



# Columbia BuyLine

November 2007

Columbia Chapter, NIGP

Volume 1, Issue 1

**Chapter scholarship winners say thanks for a great experience. . .**

*. . . beginning on page 4*



## Higher Standards for CPPO and CPPB Exams Coming Soon

A new CPPO and CPPB certification exam format is rolling out in 2008.

The major focus of the new exam is on applying real life knowledge learned from experience on the job. You still have to study! Some questions are based on knowledge learned from reading the study materials.

The computer-based exam has a total of 175 multiple choice

questions in a four-option format.

It will be offered in May and October each year through Prometric Testing Centers.

The first exam period is October 20-25, 2008. The examinations will be offered daily during two daily testing periods on each of the six days.

The content of both new exams have been updated based on

*con't on page 7*

### CHAPTER OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Kathleen Hinick, CPPB  
President

Gretchen Harold, CPPB  
Vice President

Denice Henshaw,  
Secretary

David Laney  
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Elaine Holt, CPPO, CPPB  
Past President

Denise Johnson, CPPB  
Membership

Don Hicks,  
Professional Development

Christine Moody, CPPB  
ICP Chair

## Excellence in Procurement



Columbia Chapter won the Medium Chapter of the Year Award during the 62nd Annual Forum and Products Exposition which took place August 6-8 in Hartford, Connecticut. This is the NIGP educational highlight of the year and the largest conference for individuals in public purchasing. It's a great opportunity to engage in professional development and gain new ideas by networking with purchasing peers in the US, Canada and abroad.

Stay tuned for information on the 2008 Annual Forum in Charlotte, North Carolina scheduled for July 26-30, 2008.



# President's Message Kathleen Hinick, CPPO



**Greetings** and welcome to Columbia Chapter's 2007-2008 NIGP year. I hope each member finds meaningful educational and professional opportunities through our Chapter this year.

We are off to a good start with a top-notch professional development class schedule offering beginning, intermediate, and advanced procurement classes. Our general membership meetings will continue to provide speakers and presentations on current procurement topics and areas of interest within our region.

Member involvement is the lifeblood of an organization. The September meeting "Get Involved" presentation resulted in several members volunteering in identified chapter volunteer areas. Thank you very much. Volunteering is a great opportunity to network among fellow professionals and build lasting friendships.

Our strong scholarship and rewards programs enables membership participation in professional procurement education opportunities from Chapter-sponsored LEAP classes to the NIGP Forum. We will continue to tap these education funding sources providing opportunities for the advancement of professional excellence to Chapter members.

Our 2007 Reverse Vendor Trade Show proceeds were \$7,482. Monies earned from the event provide support to the vitality of the Scholarship and Reward program.

The 2008 RVTS is scheduled for March 11, 2008 at the Salem Convention Center. Committee chairs are working hard preparing for another successful event. Columbia Chapter's co-chair this year is Diane Seaton, CPPB, from the City of Portland.

**Mark your calendar—  
March 11, 2008  
is the RVTS!**

The Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing group began a new year in September. Under the leadership of Christine Moody, CPPB, CPPO, the group is executing the first joint procurement for water treatment chemicals.

Our newsletter is on track to publish the Fall 2007 edition. Paula Harlin from Portland Public Schools has graciously accepted the editor position. Paula anticipates publishing fall, winter and spring editions.

We have enjoyed a 21% increase in membership over 2006. I encourage all new and continuing members to get involved with our nationally recognized medium-sized NIGP chapter. The benefits are enormous! ☺

**Newsletter info:**  
**Paula Harlin, Editor**  
Send comments to:

NIGP newsletter  
pharlin@pps.k12.or.12

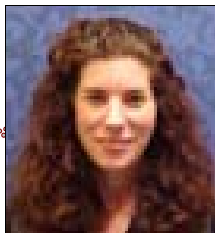


Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he'll buy a funny hat. Talk to a hungry man about fish, and you're a consultant.

