs of general interest to Society members. Direct submissions should be sent to P.O. Box 3366, Jackson, MS 39207-3366 or emailed to the Member-at-Large for Publications (bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us).

This publication is self funded and published for and by the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers. No part of this publication may be reproduced without express permission of the MSCPM Executive Board.

We're on the Web!
www.mscpm.state.ms.us

(currently undergoing exciting renovations)

MSCPM members and guests gather at the Capital Rotunda for the Annual Legislative Breakfast to promote the CPM program.

