



# Texas County Purchasing Association Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue No. 2

June 2007

## President's Message



**Jack Beacham, C.P.M., A.P.P.**

April showers bring May flowers.

At least, that's what the old adage says!

Please be assured that this old adage is totally correct this year in Tarrant County. Not only have we had April showers, we've experienced May showers, damaging straight-line winds, tornadoes, hail, and numerous lightning strikes very close to our County facilities. I'm sure you've heard the Motel Six commercial where they say "We will leave the lights on for you." I'm convinced that they just leave the lights on at the Emergency Operations Center we share with the City of Fort Worth these days, because some of our people have spent a considerable amount of time down there.

For those of you who didn't have the time, money, or desire to attend our first TCPA/TPMA joint workshop in Austin on April 12 and 13, you missed a good one! We had our largest ever group of combined city, county, school district, state, and special district attendees, with eighty-seven (87) paid participants. The facilities, topics, speakers, food, sponsors, and the baseball game were all excellent, and the events were

well attended. Survey results indicate a satisfaction rating of 4.9 out of a possible 5.0 for all facets of the workshop. Karen Norris from TAC promised good weather for the game that we did, in fact, win. Obviously she has good connections, because it was a little breezy, but completely dry. It should be reported, however, that the folks from Dallas and Hood Counties had a **lot of fun** at the game. I'm not sure if we should even allow them to sit anywhere close to each other again!

If you've not made plans yet to attend the Momentum 2007 Seminar in South Padre June 27, 28, and 29, 2007, you should. It is an excellent, easily affordable, informative, and well planned workshop that will provide you with more purchasing knowledge and will help increase your networking opportunities.

Other future dates for your consideration are the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual NPI Conference and Products Exposition at Moody Gardens in Galveston, September 18-21, 2007. Another special training opportunity will be our next TCPA/TPMA joint fall workshop to be held October 17, 18, and 19, 2007 in the historic stockyards in Fort Worth, Texas. Since we will be hosting this workshop, we can promise you it will be done the right way! Rob Cox has already completed the program. We have selected the hotel and negotiated room rates, and the menu has been fine tuned. More information will be provided at a later date as we anticipate our largest attendance ever.

Congratulations are also in order to the membership of both TCPA and TPMA in approving our new constitution and bylaws with only one (1) "No" vote—obviously a one (1) vote hanging chad incident.

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A meeting was also held in our offices in early May to discuss providing special assistance to Hunt County in their quest to collect information and our guidance in establishing a centralized purchasing office. Those in attendance included Cyd Grimes, C.P.M., of Travis County; Margaret Cook, A.P.P., of Johnson County; Jack McCown, C.P.M., of Harris County; Beth Fleming, C.P.M., A.P.P., of Denton County; and Rob Cox, C.P.M., A.P.P., and I for Tarrant County. Our vision is to expand this Special Assistance Committee even more and provide this same service to cities, school districts, higher education, and special districts when our combined membership grows.

We are in such exciting and history-making times right now with our new endeavors! Join me in embracing our past, while looking forward to our future for good government. Please contact me at any time, if there is ever need for discussion on any issue. I can be reached. I am still honored to be your President.

We'll try and leave the lights on for ya!



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## NEW ORGANIZATION NAME

As you all know the name of our new state wide purchasing organization will be **Texas Public Purchasing Association**. For identity purposes and to not confuse our new organization with others, our acronym will be **TxPPA**.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Brigitte Baker** of Collin county and **Sonja Scott** of Hood county who were co-authors of the new name and subsequent winners of the contest. Brigitte and Sonja will receive a one year complimentary membership in the new organization effective January 1, 2008.

## LEGISLATION

Undoubtedly, it has been a very active season for new legislation. Among others, there are three House Bills of interest which may affect procurement across the state.

**HB 1886** relating to the procurement methods of certain political subdivisions and certain other entities for construction, rehabilitation, alteration or repair of certain projects. This Bill would alter the existing design-build procurement methods.

**HB 3517** relating to competitive purchasing requirements for local governments. This Bill would add additional categories for sealed proposals and determination of Best Value.

**HB 3516** relating to publication of notice for certain transactions involving local governmental entities. This Bill would affect advertising methods.

Let's join in showing our appreciation to **Cyd Grimes** of Travis county and **Carol Cooper** of the city of Garland for their untiring efforts in their active participation to see these Bills through the process. Wow, what a job!!!!

## 2007-2008 Officers and Committee Chairpersons

- President:** Jack Beacham, CPM, APP, Tarrant County, [jbeacham@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:jbeacham@tarrantcounty.com)
- Vice President:** Sharon Page, APP, CTPM, Potter County, [pages@co.potter.tx.us](mailto:pages@co.potter.tx.us)
- Treasurer:** Bonnie Floyd, CPPO, CPPB, Travis County, [bonnie.floyd@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:bonnie.floyd@co.travis.tx.us)
- Secretary:** Donna Riley, Denton County, [donna.riley@dentoncounty.com](mailto:donna.riley@dentoncounty.com)
- Immediate Past President:** Sandy Bradley, CPPB, City of Burleson, [sbradley@burlesontx.com](mailto:sbradley@burlesontx.com)

### Committees

- Legislative Committee Chair: Cyd Grimes, CPM, Travis County
- Membership Committee Chair: Melissa Lee, CPM, APP, Tarrant County
- Newsletter/Public Relations Chairs: Frank Ybarbo, Collin County  
Jack Sebastian, CPPB, Kaufman County
- Professional Development: Margaret Cook, APP, Johnson County

### Special Committees

- Sample Specifications: Rob Cox, CPM, Tarrant County
- Law/AG Opinions: Piti Vasquez, El Paso County
- TCPA Website/Publicity Website: TBD
- Fall Conference Chair: Rob Cox, CPM, APP Tarrant County



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## Foundation Committee Activities

by Jack Beacham, C.P.M., A.P.P.

