

NEWS FROM THE TPMA BOARD

By Cheryl Turney, C.P.M. and Jack Beacham, C.P.M., A.P.P.

Earlier this year the membership of TPMA voted to merge our membership with the Texas County Purchasing Association to form a state-wide public purchasing association that would also include warehouse professionals. Below is some history and current information about this newly formed association:

- The Texas County Purchasing Association (TCPA) and the Texas Purchasing Management Association (TPMA) have merged to become the Texas Public Purchasing Association (TxPPA).
- TCPA (county purchasing professionals) currently has 167 members. TPMA (city purchasing professionals) has 106 members. The membership year for both existing organizations is January 1 – December 31.
- Recruiting for membership from schools, state agencies, special districts and higher education has already begun for the new membership year beginning January 1, 2008.

- The Foundation Committee and Initial Board for the association consists of two (2) county, two (2) city, and two (2) schools representatives; one (1) State, one (1) special district, and one (1) higher education representative. Specifically, these individuals are:

President	Jack Beacham, C.P.M., Tarrant County (currently Tarrant County, TCPA President)
Vice President	Cheryl Turney, C.P.M., City of College Station, (currently TPMA VP)
Secretary	Kay Foster, C.P.M., Dallas Fort Worth International Airport
Treasurer	Adrian Garcia, San Benito ISD
Directors:	Christy Havel, State of Texas Building and Procurement Commission (TBPC) Narita Holmes, C.P.A., University of Texas Permian Basin Gary Kerbow, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Carol Cooper, C.P.M., City of Garland (current TPMA Board Representative of TML) Frank Ybarbo, Collin County

- The goals and objectives of the Texas Public Purchasing Association are to:
 - *Establish cooperative relationships among its members for the development of efficient purchasing methods and practices in the field of public procurement;*
 - *Promote the highest ethical standards of conduct in the performance of public and non profit purchasing;*
 - *Promote uniform public purchasing laws and simplified standards and specifications;*

- *Provide informed counsel to others who are responsible for the formulation and promulgation of policies, rules and laws which directly or indirectly affect the process of public and non-profit purchasing;*
- *Collect and disseminate useful information for its members;*
- *Promote the interchange of ideas and experiences within the purchasing profession;*
- *Encourage research and investigation and to sponsor such other activities as may be useful in providing its members with knowledge for efficient procurement;*
- *Strive by all legitimate means to advance the purchasing profession; and to*
- *Facilitate open communication and cooperation among all public purchasing professionals, elected and appointed officials with whom we work, and with the public, which is ultimately served.*

The Foundation Committee members have been busy. They are in the process of designing a logo—which may be temporary—for TxPPA that will be placed on a tri-fold brochure to be distributed at the Momentum 2007 Conference at South Padre, June 27-29. This brochure will have information about our newly combined organization, with a return address to Tarrant County, for utilization as a recruiting tool to gauge interest in TXPPA and to help build our new dues database.

Another exciting project that they have taken on is working with the National Purchasing Institute (NPI) to allow TxPPA to become a full sponsor of the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) annual award. The current members of the Texas Purchasing Management Association (TPMA) are already an associate sponsor of the AEP award, neither TPMA nor TCPA alone serves the broad membership base that is required for full sponsorship. However, our new organization, TxPPA, *will* meet that criterion. HOW ABOUT THAT FOR INSTANT CREDIBILITY! That is another good reason for us to work together for good government.

Listed below are the current full sponsors of the AEP award:

- National Purchasing Institute
- California Association of Public Purchasing Officers
- Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers
- National Association of State Procurement Officials
- National Association of Educational Procurement
- Institute for Supply Management
- National Institute of Governmental Purchasing

For those of you not familiar with the AEP Program, here is some history for you. The AEP was founded by NPI in 1995 to:

- a) recognize organizational excellence in public and nonprofit procurement;

- b) encourage development of excellence;
- c) provide benchmarks for continued excellence;
- d) increase awareness of public and nonprofit procurement as a profession;
and
- e) identify core criteria of excellence.

The Foundation committee of the new organization is working on a project that is in an area of uncharted waters and has a short time line. In the interests of time and progress, not every situation that arises in regard to our new association can be approved by a vote of the entire membership! Having received a unanimous vote from the Foundation Committee members, we are proceeding with this process.

The largest immediate impact to TxPPA is that, after NPI approval, we will automatically become only the eighth full sponsor for the most prestigious Purchasing award offered by our profession. All AEP brochures will be designed, printed, and mailed at no cost to TxPPA. TxPPA will be acknowledged on the application, and whenever and wherever else possible, as a sponsor of the AEP. NPI will be responsible for the cost of producing and distributing the award trophies. TxPPA will also have two (2) representatives fully funded by NPI to sit as members of the award evaluation committee. Although the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may be terminated upon ninety (90) days written notice by either party, the only TxPPA expenses will be for electronically providing NPI with an annual membership list and having our TxPPA website linked to the AEP website.

Many of us have had the experience of going through the process and winning this prestigious award. There is no down side to this sponsorship, but rather something we can all be tremendously proud of as a new organization. Our commitment to good government is already working in our favor.

As a Foundation Committee, we will keep you informed of our challenges and successes. We value your trust in our decisions.

If you have questions, would like more information or would like to submit potential public purchasing and warehouse member names, please contact either Jack Beacham or Cheryl Turney.