

THE MISSISSIPPI MANAGER



Official Publication of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers®

Volume VI, Issue III

Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Public Management

NOVEMBER 2009

**RSVP today for
Lunch & Learn
on December 8**

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**See page 7 for
details**

**Visit us on the web at:
www.msccpm.state.ms.us**

Upcoming CPM Calendar

*Lunch & Learn Session—
December 8, 2009*

*MSCPM Board Meeting
(Outgoing Board and New Board)
December 8, 2009, im-
mediately after Lunch & Learn*

*CPM & CSM Graduation—
December 11, 2009*

What's Inside

President's Message

New CPM Board for 2010

Lunch-n-Learn 4th Quarter

Graduation Invitation

Lunch & Learn recaps

Special Information from AACPM

MSCPM Delegates Attend Annual National Training Conference in Orlando, FL



On September 20 through the 22nd, the AACPM hosted its 21st annual professional development conference in Orlando, FL. The theme for this year's conference was ***Leadership in the New Millennium-21st Century Reality Check***. More than 230 attendants from across America came to the conference for the country's only conference dedicated to Certified Public Managers®. The states represented at the conference were Ohio, North Carolina, Idaho, Arkansas, Kansas, Florida, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Utah, Mississippi, Arizona, Oklahoma, Kentucky, New Jersey, and South Carolina. Over 100 of those attending were CPM

students from the various Florida chapters. The conference served as their final training and their formal graduation ceremony was held after the House of Delegates meeting.

The annual AACPM conference provided a great opportunity to network with other Certified Public Managers® from around the country. The breakout seminars were very informative, the keynote speakers were motivating and enjoyable, the Academy board addressed issues in the Presidents' Meeting and the House of Delegates. Here are some of the highlights:

Continued on p. 9

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President's Message



**Melissa McGee-
Collier, CPM**

Greetings everyone! I hope this newsletter finds you all well and on behalf of the Executive Board of Directors I would like to wish everyone safe and happy holidays. The thing I have always liked about what I do for a living is the friends that I have developed throughout my time in state government. As the economy slows I have discovered that our relationships will help us get through the slow down. I know that this is also true for our membership in the MSCPM. As a Society we are stronger together and the friendships that we have developed in MSCPM as well as all the friendships yet to be discovered will help us in all aspects of what we do.

This year The Whitten Group sponsored one our board members to attend the AACPM Conference in Orlando, FL. They also supported our 2009 Annual Conference. I want to thank our sponsors who continue to encourage the Society. Their support assists us with our mission to provide training opportunities for our members.

As important as our sponsors to the Society, we still need your help to achieve the Society's goals. You can support us in a number of ways including participating on the Society's committees, making a donation, communicating the society's message or helping us with an event. We are actively looking for volunteers to be members of our committees particularly in the area of our website. Please make it a part of your new year's resolution to actively participate in the Society.

President's message, continued

Serving as President of the MSCPM has been a great experience. The past year has been exciting and challenging. Despite the economy, world politics and changes within state government, our Society has managed to remain strong and focused on our primary objectives. In January, Carolyn Bell will take over as our fearless leader and "receiver of 1,000 emails." I, on the other hand, will assume the enviable title of Past President or "forwarder of MSCPM email to the President."

I would like to take the time and congratulate the 2010 officers. The 2010 Executive Board officers are President Elect - Ruthann Vercher; Secretary - Wanda Magers; Member at Large Membership - Amy Hornback; Member at Large Publications - Janie Simpson; Member at Large Training - Lisa Green; Member at Large Marketing - Skip King; and Member at Large Communications - Ruth Davis. The returning board members are Helen Barnes- Treasurer; and Carolyn Bell-President.

All in all, it's been a productive year and I believe the Society is well positioned to accomplish even greater things in the coming years. If you have any suggestions for improving the services of the Society, send me an email. If you have ten suggestions, send me 10 emails. I'll be happy to forward them to Carolyn.

Also, two of our own MSCPM members were honored at the AACPM Awards Banquet. Mr. Jeff Wheeler, of MDOT, received one of the Askew Award medals and Mrs. Jennifer Sledge was recognized as a Henning Award nominee. Please take a moment to congratulate our own award winner and nominee the next time you see them.

Thank you all again for allowing me the wonderful experience of serving as 2009 President of Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers.