- Scott Adams



## Message from the Past-President



Elaine Holt, CPPO

I felt compelled to write an article for the chapter newsletter, in part because somehow I've escaped this task so far in my tenure, and because I want to tell you what a pleasure and benefit it has been to serve.

When someone asked whether I would be interested in running for office, and I heard that the commitment was five years, I wondered if I was doing the smart thing throwing my hat in the ring. Five years seemed an eternity then. Like all of us, my desk was (and is) buried in papers, projects promised, deadlines looming and documents and procedures moldering in need of overhaul.

I have no regrets. The networking I've been able to do, and the friendships I have made are invaluable. As I'm writing this, I realize how corny it all sounds. So I will say this, if you plan to stay in the same job, at the same organization, for the remainder of your career, being a board member may not be a huge benefit for you, other than the good you will feel in volunteering and the fun you'll undoubtedly



have. However, if you want to move up and on, think seriously about getting involved and running for office.

It isn't like running for president of the United States in 2008. There won't be 20 candidates, you don't need to raise funds and you don't need to campaign. It is a serious commitment though. If you run for the "full meal deal" (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, President, and Past President) you must be prepared to perform a great variety of tasks, ranging from public speaking, to finding and booking speakers, to keeping the bank account. You will be expected to go to many meet-

*"The friendships I have  
made are invaluable."*

ings and contribute your best ideas to grow the chapter. The good news is that you will have all sorts of mentors to help you along the way. And, if you think you might want to try some less time consuming volunteering on for size, there are many options to pick from.

I've been very fortunate in my career in public procurement. I don't know if I could have done it without the Columbia Chapter.

### *Congratulations*

Procurement professionals receiving certifications:

#### **Certified Professional Public Officer (CPPO)**

- Amha Hazen, Housing Authority of Portland
- Eileen Miller, Chemeketa Community College
- Gail Rubin, Multnomah County

#### **Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB)**

Carolyn Bader, Multnomah County

There is Still Time to Register Online for:

#### **Introduction to Public Procurement in Portland on November 28-30**

An overview of fundamental concepts of procurement in the public sector.

Register online at  
[nigp.org/educate/outline/INTRO-OR.htm](http://nigp.org/educate/outline/INTRO-OR.htm)

Look for the blue box on the right side of the page and click the link that says "Online Registration".

Questions?

Contact Don Hicks at [dhicks@mesd.k12.or.us](mailto:dhicks@mesd.k12.or.us)

## Forum scholarship winners share the experience of the 2007 Forum

by Louise Tamiesie  
City of Portland



by Cynthia Roda  
Beaverton School District

Thank you to the Columbia Chapter for sponsoring my attendance at the NIGP Annual Forum in Hartford, CT. I'm grateful for the motivation, inspiration, information and celebration the event afforded.

**Motivation** was delivered in various forms including a session by Commander Scott Waddle, USN, retired, the commander of a nuclear submarine that collided with a Japanese civilian vessel killing several students.

His presentation, titled "Failure is not Final" demonstrated the level of integrity, responsibility and work ethics we may all seek

to attain in our personal and public lives.

**Inspiration** was plentiful in the form of shared ideas and concepts through target-specific and general networking sessions often continued at the special events.

A quote by Rob Rickard in an earlier newsletter article regarding participation in the Columbia Chapter put it best. The Forum offers "synergy of creative thinking." While participating, "we are only a conversation away from another purchasing professional who may have the solution to our challenge." This conversation may be with an agency in Tulsa, OK or Canada – a wide array of opportunities, experiences and ideas to tap. *Continued on page 6*

I had the privilege of attending the 2007 NIGP National Forum in Hartford, Connecticut. The Columbia Chapter membership graciously awarded me a scholarship to enable me to attend this great event. It was a packed, exciting, fast-paced, four days!

Hartford is filled with history - just walking through the town was fascinating. In just a short walk from my hotel I saw the State Capitol, the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, the Old State House, and an interesting old (1700's) cemetery.

