

Smoky Mountain Signals

Volume 3, Issue 4

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Thanks to all who attended the 2002 NES and contributed their experiences to this newsletter!

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Message from the President

Having recently returned from the 2002 NES, I think back on what a high-quality production it was. The hotel and facilities were great, and San Diego was beautiful. I was especially proud of the large number of GSMC members in attendance. We must not forget to show our appreciation to the managers and organizations that supported their employees and the GSMC to make this possible.

Please visit the NPMA Web site and click on **2002 NES Pictures** and **2002 NES Presentations** to get an idea of the atmosphere and educational content (see sidebar).

The 2003 NES will be held in Jacksonville, Florida. Growing up in Jacksonville and revisiting over the years, I can assure you that it is as nice as any place the NES has been held. The city provides fine dining, good golf courses, great beaches and other amenities, and is historic in

its own right. It is close to other historic and fun sites such as St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city and location of Ponce de Leon's famous fountain of youth (I dove in but it hasn't helped yet).

Jacksonville is within driving distance, so you could combine the NES with a family vacation. I urge all of you to consider attending another fun and educational NES.

I look forward to the quality programs and speakers lined up by **Tracye Baber**, et al., for the rest of the year. I always enjoy our holiday get-together. Our thanks go to **Rebecca Whitehead** for the work she did booking this event. We always enjoy Calhouns in Lenoir City, where Rebecca has booked half the deck for Dec. 18 (11-1:30).

Our members make the difference. Many thanks for your support over the years to make the GSMC what it is today.



by
Bill Price, CPPA



Check out the GSMC Web site **Photo Gallery** for

NES group shots:

www.ornl.gov/npma/PhotoGallery.htm

NES Presentations and Pictures are posted at the NPMA Web site:

www.npma.org

Calendar

Aug 5-9	Training, Doug Goetz, Defense Acquisition University <i>Contract Property Administration Fundamentals</i> Federal Office Building, Oak Ridge
Aug 6	GSMC Meeting— <i>Property Management as a Profession</i> Dr. Doug Goetz, CPPM, CF
Sept 18	GSMC Meeting— David Graham <i>Tennessee Department of General Services</i>
Oct. 19-22	Eastern Region Seminar Farmington, CT



2002 NES Was a Trip!

Eleven GSMC members attended the 33rd annual National Education Seminar in San Diego, representing close to 20 per cent of the chapter.

The following spent the week of June 16 in this “city of year-round sunshine”:

- Tracye Baber
- Don Baxter

- Cheri Cross
- Linda Gattuso
- Terry Humphrys
- J.D. Huddleston
- David Mikeska
- Bill Price
- Dewayne Raines
- Bill Teer
- Marcia Whitson

Participants were given the opportunity to respond to *Five Easy Questions* with regard to **travel, education, networking, food, and entertainment.**

This issue of the *Signals* captures their adventures and misadventures based upon their responses.



San Diego, the nation's seventh largest city, previously hosted the NES in 1989.

Getting There and Back Had Its Moments

Was getting there half the fun? Describe anything unusual or interesting about your travels (or logistics) to and from San Diego:

J.D.: On Friday, my wife and I were informed at the McGee Tyson Airport check-in line that the 4:30 flight to Atlanta was canceled due to weather conditions around Atlanta. That caused the flight from Atlanta to San Diego to occur very early Saturday instead of Friday p.m.

We were put up at the Weston Hotel in Atlanta and given a bag of toiletries. When we finally arrived in San Diego, we discovered our luggage didn't—so we ran around all day Saturday (I also attended a meeting) in our travel clothes.

My clothes arrived an hour before my 8 a.m. meeting on Sunday. When I got back to the room, my wife was wearing my shirt and going through socks and such to find things she could wear. Her luggage didn't show up until 5 p.m.!

David: I flew Southwest. I was *not* told to get my boarding pass from the front baggage check-

in folks, and I arrived early by two hours. I wound up sitting in a very bad seat. I don't think that's funny.

Bill Price: Naturally, my plane leaving Knoxville had a flat tire, which made me miss my Atlanta connection and put me in San Diego three hours late. Not too bad, however, since my luggage made it.

