

# NCMA'S SPACE CITY NEWS

Term: Spring 2018 | Issue 2 |

## EXPAND YOUR NETWORK WITH US!

Attention all SCH Members!!

The SCH Chapter is hosting a membership appreciation social on March 8th from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Top Golf Webster. Come join us for a fun filled evening of camaraderie, fajitas and some friendly golf games at the one and only Top Golf. This is a **FREE, FREE, FREE** event for all SCH members. Non-members and guests are welcome to join us for \$45. Click here to register!

For questions, please contact Mandy Kuehn at [mandy.m.kuehn@nasa.gov](mailto:mandy.m.kuehn@nasa.gov).



## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

The Chapter is working on a few outreach opportunities over the next few months. We will need a team of volunteers for another Habitat for Humanity project on March 10th, plus a possible volunteer opportunity at Houston's Art Car Parade. If you are interested, contact Lynn West, SCH Chapter VP/President-Elect, at [lynn.west@nasa.gov](mailto:lynn.west@nasa.gov).

### VOLUNTEER



## WE CAN HELP!

*Is your company looking to hire an acquisition professional? We can help!*



*Post your job announcement to our NCMA website for free. Contact Mandy Kuehn at [mandy.m.kuehn@nasa.gov](mailto:mandy.m.kuehn@nasa.gov) for more information.*

## KEY DATES

**March 1: Certification Information Session**  
See page 2 of more information

**March 8: Top Golf Membership Appreciation Event**  
Webster location  
4:30 - 7:30 pm

**March 10: Habitat for Humanity**

**March 22: Lunch & Learn**  
Topic: Category Management  
Pricing with GSA's Mark King

**April 12: Small Business Conference and Trade Fair**  
NASA-JSC Gilruth Center  
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**May 22: Spring Training Seminar (in-place of an NES this year)**  
Topic: Create and Capture Value as You Negotiate  
Marriott - South Hobby Airport

## MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



The Space City Houston Chapter would like to introduce Penny Goodman. Penny works in the contracts office at KBRWyle, and has been a dedicated NCMA member for an impressive 16 years. During this time she has held the executive council positions of VP of Membership and VP

of Communication. She also Co-chaired the 2015 NCMA Fall Conference and has volunteered on many other chapter events. Penny has a business degree and has her Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting (FACC) from the University of Houston. Penny says her favorite part of the contracting profession is the diverse people she has met.

Penny advises others to “keep a positive attitude and you will be able to handle anything that comes your way!” This advice has played a key role in her life recently as she endured many challenges in 2017. Early last year Penny was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer. She sadly lost her only brother to cancer last year as well. Not through the struggles just yet, she also lost everything to the flood waters of Hurricane Harvey. In the middle of all of this she was in school trying to complete her degree. Through much hard work, persistence, and a positive attitude, today Penny is a cancer survivor, a college graduate, and is successfully rebuilding her life after Harvey.

When she is not busy managing contracts, Penny enjoys spending her time with her church. She is also an avid bowler, and loves to travel and meet new people.

When asked what her best contract management career advice for newcomers would be, Penny offered: “Get a mentor that has years of experience in this field. Get your degree/certifications early and soak up as much knowledge as possible. Attend NCMA events. This is where you will meet people from different backgrounds and different companies. You will form relationships that will last for years to come. Great organization to help grow your career.”

Excellent advice Penny, and best of luck in 2018!

## NCMA Certification - Information Session



**Date:** March 1, 2018

**Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

**Location:** NASA/JSC - Gilruth Center

2101 E. NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058

**Room:** Discovery Room

**RSVP:** [learon.j.comeaux@nasa.gov](mailto:learon.j.comeaux@nasa.gov)

**Skype Option:** Please contact Learon Comeaux via email above

**\*No lunch provided; participants may bring lunch**

The NCMA Space City Chapter will host an information session for the upcoming CPCM, GFCM and GCCM study sessions and exam. The information session will cover the following:

- Application fee & deadline
- Test fee
- Certification requirements
- Study session schedule

## MEET THE BOARD



Mr. Learon Comeaux, is Space City - Houston's Vice President for Education. He is a Contracting Officer (CO) in the Institutional Procurement Office at NASA Johnson Space Center. He has a total of 13 years of government contracting experience, and holds a BBA and MBA in Finance. Mr. Comeaux served 5 years in the International Space Station (ISS) Procurement Office as the CO for the

ISS Cargo Mission Contract as well as the Mission and Program Integration Contract. Prior to the ISS Procurement Office, Learon spent 5 years managing the Safety and Mission Assurance Contract. As a member of NCMA, he has served in various roles these last 5 years. Learon's contact information and all of the other SCH Board Members is on our Chapter website at <https://www.ncmaspacecityhouston.com/contact>.

# THE TOP 5 REASONS TO ATTEND A NCMA NATIONAL EVENT - TAKEAWAYS FROM NCMA'S 2017 GOVERNMENT CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

By Brad Niese, SCH Chapter President

I had the pleasure and honor of attending NCMA's 36th annual [Government Contract Management Symposium](#) & [Leadership Masters Class](#) in early December. As always, NCMA's national events never disappoint. The content of topics coupled with the caliber of speakers and attendees were outstanding (and proves a formidable task to boil down into just a few hundred-word newsletter article). Therefore, here are my Top 5 reasons why, based on my experience at this year's NCMA GCMS, you will want to go next year.



1. Gain valuable insight into where our field of contract management is heading... directly from the mouths of the industry and government leaders who are at the helms of the ships leading the way! Moreover, you are afforded incredible access to these industry leaders and visionaries. So take advantage of your active listening skills and learn directly from the best!

2. Attend the Leadership Master Class! It is a wonderful half-day class targeted at people passionate about making the most out of their local NCMA Chapters. Better yet, the leadership lessons learned transcend local NCMA chapter operations, having direct applicability to your day-to-day lives both in and out of the office.

3. Relationships. If I have learned anything in my 15 years in this business, it is that the world of contract management only succeeds through relationships. With more than 1,000 people in attendance at the conference, you get the opportunity to meet and network with amazing individuals from all corners of the government and corporate world that all share a common passion for contract management. Moreover, take advantage during one of the many networking breaks to explore potential new business opportunities or sources to supply your organization's needs from the hundreds of exhibitors and sponsors present at the conference.

4. You get continuous learning credits! Attending the 2-day GCMS will net you 14 CLEs. Add to that the half-day Leadership Master Class, you get another 4 CLEs. So whether you are trying to maintain a NCMA certification, a FAC-C certification, or something else comparable, NCMA conferences offer an excellent avenue at a reasonable price.

5. Last, and certainly not least, a big congratulation to our very own NCMA Chapter! At the conference, SCH was awarded the **Gold Chapter Excellence Award** for the 2017 Program Year out of all medium sized chapters in NCMA (228 – 449 members). The Chapter Excellence Award recognizes chapters that strive to meet the needs of its members by providing an optimal blend of leadership, chapter operations, member involvement and member services while taking into account the demographics and unique aspects of the chapter.