Melissa McGee-Collier
2009 MSCPM President

Delta State's Morehead elected National President of the Association of Government Accountants



Billy Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, Chair of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems, and Finance at Delta State University, was recently elected the 60th National President of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) with a presidential theme of "Think Big! Act Courageously! Make a Difference!" Dr. Morehead is a 2001 CPM graduate.



MSCPM 2009 Election Results

The Executive Board of MSCPM is happy to announce the election results for 2010.

President:	Carolyn Bell
President-Elect:	Ruthann Vercher
Treasurer:	Helen Barnes
Secretary:	Wanda Magers
Member-At-Large Membership:	Amy Hornback
Member-At-Large Publications:	Janie Simpson
Member-At-Large Training:	Lisa Green
Member-At-Large Marketing:	Skip King
Member-At-Large Communications:	Ruth Davis

President



Carolyn Bell currently serves as Civil Rights director for MDOT. Carolyn has held various positions for the last 21 years at the Department of Education, State Personnel Board and MDOT for the past 15. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, is married and is the mother of two children, Michael and Melia.

President-Elect



Ruthann Vercher has been employed with the Mississippi Department of Transportation for 16 years. She attended Northwestern State University of Louisiana. Ruthann has held positions including the MDOT's Appeal Board Agency Representative. In 2005 she was appointed the Director of Facilities and Records Management Division. Ruthann is a graduate of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government/State Executive Development Institute, a Certified Public Manager, a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and a member of Society of Government Meeting Professionals.

Treasurer



Helen Barnes works with the Mississippi Department of Human Services as the Director of General Accounting, Purchasing and Property since 1997. She is in her thirtieth year of state service at DHS where she has held various non-supervisory and supervisory positions. Helen received a Bachelor of Science in Basic Business Education and a minor in Accounting from Jackson State and her CPM designation in 2000. She is married and is a mother and grandmother.

Secretary



Wanda Magers joined the Mississippi Insurance Department in October of 2004. During her five years of service at the Mississippi Insurance Department she has served as a Division Director II, Licensing Division providing licensing management for over 90,000 producers and business entities. Previously she held the position as the Chronic Disease Director, Mississippi State Department of Health supporting programs of Heart Disease and Stroke, Diabetes, and Cancer. She retired in 2001 from the United States Marine Corps. Wanda holds a Masters of Public Administration with a minor in Health Care from Troy State University and a Bachelor of Science in Management with a minor in Human Resources from Parkview College. In 2007 she received her Certified Public Manager® (CPM) designation. In August 2009, Wanda was selected as a 2010 Top Ten Business Woman of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA). In 2002, she was honored as a Top 50 Business Woman in Mississippi. Wanda is an active member with the Insurance Women of Jackson (IWJ), Securities & Insurance Licensing Association (SILA), president of Lefleur's Bluff Chapter ABWA, chair of the Danny Stampley Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), Mississippi Partnership for Comprehensive Cancer Control (MP3C), and committee member and grant writer for the annual Hope Cancer Conference.

Member-at-Large (Publications)



Janie Simpson is currently Human Resources Director for the Governor's Office, Division of Medicaid. She has 20 years of State Service experience. She began her career at the State Personnel Board in the Office of Classification and Compensation ultimately becoming a Division Director over the Division of Classification. She was Policy Director for SPB for the last three (3) years of service at SPB. She has worked as HR Director for the Division of Medicaid for four (4) years. Janie has a Bachelor's Degree from Mississippi College in Business Administration, has completed the Certified Public Manager's Program®, and was in the first graduating class of the Human Resources Certification Program. She has recently been appointed by Governor Barbour to the SPB Personnel Advisory Committee.

Member-at-Large (Membership)



Amy Hornback serves as the Secretary to the Mississippi Transportation Commission. She has been employed with the Mississippi Department of Transportation since 2000. Amy attended the University of Mississippi and is a 1995 graduate of Mississippi College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication. Amy is a 2006 graduate of the MS Certified Public Manager program and is also a 2007 graduate of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government.

Member-at-Large (Training)



Lisa Green currently serves as a Division Director with the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) in the Member Account Support Division. Lisa is a graduate of Dillard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Lisa is also a 2005 graduate of the MS Certified Public Manager® program. Lisa lives in Clinton, Mississippi with her son, John.

