Hello!

Well things are finally feeling like they’re getting back to normal somewhat after a really difficult year for many of us. I hope you’re all feeling that sense of relief like I am. I am looking forward to our next in-person event and seeing all of your smiling faces not just through a Zoom screen!

Things are busy and a bit hectic in procurement land! Increased, unstable and uncertain lead times on so many things we are trying to procure. Supply chains completely disrupted playing catch up after the height of a pandemic. Employers struggling to find help. As a result increased costs and likely not increased budgets for agencies.

Hang in there all of you, we will work our procurement magic and keep the wheels turning with a smile on our face. What an interesting time to be a procurement professional.

The IPPA Board has been feeling the strain as well but we are working on getting some Lunch & Learn events on the calendar here soon as well as additional Design-Build training in the fall. We are always receptive to ideas so if you have any suggestions for upcoming events please send them our way!

As usual the Reverse Vendor Trade Show is a big focus for us and our Committee has been working hard so that we can get registration open here very soon! We are excited for a big show this year to celebrate 10 years and a theme of “The Show Will Go On”! The plan is still to execute an in-person event on November 2, 2021 at Boise Centre. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that will all go according to plan. For now we will keep moving forward! We’ve got a full schedule in the works to include some amazing guest speakers, educational sessions, a new philanthropic partner as well as many vendors eager to meet you all. If you have questions please let us know, we hope to see many of you there representing your agencies with a booth space!

Hope everyone has been having a great 2021 and I hope to see you all soon!

-Alyssa Ellington, NIGP-CPP, IPPA President
We were super excited about creating one of our best show themes yet, “Passport to Possibilities.” We had some fun travel-related activities we had planned for the in-person event but had a hard time thinking of how to pull them off virtually. However, besides that the trade show turned out pretty great for our first major virtual event ever!

We were able to include all of the usual sessions just like any RVTS in the past. However, instead of doing a 1-day event, we decided to break it up over three days so we could offer many opportunities for vendors to meet with agencies one-on-one virtually, as well as have break-out sessions, and some fun events too.

This year, we had a fun and informative opening to the RVTS, taking advantage of the virtual format. We introduced the show and included snippets of each board member introducing themselves and why they enjoy being a part of IPPA. It was a useful way for all attendees to get to know the entire IPPA board of directors.

The meat of a reverse vendor trade show is providing the opportunity for vendors to engage with various government agencies and understand how they do business. We wanted to mirror that as much as possible in the virtual setting. So, we came up with individual virtual agency sessions that would each last a half hour, where the agency would prepare about a ten-minute presentation about how to do business with their agency, and then any vendors wanting to meet that agency would attend the session and a vendor Q&A would occur after the presentation. We utilized a variety of streaming platforms (Webex, Microsoft Teams, & Zoom) based on what each procurement team used at their agency, saving us lots of money!

With everything going virtual last year, we strived to make the experience as valuable to vendors as before. So we created a RVTS Vendor Spotlight webpage, where all vendor attendees had their logo or static ad displayed on the page, along with any informative brochures, contract info, their website, and a 1-minute video ad if they wanted. The sponsors had all of this as well as a shout-out for being a sponsor—an extra bonus! Regarding sponsors, we were pleasantly surprised with how many vendors wanted to sponsor a virtual show; we received 20 sponsorships!

Even though we went virtual, we were still able to provide some fantastic break-out sessions. There were two session options on Day 1 and Day 2 of
the show. Day 1 provided The Road to Strategic Procurement presented by Lisa Frank, How To Do Business with Government with panelists from Carrie Champlin, IPPA Vice President from DEQ; Megan Harvey, IPPA Secretary from City of Boise; Kasey Aldrich from Bureau of Reclamation; and Jennifer Pope, IPPA Scholarship Chair from CWI. Making the procurement profession more strategic has been a trend for a while now, so it was great to offer this to our attendees.

Day 2 offered Taking Your Cooperative Strategy to the Next Level presented by Ginger Line from Sourcewell, on behalf of NCPP; and Sustainable Procurement in U.S. Local Governments presented by Ana-Maria Dimand from BSU, and Evelyn Tramel from City of Sunny Isles Beach, FL. Cooperatives and sustainability are hot topics currently and we were happy to offer informative sessions on the topics. It was also wonderful to have presenters from across the nation participating in our first ever virtual RVTS!

