

SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONALS
LOUISIANA CHAPTER HISTORY

The **Louisiana Chapter** began as a simple gather of several government employees, convention visitor's bureaus, and hotels, with a vision of learning more about how we can all work together to have successful government meetings. On Thursday, June 29, 2006, at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Training Facility, we had our first "SGMP Awareness Meeting" to discuss how essential the SGMP Organization could help improve government meetings. Ms. Ruth Harris, SGMP First Vice President, at that time, was the speaker and gave a presentation on "What SGMP can do for You". After the meeting, a committee was formed to see how many government employees, and suppliers, would be interested in joining and forming a Louisiana Chapter.

On August 24, 2006, we had our first SGMP Formation Meeting, at the new Livingston Building, in the Capitol Park, which is the Louisiana Department of Justice Building. At the meeting we had (20) twenty attendees. The SGMP Formation Committee emphasized and reviewed the SGMP dues and structure to develop and charter the Louisiana Chapter. Libby Noto created the SGMP-LA Chapter logo and it was developed, presented and approved by the committee. We had various meetings, and contributions from suppliers, and support to charter the Louisiana Chapter. The application was submitted to National to establish the new chapter.

With tremendous amount of team work and support, the SGMP Louisiana Chapter, was chartered on March 15, 2007, at the Hampton Inn & Suites in New Orleans, with 59 members. The Louisiana Chapter installed the first slate of officers of the Louisiana Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals. Libby Noto, President, Sandy Romero, First Vice-President, Carolyn Barrett, Second, Vice President, Faye Need, Secretary, Kelli Jumper, Treasurer, Geraldine Bordelon, Program Chair, Amanda Millet, Membership Chair, and Nina Samsiani, Finance Chair. In our second year as a chapter, we had over 65 members, and growing.

The first **SGMP-LA Educational Tradeshow** was held on September 11, 2008, with a Partner Showcase in Baton Rouge and it was a great success. The chapter's goal was to continue to develop educational and development training for all members. In 2008, with a great team of support, we created the SGMP-LA website; it was a major success and benefit for the chapter. As we strived to advance the chapter, the Louisiana Division of Administration, State Travel Agency, agreed to identify the SGMP-LA Chapter on the State Government's website, this validation was a great accomplishment to the Louisiana Chapter. Now as members of the Louisiana chapter, we had valuable information on government meetings. Louisiana Chapter had achieved their first milestone.

Like most organizations, as our careers change so does the society of the chapter, mostly the membership. While our goals are to enhance the chapter's membership, the Louisiana Chapter continues to promote new ideas and techniques for growth. SGMP-LA Chapter believes that SGMP is one of the best organizations for professional enrichment to all members.

The SGMP-LA organization started with "let's do this", and for everyone to learn more about government meetings, but has proven to more than just a government association, it has increase accountability, and learning the importance of government meetings, and how to work together to be successful! The SGMP-LA Chapter offers unique education opportunities and networking for members, and strives to become one of the best, and most successful government organizations in the national, and state.