Member-at-Large (Marketing)



Skip King currently serves as the Recruitment and Selection Director for the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). He began his career with MDOT in 2004 after having spent 9 years in the private sector. Skip is a graduate of the Mississippi Certified Public Managers® (MCPM) program and has previously served on the MSCPM Nominations Committee. Skip is also a member of the MCPM Curriculum Committee. Skip was the 2006 American Academy of Certified Public Managers® (AACPM) Askew Award winner from Mississippi. Skip also served as a delegate for the Mississippi Society at AACPM national conference in September 2007. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a degree in Business Administration.

Member-At-Large (Communications)



Ruth Davis is the Director of the Food Service Department at the Mississippi State Fire Academy. She was employed with the Doctors' Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi, for twenty-five years before coming to the State Fire Academy. Ruth lives in Jackson and has been employed with the State of Mississippi for seventeen years. She is a graduate of Hind community College, received her certification as a Dietetic Manager from Florida State University, and is a Certified Public Manager®.

Past President



Melissa McGee-Collier, grew up in Jones County and lives in Byram, MS with her husband and three children. She attended the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State University and earned a BS in Chemical Engineering and a Masters in Public Policy and Administration and is employed by the MS Dept. of Environmental Quality. Her career as a public servant began in 1994. She completed the CPM program in 2004 and has been actively involved on various levels.



Mark your calendar and set the date

BROWN BAG LUNCH & LEARN



MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGERS



presents:

2009 Lunch & Learn Session

Everyone is Welcome! Come join us for an informative presentation and a great lunch! Lunch will be catered by *Mama Hamils*. Please **RSVP** to **Ruth Davis** to let us know you're planning to attend. Phone: (601) 932-2444; Email: rdavis@msfa.state.ms.us

Speaker: Pat Robertson, Executive Director of PERS

Mrs. Robertson is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Financial Manager, Certified Public Manager, Certified Retirement Counselor, and Certified Retirement Administrator. She began her career in pension fund administration in 1980 and served in various aspects of PERS operations including Director of Finance and Deputy Director of Administrative Services before being appointed Executive Director in 2005. Mrs. Robertson also served as chair of the Mississippi Certified Public Manager Program. Please join us for the last Lunch & Learn session of the year.

LOCATION

Eudora Welty Library
300 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 968-5811

DATE and TIME

Tuesday, December 8, 2009
11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Lunch Will Be Served. Please Register by DECEMBER 1, 2009 to reserve a space.



You are cordially invited to attend
the Certified Public Manager and
Certificate in Supervisory Management
graduation ceremony
on December 11, 2009
2:00 p.m.
at the

Old Capital Museum
in downtown Jackson

The ceremony begins at 2:00 p.m.
with a short reception to follow.

Please join us in celebrating this
special event in the lives
of these public managers.

Note - The National Consortium of Certified Public Managers® has launched a logo contest. Click the link on the sidebar of the Academy website www.cpmacademy.org for details.

The email below is forwarded on behalf of Joyce Smith. Please respond directly to Joyce.Smith@opm.ok.gov

Continued from page 1

The conference started with a President's meeting with representation from 14 states. Society presidents came together to discuss the findings of the AACPM Strategic Planning AD HOC Committee. The Committee was charged with: 1) Seeking committee participation from all state societies; 2) Using a system to facilitate document sharing & collaboration; 3) Identifying stakeholder groups; 4) Developing & implementing methodology to acquire stakeholder input to inform strategic

plan draft; and 5) Provide a final 2009 Strategic Plan to the AACPM Board & the House of Delegates by mid-Dec. 2009.

The Committee sent out an online survey that sought feedback from 5 key groups: AACPM members; AACPM Board & Society Officers; current CPM students; non-member CPM graduates and Consortium members. Some of the conclusions and potential goals of the survey are listed in the tables below.

AACPM Member Survey Results- 414 Respondents- 18 States Represented	
1.	Publish member profiles to enhance networking & problem solving, publish information on Askew projects; it may save re-work for others with similar issues.
2.	Evaluate how we can tap into CEU for different professions.
3.	Find a way to use and promote the statement: "CPM training didn't end at graduation—it began."

