NCMA'S SPACE CITY NEWS

Term: Fall 2017 | Issue 1 |

COME STUDY WITH US

Are you looking to enhance your career? The CPCM, CFCM, and CCCM certifications are awarded to candidates who meet rigorous standards, including experience, education, and knowledge. The Space City Houston (SCH) Chapter is looking into proctoring all three exams in March 2018. To express your interest and to learn more about study sessions, please contact Learon Comeaux, VP of Education, at learon.j.comeaux@nasa.gov.

FALL CONFERENCE

Join us for an exciting NCMA Fall Conference on November 15th featuring world-class speakers:

- NASA's Assistant Administrator for Procurement: William McNally
- Sierra Nevada Corporation: John Curry
- NASA's General Counsel: Sumara Thompson-King
- NASA's Commercial Crew Program Manager: Kathy Lueders

... and others as we discuss a future in which we "Advance Commercialization: Opening New Doors." There will be panels of industry leaders sharing expert insights that explore the frontiers of contracting & strategic partnerships. Panels include: Alternate Contracting Methods, Commercialization of Lower Earth Orbit, and Fostering Strategic Partnerships.

Breakfast and Networking starts at 7:30 a.m. The conference begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m.

WE CAN HELP!

Is your company looking to hire an acquisition professional?

We can help! Post your job announcement to our NCMA Space City Houston Chapter website for free!

Contact Mandy Kuehn at mandy.m.kuehn@nasa.gov for more information.

JOIN US!!!

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

The SCH Chapter would like to introduce Mrs. Wendy Crisman who is a Contracting Officer at NASA Johnson Space Center in the Source Selection and Analysis Office. Wendy began her JSC career over 16 years ago as a co-op student. Most recently, Wendy spearheaded JSC's efforts to transition to a new contract writing system being implemented across the Agency.

Wendy has been an active Chapter member since 2003, and served on the Executive Council as Treasurer. She has been on planning committees for several NCMA Fall Conferences and NES Spring Educational Seminars.

Wendy has a Bachelor of Science in Management with concentrations in both Information Technology and Operations Management. Wendy's fondest college memories were her summers spent competing and touring with The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps. She has helped raise money for breast cancer research through her participation in the AVON 39: The Walk to End Breast Cancer. She has participated in this event 4 times walking over 150 miles and raising over $8,000. Most important of all, Wendy has two little boys at home, ages 4 and 7. These little guys are active in baseball and Tae Kwon Do. Wendy, taking Tae Kwon Do herself, is an assistant instructor and expects to achieve her black belt in the next few years.

If you would like to spotlight a Chapter member, send an email to the VP of Education Steven.D.Fletcher@NASA.gov.

SCH HELPING THE COMMUNITY

On October 14, 2017, the NCMA Space City Houston Chapter teamed up with the Bay Area Habitat for Humanity to support a family in Texas City. Thank you to the volunteers from the Chapter that came out to help a local Habitat for Humanity organization build a house for a family in our community. We appreciate the help, sweat, and time expended with us to make this event a success! Visit our Facebook page for future community service opportunities: https://www.facebook.com/NCMA-Space-City-Houston-202783523065934/

MEET THE BOARD

The SCH Chapter Treasurer is Sharyn Willis who has worked at NASA/JSC since 1984; 18 years in Financial Management as a contractor and 15 years in Procurement. Sharyn was born in Ohio and suffered through the "Great Blizzard of 1978," also know as the "White Hurricane." As the saying goes "I wasn't born in Texas, but I got here as fast as I could." One year later she experienced Hurricane Alicia, her first hurricane. Sharyn became a member of NCMA in 2009 and served on the NCMA Fall and Spring conferences committees from 2012 through 2016. This is her second year as Treasurer. Contact information for Sharyn and all of the other SCH Chapter Board Members, please visit our website at: https://www.ncmaspacecityhouston.com/contact

WINDS OF CHANGE: TAKEAWAYS FROM NCMA'S 2017 WORLD CONGRESS

By: Brad Niese, SCH Chapter President

I was fortunate to attend NCMA's annual conference that took place this July in the "Windy City," at Chicago's Navy Pier. This marks my third World Congress, but my first since assuming a leadership position on SCH's board. If there was a single takeaway, it was that the winds are changing in the federal acquisition world.

The week was packed starting on Saturday night with the Chapter President's Soirée where I was able to meet fellow Chapter Presidents, the National Board of Directors and NCMA Staff. It was an evening of good food and company, where success stories and challenges facing various chapters were shared.

On Sunday, I attended the Leadership Masters Class which was an all-day leadership development class for members and chapter volunteers. The seminar topic was on *Emotional Intelligence* and gaining an appreciation for how this influences behaviors, and how to develop our organization's competencies and capabilities. It was a very interactive day, hosted by Dr. John Wilkinson, NCMA's Chief Standards and Accreditation Officer. Some key anecdotes taken from the class included:

- You have the opportunity to define yourself as a leader, don't let someone else do that for you.
- Don't think outside of the box, instead just use all of the box that is available.
- Question: Which is more important- the Mission or the People? Answer: Mission First, People Always.
- Being an effective leader takes practice. If you expect to be good at it, you must practice.

Sunday night was capped off with another fun filled evening of networking and excellent food at the NCMA Collaborate Kick Off at the Navy Pier Rooftop Terrace. NCMA Collaborate is a fantastic tool rolled out by NCMA where fellow members can pose questions and offer replies to those seeking guidance. Try it out: http://collaborate.ncmahq.org/home!

The next 3 days was a bit of a blur, with an agenda loaded with more top-notch topics and outstanding speakers than I could attend. Some particular standout moments of the conference for me included:

- Omera Khan, Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management from Aalborg University speaking boldly on her views of technology application in the future, where artificial intelligence is headed, and the value of a traditional college education curriculum in our fast paced, ever changing technological world.
- Dan Helfrich, Principal at Deloitte Consulting LLP, discussed how small changes can make big impacts. Specific examples he recommended for federal acquisition included: 1) challenging key personnel requirements in solicitations (e.g., Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates probably both do not meet the educational requirements to hold key personnel positions on many Government IT contracts); 2) shift thinking about procurement of "services," and instead think procurement of "solutions"; and 3) stop doing one-way "Requests for Information," and instead do a two-way "Request for Interaction."
- Dee Lee's discussion on Government acquisition tenants that need modernization: models of contractor accountability; rules that govern competition; measurement of socio-economic benefits; protest rules; and overall procurement execution time.

The week concluded with an awards ceremony where our SCH Chapter was recognized twice. First, Jenny Arkinson (NASA) was recognized with the prestigious honor of *NCMA Fellow*. This is a tremendous accomplishment that is a testimony to her contributions and dedication to the field of procurement. Finally, NCMA's *Innovation in Contracting Award* went to a group of NASA contracting professionals for their innovative public-private partnerships to establish new space transportation services within commercial markets in support of the International Space Station.

Overall the week proved to be highly informational, and inspiring as I consider the force of efforts in play across the federal acquisition system aimed at improving and simplifying the process. I highly recommend members to explore the possibility of attending the World Congress in Cleveland, Ohio. Finally, NCMA is always looking for conference topic ideas and presenters. A call for World Congress 2018 presentations will be coming out soon, so be on the look out!