In between the break-out sessions and Agency Virtual Booths on Day 1, we offered separate “Networking Lunches” for the agencies and the vendors. This way all the agencies could get to know each other a little better, and vendors could meet too, just like they would at a typical RVTS as well. These were a nice break from the educational or informative sessions, giving folks a chance to network and socialize.

On top of our virtual agency booths and break-out sessions, on Day 2 we utilized Boise Centre’s amazing A/V room to present our Lunchtime Presentation live on YouTube, including keynote speaker, Monte Stiles, Liberty Thompson from JEMFriends, our philanthropy partner, and much more.

Monte Stiles, a former prosecutor and now motivational speaker and photographer, spoke to our theme, “Passport to Possibilities,” through the keynote topic, “Rediscovering Joy.” Monte states, “After serving almost 30 years in law enforcement, and seeing the darkest aspects of the human condition as a federal drug prosecutor, a passion for nature photography gave me an opportunity to re-discover everything that is wonderful in life – a world full of amazing people, beautiful landscapes, fascinating creatures, and boundless opportunities and adventures.” This was perfect timing for being in the midst of the pandemic, uplifting attendees during the lunchtime session.

The lunchtime session was chock full of great contributors. Next, Liberty Thompson from JEMFriends, a transition program for youth aging out of foster care, presented about the program and their efforts to aid the foster care youth in our community. Also, attendees were encouraged to gather up winter gear and donate
those items to the JEMFriends offices, to help deck out the kids for a Bogus Basin tubing trip. The program received $150 worth of winter gear and gift cards!

Also, we had the chance to recognize the 2020 IPPA Individual Award Winners with their beautiful awards during the live presentation. See page 9 for the list of winners.

A helpful addition this year was YouTube Live, which gave us the opportunity to connect better with attendees using a fun and interactive environment. You can check out the lunchtime session anytime on our YouTube channel, “IPPA,” under Playlists.

On the third and final day of the virtual RVTS, there was a casual event called, “Coffee with IPPA: RVTS Wrap-up,” where we talked about how the show went, asked for feedback of vendors and the agencies, and just enjoyed a cup of joe...

Now, get ready to be back in-person for the 10th Anniversary of IPPA’s Reverse Vendor Trade Show, at Boise Centre on November 2, 2021! We are going big with our tenth anniversary celebration, especially because so many of us procurement professionals persevered throughout the pandemic, and came out as even better professionals on the other side. We think the theme we chose reflects that well — “The Show Will Go On.” Check out the flyer for the 10th Annual RVTS on the next page.

work with SHI to maximize your stimulus funding!

The latest $900 billion stimulus package includes IT-related funding, enabling you to quickly pursue initiatives that didn’t previously fit into your budget and address outstanding needs due to COVID-19 disruptions. Funding includes, but is not limited to:

- $73 billion - Department of Health and Human Services
- $82 billion - Department of Education - Education Stabilization Fund
- $54.3 billion - Department of Education - Elementary, Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
- $4.1 billion - Department of Education - Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund
- $22.7 billion - Department of Education - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

SHI can help!

We’ve detailed a section on SHI.com/Grants [shi.com] to help ensure you leverage the maximum funding for your needs. Your dedicated account executive can assist you in identifying and purchasing the right IT solutions that meet the spending guidelines.

What if we need more funding?

We’ll help you seek out additional funding and discounts to ensure your vision comes to fruition!

- We offer a Public Sector Grants Support Program [shi.com] in conjunction with the Grants Office, a national grants development services firm with a 20-year record of accomplishment in helping public sector agencies find and secure funding for technology projects.
- We have over a decade of E-rate [shi.com] experience as an eligible Service Provider under the Schools and Libraries Program.
- We hold over 650 procurement contract vehicles [shi.com], including NASPO ValuePoint [shi.com], OMNIA Partners [shi.com] and Sourcewell [shi.com]

As a reminder, we also offer an array of health and safety technology for education [shi.com] and government [shi.com] organizations as you begin to make strides toward returning to school or the office.

Ready to get started? Contact your dedicated account executive or visit shi.com/stimulus today!
IPPA 10TH ANNUAL REVERSE VENDOR TRADE SHOW

"THE SHOW WILL GO ON"

NOV 02 2021
BOISE CENTRE
850 W. FRONT ST., BOISE, IDAHO 83702
TUESDAY 8:30 AM

Your registration includes:

- Networking with local and regional businesses
- Direct access to Idaho governmental agencies all in one place
- Luncheon with Keynote Speaker
- Educational Break-Out Sessions
- Philanthropy partnership

REGISTRATION AND SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE NOW AT NIGP-IDAHO.ORG
2021 Chapter Meetings So Far

We’ve already had two successful Chapter Meetings this year, and our fall one is tomorrow, August 5th!

