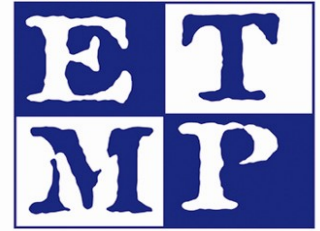


The ETMP Insider

Meet, Connect, Learn

East Tennessee



Meeting Professionals

Your President Speaks . . .

I was very excited when the Board decided to start the newsletter up again. Although it can be a time consuming activity, it is an excellent way to communicate to all of the ETMP members. As I was thinking about what to write about I went back to the first Presidential Address I did in July 2002 to do some research. What I discovered was the ideas about the value of ETMP are the same as they were then. Since there are only a few charter members still around I am submitting this article again for your consumption. I hope the ideas written here will resonate with you as much as they do with me.

Originally submitted August 2002.

I want to take a few moments to talk about the values of being a member of an industry association. I believe

that there are three main values that people have when they are members.

The first value of being in an association is education. Whether you are able to attend national conventions or just your local programs, the education that you receive is one of the benefits that help you do your job far more efficiently and with a better attitude than if you don't attend the workshops. Gaining information first hand is absolutely the best way to learn.

Books and the Internet have much to offer, but so many times we are trying to take in information while working on other projects. When we attend a workshop we have scheduled a time to learn without the phones ringing and other people making demands on us. We can concentrate on absorbing whatever knowledge the presenter is sharing. The

second value of being in an association is networking. The powerful part of networking is that you meet and interact with people who have a common interest with you no matter whether or not they are buyers or suppliers. The truth is - we all like to do business with the people we know and like so the relationships that we form here are essential in getting our business done. Relationships are the primary key to unlocking the doors for success.

The third value of being in an association is the realization that you are not alone in your endeavors. When we are back at the office and trying to get our customers or our boss's needs met it just always seems like everyone is demanding your output immediately and they can't realize the difficulty of

Upcoming Events:

- *Tuesday, April 26, Hilton Downtown Speaker Lisa Lanphear, United Way*
- *Tuesday, May 24 Park Vista Hotel*
- *Tuesday, June 7 Dandridge Fam Tour*
- *Tuesday, August 23 Holiday Inn Cedar Bluff*
- *Tuesday, September 27 Double Tree*
- *October 25 Riverstone Lodge*
- *November Holiday Event*

Your President Speaks (continued)

your task. Sometimes you may wonder if you are doing the right things in your everyday process or you may have fallen into a routine where you aren't changing with the times. It always seems refreshing when you come to the meetings and find out that your problems are almost exactly like a lot of other members. It almost seems like a sanity check that we all need from time to time.

In closing, I just want to urge you to not only join the appropriate industry associations, but to attend as many of the programs as possible. After a while, it is really hard to miss one because you just need that time for yourself to learn, network, and compare. In other words, take the time needed to improve your skills and abilities through associations with other industry professionals.



Becky Fox Helps Members set Nutrition and Fitness Goals

Thank you to the Comfort Inn Oak Ridge and General Manager Ashley Richards for hosting our February meeting. The fabulous, and healthy, lunch was provided by Judy Dodd Catering. Everyone who attended set new nutrition and fitness goals; we should be a fitter, healthier ETMP by now. If you missed-out on this great

meeting visit speaker Becky Fox's websites, www.foxfitness.com and www.getfoxybootcamp.com, for more information on how to have a healthier 2011.



Ethics and Morals Discussed at March Meeting

Denise Kirkwood, Training Manager for Dollywood spoke on Ethics and Morals in the workplace at our March meeting. She discussed trustworthiness, honesty, and integrity in the contexts of the self, the work team, and in relation to our customers. She challenged us to consider and write down our core values; a difficult but useful

exercise. Ms. Kirkwood left us with the words "Our culture can rise no higher than we treat each other."

Thank you to K. Taylor, GM of the Mainstay Suites, Merchants Drive, Alyce Heifner, and Puleo's Grill.



Dandridge FAM Trip Planned for June 7th

Join the East TN Meeting Professionals on Tuesday the 7th of June as we travel by motor coach to Dandridge, TN. Gain knowledge of the area during the showcase of local businesses to include; hotels, restaurants, catering companies and attractions. We will have a hands-on interactive experience at the all new Bush Brothers Visitor Center, where you will be able to weigh yourself in beans! Your stomach will appreciate the delicious lunch provide by the Bush Family Cafe before heading to the



historic downtown area of TN's 2nd oldest city, Dandridge. Here we will tempt our taste buds with handmade milkshakes from Tinsley's Bible who-by the way- is celebrating their 100th Anniversary! A walking tour of the historic taverns, landmarks and civil war sights will engage our ears until we

head out to the lake for a sightseeing boat tour ride. Our evening event will take place at Angelo's. Here we will enjoy a light dinner, incredible views of the lake, live music and an open cash bar.

This FAM tour will not only be educational but one that you will sure to remember! Keep reading in the coming months for more details and information on this one-of-a-kind FAM TOUR!

Scholarship Winners Announced

Angie Droz and Carly Bushong were announced as the 2011 scholarship winners at our March meeting. ETMP received 11 applications for the Deborah Redman Scholarship this year, the highest number to date. There were many qualified applicants, most of whom are enrolled in the UT Professional & Personal Development certificate program for Event Planners and

others from the UT degree program. This is a challenging labor of love, and the Scholarship committee spent considerable effort to evaluate all of the applications. After much thoughtful discussion, the decision was made to offer two \$500 scholarships! Be sure to wish Angie and Carly the very best for the future.

If you have any questions about next year's scholarship enrollment or the application process, please contact Donna Thomas at donna.thomas@orise.orau.gov.

ETMP on Facebook

The ETMP Facebook page is a great tool to help its members communicate important information about the association and members. If you have any announcements or information you would like posted on the Facebook page please email it to robinj@riverstoneresort.com. Also,

if you have any suggestions or anything you would like to see on the website please email to Jim Johnson or Robin Jones.

To become a fan of the ETMP on Facebook simply go to the Facebook page www.facebook.com/easttennesseemeetingprofession-

[als](#) and click on the become a fan button. Then you will receive all the updates on meetings and what is going on with ETMP.

East Tennessee Meeting Professionals

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ETMP
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Mission Statement

East Tennessee Meeting Professionals is an organization committed to Education, Career Development, and Developing Business Contacts for Meeting and Event Professionals in East Tennessee.

Objectives

- Encouraging and improving communication, understanding and cooperation between meeting planners and suppliers through periodic meetings, discussions, and conferences;
- Expanding the knowledge and abilities of planners and suppliers by conducting formal educational programs;
- Aiding planners in locating and evaluating meeting facilities and support services;
- Assist both meeting planners and suppliers in enhancing their personal and professional skills and increasing their career development opportunities;
- Promoting an understanding in decision-making areas that directly or indirectly impacts the scope of operations of the planners and suppliers;
- Maintaining liaison activities with other professional meeting planner and supplier organizations; and
- Providing guidance and advice to planners and suppliers on all phases of planning, executing, and evaluating meetings.

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