Tracye: Getting to San Diego was no problem—but getting home was a different story. We were at the SD Airport at 5 a.m. on Friday along with approximately 500 others trying to get through Security. We ended up being the last two people to board the plane. We were late arriving in Cincinnati and almost missed our connection. And after boarding, we sat in the plane for an hour, without air conditioning, waiting for the correct paperwork to permit us to take off. We arrived in Knoxville late and then sat in traffic for another two hours.

Bill Teer: My flight out was uneventful other than a couple of Security searches, which is just part of travel these days.

Linda: The pilots were “A-1” and we arrived home safely. On the way to Houston from San Diego, our pilot had to avoid several bad thunderstorms. We circled the airport for over 30 minutes before landing, but the pilot was able to avoid turbulence for the most part.

Cheri: Marcia and I used frequent flyer miles to upgrade our seats on the trip out. It was a large plane with a really nice first class section. We each had our own video screen with multiple movies/games available.

Marcia: When we left San Diego, Cheri had arranged for a van to take us back to the airport. Well, with seven people and all their luggage, it wasn't big enough—so we also had to get a cab. When we arrived at the airport, the hotel was calling the drivers in a panic because in addition to our luggage they had loaded someone else's. But it all worked out great—and overall the travel was very nice.



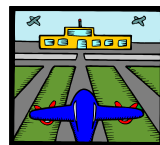
Connections were missed . . .



Luggage was lost . . .



Thunderstorms threatened . . .



Folks sat on the runway . . .



But everyone made it home safe and sound!

NES Is About Learning and Achieving

What was your single-most valuable educational experience at the NES?

Tracye: The FAR Rewrite Session and the DOE Property Managers Session were both interesting. I am beginning to think that anything Doug Goetz (CPPM, CF) teaches will be interesting. (Dr. Goetz will be our instructor for the August 5-9 Contractor Property Administration Fundamentals course—see Calendar on page 1.)

Cheri: A workshop on the GSA Auction Web site.

Linda: Andy Anderson (CPPM, CF) conducted the Certification Review sessions. I was fortunate to have such a knowledgeable person for this review. Under his instruction, I was able to pass both the CPPS and CPPA exams.

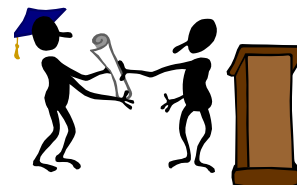
J.D.: The trials, tribulations, and lessons learned about online auctions—what’s working, what’s not. And the knowledge (or lack of it) by the Sites regarding Export Control. We seem to be out in front. Yeah!

David: I especially liked the State and Local Government classes on Property Management.

Bill: It was interesting to see how the National Delegate meeting worked. Many viewpoints were expressed on one particular issue. (But that was a *long* Sunday for J.D. and me!)

Bill Teer: The Steve Michaelson (CPPM, CF) update on DOE Property (Current Property Management Initiatives) was the “must” session for me.

Marcia: At the last minute (Wednesday before leaving), Ivonne Bacher (CPPM, CF) called and asked me to participate on the Systems Implementation Panel, due to the absence of one of the participants. I said “yes” based upon my experience with the PRISM and SAP implementations. After meeting the other three panel members, however, I went into panic mode. They were from *totally* different backgrounds: one was a software programmer from Sunflower Systems, one was from a DoD site, and the other was a high-level manager. But I didn’t chicken out and found that I was able to share a lot of information from my own experience. I thoroughly enjoyed this session.



NES Is About Networking

Everyone talks about the value of networking at seminars. Describe such an experience:

Tracye: It was interesting to meet other Property professionals outside of Government. I never realized how broad Property Management is in all aspects of industry.

Cheri: The DOE contractors met in an open forum to discuss pertinent issues. This meeting occurs at every NES and is always an excellent networking experience.

Linda: I met many people from other organizations during the classes and seminars. I made it a point to introduce myself and find out what enterprises others represented. In this manner, I was able to meet

many people from organizations across the country.

J.D.: Sharing with my Sandia counterpart; putting faces with names; trading war stories and experiences of what to do, what not to repeat, and how to do it; and understanding that we’re all in this together. Wow!

David: I met with Joe Bowker from Boston. Joe puts on the Property Information Network paper for Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), and I have corresponded with him for years but had never met him face to face.