In a Chapter Meeting, typical chapter business is covered, including reports from the board and committees, and an educational session is provided to add another valuable piece to the meeting for members. Over the past year, we have provided these in a virtual format and they have proven to work out well with high attendance rates and beneficial informational sessions!

During the Winter Chapter Meeting, there was a lot of new business. Alyssa Ellington, IPPA President, installed new officers, reviewed the 2021 calendar, and talked about the 10th Annual RVTS scheduled for November 2, 2021, in-person at Boise Centre. Also, three of our members who were recently certified were recognized:

- Evan Amidan, Ada County Procurement—CPPB
- Shannon Shaffer, ACHD—NIGP-CPP
- Tina McBride, ISP—NIGP-CPP

Another major highlight was a Reflection on 2020 where Alyssa showed that while it was a challenging year, IPPA still accomplished a whole lot—a big Procurement Month celebration, board members attended Chapter Academy right before lockdown, we offered a free pizza dinner for members, many attended the first Virtual NIGP Forum, IPPA won the NIGP Gold Performance Standard Seal, and we put on our first ever virtual Reverse Vendor Trade Show which raised over $10K for the association!

Then, special guest, Liz Coalts, MBA, IT Vendor Management Consultant at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, presented on Managing Customer Expectations, which helped us “learn some tips on communicating with our customers to help them prepare for the procurement process and the steps and timelines involved.”

The Spring Chapter Meeting occurred on Cinco de Mayo! We provided the usual chapter updates and two major new business items: The 10th Annual RVTS theme has been chosen—"The Show Will Go On.” Also, NIGP Forum will have two formats this year: a Virtual Forum event like last year, August 23-26, and then a special Leadership Summit in Anaheim, CA in September. Finally, Dustin Lanier, the founder of Civic Initiatives, taught a session on Regrowth in the New Normal, discussing the pandemic’s initial impact, and where does regrowth happen in public procurement shops today.

Recruiting for 2022 Board!

There are a few new faces on the board in 2021, but we’re looking for even more new faces moving into the 2022 election! First, congratulations are in order for Kirk Anderson from ITD; He is now on the board as one of the Directors-at-Large. Also, Teanna Christiansen, from ACHD and Communications Committee Member, will serve as Interim Secretary until the next election.

This is a good chance to remind members that if you are interested in getting into a leadership role, consider joining the IPPA board when elections open up later this fall. You can run for one of the elected positions, committee chairs, or help out a committee like Awards, Communications, Special Events, etc. Keep an eye out for emails going out about the 2022 election in the next several months!

You may be asking yourself, ‘What are the benefits of being an IPPA Board Member?’ Well, there are many!

- Acquire new skills in planning, managing, and organizing
- Earn scholarship points for board duties
- And have fun!

If you have any questions about joining the board, feel free to reach out to IPPA President, Alyssa Ellington, at president@nigp-idaho.org.
Upcoming Trainings (All listed are virtual through Zoom)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Course Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIGP Core Certificate: Foundations of Sourcing and Contracting</td>
<td>August 17-19, 2021</td>
<td>Ms. Rashpal Uppal</td>
<td>$595 Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$695 Non-Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPA Class: Nuts and Bolts of Design-Build</td>
<td>September 16, 2021</td>
<td>Robynne Thaxton, JD, FDBIA</td>
<td>$100 Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$100 Non-Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGP Class: CPPB Prep</td>
<td>September 22-23, 2021</td>
<td>Ms. Stacy Gregg, CPP, CPPB, NIGP-CPP</td>
<td>$395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGP Core Certificate: Foundations of Leadership</td>
<td>October 20-21, 2021</td>
<td>Ms. Lourdes Coss, NIGP-CPP, CPPO</td>
<td>$425 Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$525 Non-Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have any training or lunch & learn topic suggestions? Send them to our Pro-D Chair, Drew Evans, at training@nigp-idaho.org

NIGP Communities: Watercooler

A new community has been set up for NIGP members to share comments, thoughts, articles, and memes with each other with the intention of adding some levity to our crazy lives.