AACPM Board & Society Officer Survey Results- 47 Respondents- 15 States Represented	
1.	Develop a clear, measurable, "What's In It For Me?"
2.	Evaluate how AACPM can provide educational support for students unable to travel to the national conference due to cost and/or lack of agency support.
3.	Work with local societies to identify ways they could provide information on AACPM and its benefits. This survey indicates societies are not able to clearly identify AACPM benefits.
4.	AACPM must demonstrate value and develop a strategy that shows how AACPM goals are relevant for individuals and agencies.

AACPM elected its 2010 board members. The results of the election for the open 2010 BOD positions are: Jeff Kramer, AZ will be the President Elect, Linda Jefferson NC will be the Member-at-Large for Member Affairs, and Deb Bourbeau, NH was re-elected as Secretary.



2010 AACPM BOD including MSCPM member, Barbara Pepper, right rear

The 2010 AACPM Conference will be held from October 16 through the 20th in Oklahoma City, OK. The Oklahoma team had a kick-off meeting, the hotel contract has been signed, and space is secured for the 2010 conference. The board approved ***Resiliency in Leadership -- Catching the Dream*** as the theme for the 2010 AACPM Professional Development Conference.



Askew Award winner, Jeff Wheeler, and CPM Program Director, Jennifer Sledge, Henning Award Nominee

Lunch & Learn #2

Mississippi State Fire Academy June 12, 2009

Insurance Commissioner Mike Cheney welcomed us to the Mississippi State Fire Academy. He told a few jokes about angels and barnyard birds. Commissioner Cheney shared some of his philosophy regarding being good managers with his theme being that “things are not always as they seem.” He then introduced us to “the guy” who runs the Fire Academy and was one of the earlier graduates of the CPM program, Reggie Bell. Someone should have asked Mr. Bell if he was a current member of MSCPM.

The Fire Academy was built in 1975 and sits on approximately 88 acres and is next door to MEMA. The Academy operates on a \$5.5M budget. Emergency Responders from 40 states have trained at our academy. It offers 86 programs, has 29 full-time staff, trains around 15,000 students each year, has 65 part-time instructors, has 75 dormitory rooms and a cafeteria. Training services offered there include certification training, special/industrial services as well as extension services. Nearly 1,300 volunteer fire fighters and 210 certified fire fighters receive training in our state of the art facility.

Bill Greenleaf, Mississippi Department of Corrections



Fire Academy Director, Reggie Bell



Department of Insurance Commissioner, Mike Cheney



Lunch & Learn #3

Mississippi Department of Transportation September 18, 2009

Held in the Auditorium at MDOT's administrative building in downtown Jackson, the MSCPM quarterly Lunch and Learn managed to attract about 45 guests, even with the rain. Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall and representatives from MDOT's Anti-Litter Group spoke to the crowd.

Commissioner Hall shared stories of his many years as an elected official. Of the stories he shared are how some legislators are uncompromising and how there are two sides to every issue. He also spoke to the crowd on what he has learned over the years; 1.) Walk with who you trust, not necessarily those you agree with and 2.) Real courage is when you are licked before you start, but you begin anyway.

He answered a few questions about metro area construction projects before turning the floor over to Karen Phillip and Connie McMullan of MDOT's Anti-Litter Group. Karen and Connie touched on how it costs MDOT over \$3 million to remove litter from the roadways each year. They also talked about MDOT's efforts to prevent/remove litter which include the adopt-a-highway program, inmate litter removal program, Trash Bash (MDOT's contribution to the Great American Clean-up), and MDOT's educational programs and how the department gets into the schools to talk to the kids about litter.

Skip King, Mississippi Department of Transportation



SPECIAL NOTE FROM AACPM

We have published a short edition of the newsletter briefly highlighting the 2009 Professional Development Conference in Orlando. The online and print versions are both available now. The online link is below:

www.cpmacademy.org/newsletter/conf2009/index.html

Please also note that the 2009 House of Delegates meeting documents have been moved. The society report file is now on the societies page www.cpmacademy.org/governance/societies.htm

and the other House of Delegates documents are now on the House of Delegates page www.cpmacademy.org/governance/house_of_delegates.htm

Trademark guidelines have been added to the Publications page. Look for the regular winter edition of the newsletter at the end of the year or the first week of the new year. You may send me articles or announcements any time. Thanks.

Barbara C. Pepper, CPM
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November 18, 2009

Greetings, AACPM Members!