Bill Price: As always, I re-established old friendships. We gripe, moan, etc., about issues and then talk about our resolutions. I find out a lot about new

initiatives that currently only affect some but are slowly moving towards the rest of us.

Bill Teer: I reestablished a connection with a Bechtel Nevada Property person whom I had not seen in several years.

Marcia: Wow! If I were to rank the reasons I go to the NES, networking would be number one. These are the people who do the same things that we do, experience many of the same problems and issues we face, and often have the solutions. One of my goals if re-elected was to identify people to work with me in the next two years. Not only did I find people willing to help; people actually came up to me and asked to work as Directors!



When the day comes that I can no longer attend the NES, I will miss many, many friends.

—Marcia Whitson

Mexican Cuisine Rules

What's the best food you had on your trip?

Tracye: It definitely wasn't the NPMA Dinner—a \$35 hamburger/hotdog/salad. I love Mexican food, and the San Diego Old Town had *great* Mexican.

Marcia: All the food was *expensive*, but I loved the dinner we had at the NES. The theme was a patriotic picnic and the menu included Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Fried Chicken, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Beans, and

other 'fixins.'

Cheri: My favorite meal was seafood at the Fish Market in Seaport Harbor.

J.D.: Bandini's—the four-star, number one Mexican restaurant in Old Town San Diego for four straight years—and my pallet will attest to it. Good food, good service, and Spanish guitar playing (pickin') right at your table.

David: The steak dinner at the Town and Country Resort Hotel — and the in-hotel food —

were great.

Bill Teer: I made it no further than the Mall next door to the hotel for food—but the Cheese Cake Factory had excellent pasta.

Bill Price: Mexican, Mexican, and Mexican. Since everyone I went to dinner with wanted Mexican, that's all I had, so I guess that was the best. At one place it amazed me how they turned beans, lettuce and flour into an \$18 meal (not including tips)—and I only had a Coke!



NES Foundation Raffle Winners

Linda Gattuso won a "picnic-type basket filled with all kinds of goodies from Virginia."

Kathy Davidson won the Rocket City basket filled with tea, coffee, mugs, and the book *Rocket Boys*.

<http://www.org/>

A Good Time Was Had By All

What did you do for fun?

Bill Price: Part of Monday was a dead day, so **Don Baxter** and I took off sightseeing. We hit Mission Beach and collected shells and rode a roller coaster that had square wheels and looked like it dated back to the 20's. We then toured La Jolla, watched seals sunning on the beach, toured upscale neighborhoods, and walked the beaches and boardwalks. On the return trip we hit Balboa Park: what a wonderful and beautiful place! A free concert was going on at the amphitheatre featuring 50's rock music. We then hit the Old City for more Mexican, bought Mexican souvenirs made in China, and ate dinner at a seafood restaurant that specialized in fish tortillas. It really was an altogether fun and interesting day that I'll remember for a long time.

J.D.: What did we do for fun? Go through suitcases, like meeting an old friend. Seriously,

Balboa Park is full of museums. I especially enjoyed a miniature model railroad museum—rooms of little toy train layouts modeled after the southern California landscape and scenery depicting actual buildings of the area. Then there was the Wild Animal Park, a 5-mile monorail through areas of wildlife in natural settings. Didn't see any of my relatives—the monkeys were apparently asleep.

Tracye: I most enjoyed the Wild Animal Park and the Point Loma Lighthouse. The flowers and the temperature were absolutely incredible. Oh yeah—Marcia and Cheri's Auction was a lot of fun also!

Cheri: We visited Tijuana.

David: I enjoyed soaking in the Jacuzzi at the hotel.

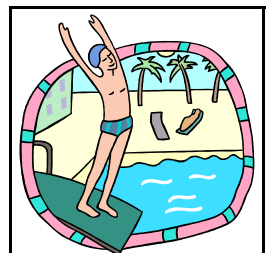
Marcia: Since my family was along, most of my activities involved them. We enjoyed the San Diego Zoo, Seaport Vil-

lage, and the Mall next door.