At one of the sessions during this year’s VCON, one member shared how working alone without much interaction has created a negative/depressing environment and there was definitely a need for a venue to check in and interact with each other.

The Watercooler community ([link](https://nsite.nigp.org)) is open to join. Once you click this link, log in, find NSite Communities, and search for the Watercooler thread. If you are already on the Nsite webpage, select “Browse All Communities” and search for NIGP Member Watercooler. Share your stories, memes—whatever will put a smile on someone’s face!

This is just one of many amazing NSite communities you can join for invaluable procurement resources.

Zoom meetings are just modern seances

'There's someone who wants to join us.'
'Elizabeth, are you there?'
'We can’t hear you.'
'Can you hear us?'

Above: Victor Leamer’s meme to introduce the community Right: Brooke Smith’s favorite meme (from Murray City Corporation in Murray, UT).
This year’s Procurement Month was one of the most fun and creative one’s IPPA has celebrated even with doing everything virtually. Also, since NIGP rebranded their website, they created a new and fresh Procurement Month logo as well (see to right).

Once we had that in our hands we started to put activities and events together for the month. We wanted to “kick” things off right, with a Procurement Month Kick-off on Day 1, March 1st. It was geared more towards having fun and highlighting what we all love about procurement. Also, we had two special guests: Rick Grimm, NIGP CEO, and Victor Leamer, from Spokane County!

Teanna Christiansen, Communications Committee Member, did a great job sourcing magnetic lapel pins to put the brand new NIGP Procurement Month logo on! With those in hand and some party goodies, we sent “party packages” out to all of our members so they could wear their procurement pins, but save the mystery party hats, and blow-outs until the finale at the end of the month. It was a fun and lighthearted way to kick the month off!

Throughout the month of March we had several activities: weekly procurement trivia, an ongoing Facebook March of Dimes fundraiser, and a selfie contest. As always, people enjoyed the trivia and we gave out several gift cards. The fundraiser pulled in $110, so that made us feel great that we could support an organization that supports the health of moms and babies. Finally, we encouraged people to proudly wear their Procurement Month lapel pins and take a selfie. Every person who posted a selfie on one of our social media outlets was entered in to win a gift card!

We typically have a course scheduled in March, and this year IPPA planned to host the virtual NIGP Training, “Competency Module: Cost, Price, & Value Analysis,” but unfortunately it got cancelled.

Hopefully we’ll have another awesome class to host next year! Also, throughout the month we encouraged members’ agencies to have proclamations made by their governing boards. The governor, Ada County, and City of Meridian all participated, and as always IPPA proclaimed Professional Buyer’s Day, this time on March 10th.

Finally, we had the Procurement Month Finale & Awards Celebration on March 31, where Sandra Ramirez, Awards Chair, revealed each winner by offering mysterious clues! Find out more and who the winners are on the next page.

“Procurement Month means a lot to me because it’s important for our profession to be recognized for all that we do. Often times people don’t realize how important the role of Procurement is in our agencies!”

Alyssa Ellington, IPPA President
Member Spotlight: Anne-Marie Downen

I grew up in rural Syringa, Idaho, in North Central Idaho. The neighborhood consisted of several boys and no girls and we bused 21 miles to high school.

I enjoy living life to the fullest. When the guys went hunting, so did I. Football…bring it on! Skiing…let’s go. Motorcycles…bought my own.

My parents were co-owners in the Syringa Café and Lochsa Lodge on Hwy 12 in Idaho for several years. I watched my mom and her business partner start a business, and make it succeed, despite the challenges of operating a women-owned business in the 1970s. I started working at age 9, picking up cigarette butts, progressing to dishwasher, fuel attendant, waitress, and cook. The business also raised potatoes, beef, and swine.

Graduating from Clearwater Valley High School, I attended the University of Idaho and graduated in 1985, passing the CPA exam in the same year. My first career was 25 years in the banking industry: starting with the Treasury Department as a bank examiner in Boise, Idaho, traveling across the Pacific Northwest. I then went to work for West One Bank in credit exam, credit approval, and branch lending, traveling over 80% of the time, and raising my family. I also started my own CPA firm in 1997, providing financial consulting work to be a better person today than yesterday.

I currently work as the Director of Finance and Board Treasurer for the Greater Boise Auditorium District. We operate the convention center in downtown Boise. One of the highlights of my career was serving on the construction and bond financing team for the $40 million project known as Boise Centre East, built in 2016. We are also finishing up an ERP implementation. My current goal is to create a formal purchasing program to help reduce purchasing costs.