The Foundation Committee members have been busy since we last saw you at our April workshop in Austin. We 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 we 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. Although our new friends and 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:

recognize organizational excellence in public and nonprofit procurement;  
encourage development of excellence;  
provide benchmarks for continued excellence;  
increase awareness of public and nonprofit procurement as a profession; and  
identify core criteria of excellence.

Once again, we are 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.

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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.

Having had the experience of going through the process and winning this prestigious award several times in our County, 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.

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## TxPPA Foundation Committee

Your current **TxPPA Foundation Committee** members:

Municipalities: Cheryl Turney, City of College Station  
Carol Cooper, City of Garland

Counties: Jack Beacham, Tarrant County  
Frank Ybarbo, Collin County

Special Districts: Kay Foster, DFW Airport

School Districts: Adrian Garcia, San Benito ISD  
Gary Kerbow, Carrollton/Farmers Branch ISD

Higher Education: Narita Holmes, University of Texas Permian Basin

State of Texas: Christy Havel, TBPC

Advisors: Sandy Bradley, City of Burleson  
Victor Kilman, City of Lubbock

To continue efforts to improve the formation of the **TxPPA**, the Foundation Committee will meet at the Momentum Conference at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday June 27, 2007.



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## WORKSHOP SPONSORS

Special thanks to the following organizations  
For their support of the  
2007 Texas County Purchasing Spring Workshop

Continental Equipment

Rene Bates Auctioneers

Southern Tire Mart

Blauer Manufacturing

Corporate Express

TCPN

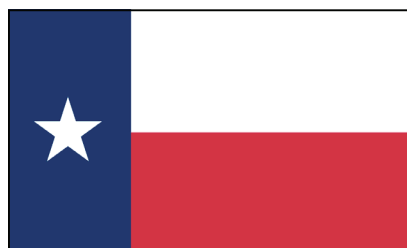
Buyboard

American Messaging

EMC Corporation

Software House International

Philpott Motors





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## Special Assistance Committee formed

Jack R. McCown, C.P.M

In keeping with the best objectives of a progressive professional organization, a meeting was held on May 4th in Ft Worth Texas. Those in attendance were Cyd Grimes, Beth Fleming, Margaret Cook, Jack Beacham, Rob Cox, and myself. The purpose of the meeting was to review the best ways to provide services to those agencies requesting help in forming a centralized procurement office. These services would fall under the Special Assistance Committee. Due to an immediate request by a County, it was decided to form the County part of this Committee. Beth Fleming will head up the county committee and will pull together, and update, exiting information pertaining to county purchasing.

Information to be furnished would be to include items such as:

1. Documentation, and presentations to the agency governing body to support a centralized purchasing function.
2. Provide job descriptions and salary information to assist in the establishment of a purchasing office.
3. Provide training for a new or existing staff concerning purchasing laws, basic procedures and best practices for a centralized purchasing function.

Agencies interested in some of these services should contact Jack Beacham at Tarrant County.

### Newsletter Submissions:

Frank Ybarbo  
Collin County  
Phone: 972-548-4117  
Fax: 972-548-4694  
[fybarbo@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:fybarbo@co.collin.tx.us)

Jack Sebastian  
Kaufman County  
Phone: 972-932-0246  
Fax: 972-932-8059  
[jsebastian@kaufmancounty.net](mailto:jsebastian@kaufmancounty.net)

### List Serve

The Texas County Purchasing Association offers a listserve for members of the association. A listserve is an email discussion group that officials use to efficiently get answers to questions, share insights and learn from the experiences of their peers.

If you are interested in joining the listserve, contact Candy Graves at [candyg@county.org](mailto:candyg@county.org)

## Upcoming Conferences

### Rio Grand Valley Momentum 2007

Bahia Mar Hotel  
South Padre Island  
June 27 through June 29, 2007  
Contact: Adrian Garcia (956) 361-6390 or  
[www.napmrgv.org](http://www.napmrgv.org)

### NIGP Annual Forum

Marriott Hartford Downtown  
Events: Hartford Convention Center  
Hartford, Connecticut  
August 4 through August 8, 2007  
Contact: (800) 367-6447 ext. 227

### Texas Association of Counties

Annual Conference and Workshop  
Austin Hilton Downtown  
Austin, Texas  
August 15 through August 17, 2007  
Contact: TAC (800) 456-5974

### National Purchasing Institute

Moody Gardens Resort  
Galveston, Texas  
September 18 through September 21, 2007  
Contact: Craig Rowley (866) 877-7641

### Timeline Seminar

Designed for Public Education  
Bahia Mar Hotel  
South Padre Island  
September 26 through September 28, 2007  
Contact: Adrian Garcia (956) 361-6390 or  
[www.napmrgv.org](http://www.napmrgv.org)

### Texas County Purchasing Association/ TxPPA

Fall Conference  
Fort Worth, Texas  
AmeriSuites Hotel at the Stockyards  
October 17 through October 19, 2007  
Contact: Rob Cox (817) 884-1134

**We're on the web!**

<http://txcountypurchasing.org>