Forum 2007 had an excellent selection of workshops, networking classes, and plenary sessions to chose from.

*Continued on next page*

## Public Procurement



Self-paced courses over the Internet. Work independently. Online training will use text, practicum and quizzes to bring the learning experience to your desktop.

### Benefits of On-line Training:

- Train when you need it, not when it is scheduled
- Convenient
- Eliminate travel expenses
- Continual access to current topics
- Earn contact hours toward certification

### For More Information:

If you would like more information or are not a member and would like to take advantage of this exciting format, email us at [distancelearning@nigp.org](mailto:distancelearning@nigp.org) or call 1-800-FOR-NIGP (1-800-367-6447) ext 233.



(l to r) Leslie Johnson, Washington County; Kathleen Hinick, City of Portland; Diane Seaton, City of Portland; Kevin Yin City of Portland.

*Continued from previous page*

Three of my favorites were as follows:

*Social Responsibility in the Public Sector - How do we Stack Up?* Our speaker compared the public sector with the private sector and how each is addressing the subject of social responsibility. In the private sector it was noted that many corporations have already begun looking at seven key social equity initiatives and are incorporating changes into workplace policies. Those initiatives involve community, diversity, environment, ethics, financial responsibility, human rights and safety.

As representatives of the public sector we were asked to think about the question, "What is government, or more specifically, your agency, doing to give back to the community?" We ended the session with the statement, "Remember - government purchasing has power to implement change!"

*Failure is not Final* was possibly the best presentation I attended. Given in an opening session by Commander Scott Waddle, US Navy Retired, he shared his moving and tragic story of an incident which happened when the submarine he was commanding, the USS Greeneville, collided with a Japanese training vessel off the coast of Hawaii in 2001, and killed nine people aboard. He accepted complete responsibility for the accident and his command was taken away.

Commander Waddle began his presentation by stating, "You are not defined by your failures or your successes. Your actions define who you are." He

*see Louise Tamiesie on page 8*

**by Leslie Johnson  
Washington County**

It was a privilege to attend the recent NIGP Forum in Hartford, Connecticut as a representative of the NIGP Columbia Chapter. Thank you to the chapter for the scholarship giving me the opportunity to attend especially as it was my last Forum (retirement in December 2008).

The highlight for me was the success of both Columbia Chapter and OPPA in being selected for mid-size and large-size chapters of the year respectively. I have been involved with both chapters for many years and to be present for the chapter awards was truly special. In addition, Washington County was one of six winners of the Sterling Award which is given to agencies who have been 100% certified (CPPB or CPPO) for three years in a row.

Commander Scott Waddle was commander of the submarine that hit the Japanese trawler off the coast of Oahu in 2001 (several Japanese students and crew died in the crash) and was the Monday morning plenary speaker. His presentation was very emotional with a standing ovation at the end (a lot of teary eyes also). The lesson he presented was take responsibility for actions taken by your subordinates.

I had forgotten how intense and tiring a national conference can be especially as a person ages. My first Forum was in 1986 in Washington DC and

*see Leslie Johnson on page 8*



Soldier's and Sailor's Memorial Arch in Hartford, CN

Cynthia Roda *con't from page 3*

**Instruction** was offered in a myriad of workshop offerings which I found very timely and forward-thinking. I found the PCard, sustainability, K-12 education, contract and solicitation related workshops very beneficial.

**Celebration.** The Forum provided opportunities to celebrate the profession, local chapters and agency accomplishments.

Both OPPA and the Columbia Chapter were recognized at the Awards luncheon as was Washington County! The event also offered entertainment for "off-hours" when participants could enjoy new or renewed acquaintances or venture into the culture and history of Hartford.

On a local level, I found sharing these experiences with other members of the Columbia Chapter (and OPPA chapter) offered a camaraderie that confirms and extends the sharing and "synergy" of this organization.