Horses remain a passion for me and other hobbies include photography, cooking, scuba diving, kayaking, and off-roading in the Jeep.

I have also served as a 4-H leader and volunteer for 22 years, raising swine, dogs, cats and horses, to teach kids life skills. I married Richard Downen in 1983 and have two married daughters, Amanda (Josh), 31, and Jennifer (Ryan), 26.

As part of the COVID-19 pandemic, my team went remote. I now work remotely from a travel trailer, travelling around the US. My first stop is Moscow, Idaho, where my first grandchild was born on May 19, 2021.

Traveling while working became a dream of mine in 1997.…..24 years ago. I challenge you to “Dare to Dream” and never give up on your dream.
During the fabulous virtual Procurement Month Finale and Awards celebration, three IPPA members were recognized for their efforts throughout the year. Sandra Ramirez, Awards Chair, created a fun and revealing way to announce the winners by presenting slides with various attributes of the winner (see example below). Congratulations are in order for:

- **2021 Professional Buyer of the Year:** Robyn Swaney, CPPB, Procurement Officer II at Ada County Procurement
- **2021 Professional Procurement Manager of the Year:** Tony Pirc, CPPB, Facility Program Manager at Idaho Transportation Department
- **2021 Frank Pierce “Founders Award” Recipient:** Alyssa Ellington, NIGP-CPP, CPPB, Procurement Supervisor at Ada County Procurement

Robyn has spent 5 1/2 years with Ada County while also participating in many roles in IPPA since 2016 (e.g. Awards Chair, Communications, Chair, and Secretary). She also earned her CPPB certification in 2018.

Tony has been balancing managing the Facility Management Program, the Purchasing Team, and the Contract Management Team at ITD this year. He is also CPPB-certified. So this recognition is well-deserved!

Finally, Alyssa has won this award twice because she demonstrates outstanding leadership by being IPPA President, NIGP Area 8 Chapter Ambassador, and by supervising and managing a team of three at Ada County Procurement. Congratulations to all the winners!

---

**Radio NIGP**

NIGP has a new way to engage with its members, and it’s called “Radio NIGP.” Victor Leamer, who is spearheading this new venture, gave us a sneak peek during our Procurement Month Kick-off Celebration in March, before it premiered later on in the Month.

It is a new program the institute has introduced. NIGP states, “Radio NIGP gives a new vibe and a new twist to the world of procurement. Get ready to listen, learn and be entertained!” There will be monthly segments and you can find them on NIGP’s website or on their YouTube channel.

You can check out what it’s all about and past shows on their website here: [https://www.nigp.org/events/radio-nigp](https://www.nigp.org/events/radio-nigp)
Membership Updates

⇒ Justin Gross, promoted to Procurement Supervisor at the State of Idaho Division of Purchasing
⇒ Alyssa Ellington was promoted to Procurement Supervisor at Ada County Procurement
⇒ Robyn Swaney was promoted to Procurement Officer II at Ada County Procurement
⇒ Ryan Blaine moved from ITD to the Department of Idaho Fish and Game as their Purchasing Agent
⇒ Jason Skelton has moved from DOP to the Office of the State Controller of Idaho at the Procurement Sustainment Lead
⇒ Eric Knothe is now the Assistant Director of Procurement Operations at Boise State University

We’d like to welcome our New Members!

Debie Beavers-Rudolph, Senior Buyer at Idaho State Police
Robert Cleve, Buyer at Idaho State Division of Purchasing
Alicia Dillon, CPA, Director of Procurement & Vendor Service at Boise State University
Trevor Hall, Buyer at Boise State University
Eric Knothe, Asst. Director of Purchasing Operations at Boise State University

*Honorary Member* Victor Leamer, CPPB, Senior Buyer at Spokane County, WA
Lindsey McQuisten, Purchasing Agent at Idaho Military Division
Heidi Moore, Senior Buyer at College of Eastern Idaho
Quinn Shea, Buyer at State of Idaho Division of Purchasing
Kaylee Starman, Purchasing Officer at State of Idaho Division of Purchasing
Shannan Thomas, Asst. Director of Purchasing—Projects & Contract Management at Boise State University
Megan Vaudrin, Contracting Officer at Idaho Transportation Department

Mission Statement
To promote professionalism in public procurement by providing a forum for shared resources, education, and networking for all members and stakeholders.