



Please use this form as the cover page for each submission (chapters can submit in two categories).
It does not count as 1 of the 4 page totals for the submission.

Outstanding Award Application

Chapter Name:	Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex
Submitted By:	Jewelie Ramos
Contact Information:	jewelie.ramos@waxahachie.com 469-309-4176
List Program(s) that will be highlighted in application	Outstanding Chapter Membership Award

☒ Has your chapter submitted your Performance Standard SEAL?

Check the box for the Outstanding Chapter Award you are submitting:

- ☐ Outstanding Chapter Operations Award
- How does your chapter excel in its operating processes, including policies and procedures, budgeting, recognition of agencies and individuals and involvement with NIGP?
- ☒ Outstanding Chapter Membership Award
- How well does your chapter market membership benefits and resources and what are your methods for membership retention and growth?
- ☐ Outstanding Chapter Advocacy and Outreach Award
- What practices and operations has your chapter demonstrated to be an effective advocate for members and our profession?
- ☐ Outstanding Chapter Professional Development Award
- How does your chapter go above and beyond providing educational resources and other opportunities to your membership?

1. **Explain the program/event/best practice**

WORTH 25 POINTS - (Choose one or 2 programs; explain the program in detail, how it runs/works)

This award application is in regards to our on-going membership program. This includes member engagement, recruitment, and engagement. Our team went above and beyond this past year to grow our membership and stay connected even while hosting virtual meetings.

2. **Share Outcomes and Results**

WORTH 25 POINTS – (Share pre and post results: what you started with, where it ended, was it successful, how was it received, did it have an impact?)

We started with 126 members which was a high number compared to past years but we knew we needed to be creative if we wanted to keep our members engaged after coming out of COVID. We took a survey and our members choose to have virtual meetings for that year. We used this opportunity to recruit members outside of our normal range. We were able to reach members a few hours away that did not have a local chapter nearby. We ended our year with 170 members which was a 35% jump from our previous year!

3. **Explain what makes your program/event/best practice unique or innovative**

WORTH 25 POINTS (Explain why this was innovative or new for your chapter, how you came up with the idea, how it shows uniqueness to your chapter or innovative to others)

To keep the members engaged, we began having meetings outside of our normal quarterly meetings. We created virtual round tables where members could gather online and discuss different procurement topics. Since we were now saving money by not hosting meetings in person, we used these funds to invest in additional speakers and extended our normal 1 hour trainings to 3-4 during our quarterly meetings. We also held a networking event at the Texas Ranger's Stadium for those interested in attending and missing that in-person interaction.

4. **Lessons learned (so that others can adapt or replicate)**

WORTH 25 POINTS (Talk us through the process of what you learned about the program, what worked what didn't, how would you do it differently, will you continue to do it?)

To grow you membership, I would first encourage you to survey the existing members to see what your chapter is doing right, where they could improve and what ideas the members may have. I would then compare your membership list to the the entities in your area that are not members and begin reaching out to those members. This was extremely successfully for us. We found that many of our small town entities were hungry for knowledge but had never been invited to join our Chapter. We used every opportunity we could to engage and recruit members. County Forum groups for Purchasing, Emergency Management, and Finance meetings were great opportunities to invite new members to join. I would also encourage you to invite those new members to volunteer. Volunteering is the best way to meet new people and really get connected.