My opportunity came by requesting my name to be added to the list of CPPB certificate recipients. Then I waited my turn in line. I encourage recent CPPB recipients to sign up. It's well worth the wait!



State Capital Building, Hartford, CN

## Education



### Sourcing in the Public Sector

Instructor: TBD

**NIGP National Members - \$575**

**NIGP Non-members - \$750**

Intended Audience:

This course is intended for those who want to learn how to navigate the process and increase their understanding of the critical issues that frame the concept of public sector sourcing and discusses future sourcing challenges.

Procurement practitioners at all levels aspiring to public procurement professional certification, senior agency managers, suppliers, and internal customers who wish to understand their role in the public sector acquisition process are encouraged to attend.

**For complete course description:** <http://www.nigp.org/educate/outline/SRC.htm>

**To register:** [www.nigp.org/common/Seminar/SemSched.asp](http://www.nigp.org/common/Seminar/SemSched.asp)

**Questions:** Call Mickey Kemper at 503-986-2244

### News Alert!

**New laws become effective  
January 1, 2008**

See the new provisions to the public contracting code and the new provisions relating to public records laws.

*AND*

Check out the new changes to prevailing wage laws at [www.oregon.gov/boli](http://www.oregon.gov/boli)

**See the full text of House and Senate Bills**

*AT*

**Oregon State Legislature  
website  
[www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us)**



Karen Theriault

## Karen Theriault joins Portland Public Schools

Karen Theriault (pronounced ter-i-o ) joined Portland Public Schools in August as Director of Procurement & Distribution.

Karen was most recently the Administrative and General Services Manager for the El Dorado Irrigation District in California. She has published two books on procurement and has also worked as a procurement consultant.

Karen received a Juris Doctorate from the Santa Barbara College of Law in 1998, and her Lifetime Certified Purchasing Manager (C.P.M.) designation in 1994. She has more than twenty-five years of experience in the public sector.

*Exam Format continued from page 1*

the 2007 Job Analysis Study.

The goal of Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC) is to achieve accreditation from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to further elevate the status of the certifications.

### Important Dates in 2008:

**January 1**—new certification fees go into effect.

**March 31**—last day to apply to take the current CPPO and/or CPPB exams.

**July 21**—application deadline for new exams (October 2008 testing).

**July 31**—last day to take the current CPPB and or CPPO written examinations.

**September 15**—exam registration deadline for new exams (October 2008 testing).

**September 30**—last day to apply for the C.P.M to UPPCC Bridge.

**December 31**-last day to take:

- written CPPB Bridge Exam;
- CPPO Oral Panel Exam.

Detailed information is available at: [uppcc.org](http://uppcc.org)



### Columbia Chapter NIGP Holiday Luncheon & Silent Auction



**Tuesday, December 4**

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Chart House Restaurant  
5700 SW Terwilliger Blvd  
Portland, OR 97239

Don't forget to save the date and join your peers for some holiday cheer, networking, and a little fund raising, too!

Spouses or guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. While regular members dine free and associate member are charged \$20, spouses and guests will be charged \$24 for the Orange Basil Salmon menu item or \$34 for the Prime Rib luncheon menu item.

Silent auction proceeds will go to fund scholarships to help members who wish to attend the Forum in North Carolina in 2008. Please be thinking of items that you are willing to donate. Cash donations will also be accepted this year by an individual or group of individuals/agencies. For example last year the City of Portland collected cash donations from their Chapter members which was donated in the City's name and used by the Silent Auction Committee to purchase items for the auction.



Louise Tamiesie con't from page 5

spoke of the elements of leadership including integrity, accountability and responsibility. A good leader "leads by example, builds people up and fosters a climate of trust" in an organization. Other characteristics of a leader are one who, "Helps other people get to where they need to go, is a coach, a mentor and a cheerleader." I think everyone in attendance would agree this session was very inspiring.