Help set policy. Learn more about AACPM. Participate from home or the office. Share your ideas. Help put others' good ideas in action.

You are invited to get actively involved on a 2010 AACPM committee as chair or a member. You will find the work rewarding, and you will help meet critical needs of the Academy. Descriptions of the committees are below. Please review the list on the next page and contact me with your choice(s) by December 4, 2009. Let 2010 be your year to serve!

Contact me if you'd like more information or would like to discuss your participation. We really need you and this is a great way to take an active stance in your AACPM.

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AACPM Committees

Constitution and Bylaw Standing Committees

- Board of Elections - This committee shall solicit nominations for Academy office and conduct the elections. (Steve Mastro, chair; two Fellows)
- Bylaws and Ethics - This committee shall propose changes or amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Academy and Code of Ethics. It shall also be the arbiter of charges brought against any member. (Board Member, chair; six Fellows)
- Conference - This committee shall work with the local Host Society Conference Committee to assist in the planning of the annual Academy conference. (Jeff Kramer, chair; Steve Mastro; Barbara Pepper; Debbie Smith; Joanne Robertson; Gina Mee; representatives (preferably conference chairs) from Utah, South Carolina and Idaho; other Fellows as deemed appropriate.
- Finance - This committee shall prepare the Academy's annual budget for review and adoption at the annual meeting. Committee shall also receive the annual audit and oversee the response thereto. (Jeff Kramer, chair; Reva Tisdale; and one or more Fellows)
- Henning Award - This committee shall annually select the Henning Award recipient and shall coordinate the presentation of the Award at the Annual Meeting. (Julie Felice, chair; four Fellows)
- Publications (Communications) - This committee shall review all publications of the Academy as well as maintain its website. (Barbara Pepper, chair)
- Scholarship - This committee shall annually select the scholarship recipients. (Previous scholarship recipient, chair; up to five Fellows)

Committees of the Board - Special or ad-hoc committees shall be established by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary to undertake specific projects or assignments and dissolved upon completion of the project or assignment. They are:

- Archive/History – This committee shall receive important and historical documents regarding AACPM and determine how best to transfer paper records to modern media and how and where to maintain, store and disseminate records (Debbie Smith & Tom Patterson, co-chairs; three Fellows)
- ad hoc Evolution/Restructuring – The name of this committee may change. This committee may work to implement some of the recommendations of the strategic planning committee. Committee work will continue to review AACPM structure, evolution and overall public relations image.
- Leadership Institute – This committee shall further explore the feasibility and viability of a Distinguished Membership status in AACPM and plan workshop(s) for inclusion in the annual conference that will help achieve this status.
- Management Practices – This committee shall receive and process nominations for the AACPM Askew Award, order medallions for presentation to recipients, and catalog present and past Askew Award recipients and their projects.
- Membership Affairs – This committee shall take inventory of current member benefits, determine relevance to membership, and seek new benefits; review the results of the strategic plan and, where feasible, incorporate recommendations.
- Mentoring – This committee shall work with identified chartered state societies and any interest group desiring to charter a state society to identify resources, direct the process, and provide moral support and requested assistance until the society is viable.
- Orientation – This committee will conduct the orientation session at the annual conference to include welcome activities; how to get the most out of the conference; AACPM history; introduction to C & B, SOPs, and website; etc.
- ad hoc Strategic Planning – This committee shall continue to define and refine information gleaned from the 2009 survey and help, along with other appropriate committees and offices, a strategic plan for AACPM.
- ad hoc Technology/Distance Learning – This committee shall advise and, when appropriate, set-up technology that will allow AACPM to better reach its membership and provide training or information about training that furthers the professional development and/or education of the membership.
- Ways and Means – This committee shall market merchandise to meet the needs of the membership and promote the AACPM.



MSCPM
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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 at pejns@medicaid.state.ms.us.

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

Special thanks to the website committee and MSCPM web host, Larry Cox, for their effort in designing and implementing this new site.

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.



You probably didn't hear it here first, but..... they say ".....

"I am one of those who do not believe that a national debt is a national blessing, but rather a curse to a republic; inasmuch as it is calculated to raise around the administration a moneyed aristocracy dangerous to the liberties of the country."

*President Andrew Jackson
 (1767-1845)*

"The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse."

*James Madison
 (1751-1836)*