Linda: Going to Balboa Park and the San Diego Zoo were highlights for me. My parents took our family to California in 1965 and 1967. Throughout the years, no matter what zoo I visited, I always compared it to the San Diego Zoo. On this trip, we visited the zoo on Sunday afternoon. Many of the animals—like the gorilla, polar bear, lion, leopard, and various hoofed species—were sleeping, but the brown bears were playing ball. The snake house was my favorite (as in every zoo), and the aviary made me think of Jurassic Park (when the birds chased them on a swinging bridge). We only had one afternoon, but I will carry the beauty and wonder of the San Diego Zoo with me for many years to come.



The 100-acre San Diego Zoo is host to 4,000 animals representing 800 species. An ideal climate makes it possible for the animals to live outdoors year-round.



I'm such a boring guy the most fun thing I did was share the evening by the pool with other hotel guests!

—Bill Teer

Property Professionals Get Around

Being a Property professional is a great way to see the U.S.A. The 2003 NES, the 33rd such event, will take place in the Sunshine State in the city of **Jacksonville**.

The following 21 cities have hosted the NES in prior years, with Orlando being the most frequent site:

Atlanta—1992

Boston—1974

Braintree, Mass.—1982

Buena Park, Calif.—1984

Dallas—1970, 1977, 1995

Denver—1986

Fort Worth—1980

Houston—2001

Las Vegas—1981

Los Angeles—1972, 1975

New Orleans—1990

Orlando—1971, 1979, 1988,

1999

Philadelphia—1976

Reno—1991

San Diego—1989, 2002

San Francisco—1973, 1978, 1994

San Jose—1987

Santa Fe—1983, 1998

Sparks, Nev.—1997, 2000

St. Louis—1993



*The 2003 NES
will be the
33rd
such event.*

Attendees Build Vocabulary at NES

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

N P P V U E C N A T P E C C A T S E I R

O A R V W X Y Y C N E G A Z A L B C J L

J R O O D A N O R O C I L B U P E I U A

A C T U C K R A P E G A T I R E H S A S

C S E C T O R E Q U I R E M E N T I N O

L Y C H O I D A R P I H S R E N W O A P

E T T E H G F E P D G U I D E L I N E S

T I K R A P A O B L A B G I F T N I L I

H R E D D I B K J L A T I P A C O U B D

I O L N O I T A T N E M U C O D I N A R

C H O Y C N E U Q E R F I O N M T I T A

S T O G I M A T R A I N I N G S A V R D

R U Q P T N E M P I U Q E S A E G E O N

S A N I A T N I A M E S A I S D E R P A

T N O I T A N I M R E T S D L O L S E T

U N O N R E P O R T A B L E I C E I R S

V A E L C Y C E F I L K L R G M D T W E

W B D E L B A T N U O C C A H N O Y N H

X C I G H I J P R O P E R T T R A Q P C

Y E V R E S E R P L O T T I N G S H T A

Z D S L L A M N W O T D L O R T N O C E

F E T E N R E T N I B A Z N Y X W V U B

- Acceptance
- Accountable
- Agency
- Amigo
- Authority
- Balboa Park
- Beaches
- Bidder, Capita
- Changes, Codes
- Communication
- Consideration
- Control
- Coronado
- Decision
- Delegation
- Disposal
- Documentation
- El Cajon
- Equipment
- Ethics
- Frequency
- Gaslight
- Guidelines
- Protect
- Plotting
- Public, Radio
- Reportable
- Requirement
- Sales, Scrap
- Sector
- Standard
- Termination
- Tijuana
- Training
- University
- Video
- Voucher

Word Search

by
Debbie Ferguson
CPPA

Literary Award!

Congratulations to **Marcia Whitson** (CPPM, CF) for receiving recognition for literary excellence at the NES.

Marcia was one of six NPMA members to be so recognized. Her article, "The Quest to Conduct the Perfect Sale," appears in Vol. 14, No. 1 of *The Property Professional*.

Award for best article appearing in *The Property Professional* from May 2001 to May 2002 went to **Lyle Hestermann** (CPPM, CF, Hoosiers Chapter) for his article on "Standard Practice for Assessing Loss, Damage or Destruction of Property," which appears in Vol. 13, No. 4.



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Great Smoky Mountain Chapter (GSMC)

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Great Smoky Mountain Chapter
of the
Eastern Region NPMA

Send a Signal to Someone!

Smoky Mountain Signals

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