*Excellent Customer Service - The Right Way to do Business* was a fun and interactive session. We learned that "communication" is the single most important word in customer service. Our speaker, Ed Matthews, gave many amusing examples of both excellent and poor customer service. One suggestion he made in regard to excellent customer service was to send a thank you note to our customers stating how much we enjoyed working with them. Wouldn't that surprise some of our customers! His best story of poor customer service came from an English bus service, where riders called in to complain that the buses were driving past their stop and didn't let them board. When asked about this, the bus driver said, "I can't maintain the schedule you've set for me if I stop to pick up the customers!" A great example of how we can sometimes lose focus of what our job really is.

The biggest Forum event was the Awards Luncheon, where the Columbia Chapter won Medium Chapter of the Year Award and OPPA won Large Chapter of the Year Award. This really shows that we've got some great public purchasing professionals in Oregon! It was a real honor to be there and be counted as a part of this group.

Attending the Forum gave me an opportunity to gain new ideas, meet purchasing peers and network with a great group of bright, intelligent, forward thinking, change producing professionals!

Thank you Columbia Chapter board and members for this opportunity!



Leslie Johnson con't from page 5

I recall rarely getting back to my room before midnight and being ready to go again early the next morning (this may have had something to do with my roommate Ann Booth who was very outgoing and liked to party). Ann and I were the first Columbia Chapter officers to be sent as representatives to Forum (21 years ago!). I remember arriving in Washington DC and going outside the airport to get a cab to our hotel – foggy and 0 degrees – our cab driver was a guy in zoot suit. The cab driver took us on a tour of embassy row as well as other areas but only charged us for a standard cab ride from the airport. We only found out later that was not the normal airport route.

What impressed me at the first Forum and continues to impress me is the willingness of our peers to share information. Every person I requested information from responded within the first 10 days after Forum.

**GET INVOLVED!**

**Volunteer for Columbia Chapter Community Service Project:**

Help serve dinner to the residents of the Ronald McDonald House on December 1, 2007. OR, you can cook or help with cleanup! Contact: Kathleen Hinick at 503-823-6880.

OR, help the Columbia Chapter in the following areas:

**Chapter History—2 positions open**  
Contact: Leslie Johnson at 503-846-8736

**Professional Development—the more the better!**  
Contact: Don Hicks at 503-257-1518

**Chapter Survey—2 positions open**  
Contact: Don Hicks at 503-257-1518



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The following seminars are *proposed* by both NIGP Columbia Chapter in Portland, Oregon and Oregon Public Purchasing Association (OPPA) in Salem, Oregon for 2007 - 2008.

Requisitions to schedule all of the events have been sent to NIGP National by the two chapters, we are still waiting confirmation of the events. They have, however verbally confirmed Columbia Chapter's *Intro to Public Procurement* class in November.



## Columbia Chapter has planned in Portland, Oregon:

## OPPA has proposed to host in Salem, Oregon:



- Intro to Public Procurement  
November 28–30, 2007
- Contract Administration  
January 28–30, 2008
- Principles & Techniques of  
Problem Solving  
April 4, 2008
- CPPO/CPPB Review & Test  
May 7–9, 2008



- CPPO/CPPB Review & Test  
December 5–7, 2007
- Sourcing in the Public Sector  
February 27–29, 2008
- Ethics: A Survival Kit for  
Public Procurement  
May 14, 2008
- Intro to Public Procurement  
June 9–11, 2008



For information on Columbia Chapter events,  
please contact the Chapter's  
Professional Development Director,  
Don Hicks at  
dhicks@mesd.k12.or.us  
or (503) 257-1518.

For information on OPPA events,  
please visit the OPPA website at  
<http://www.oppaweb.org>  
or contact  
Kevin Yin at  
kyin@ci.portland.or.us or (503) 823-6856.

Visit the Columbia Chapter website at  
[www.columbiachapternigp.org](http://www.columbiachapternigp.org)