OUTSTANDING CHAPTER ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH AWARD

IDAHO PUBLIC PURCHASING ASSOCIATION

Prepared by:
Alyssa Ellington, CPPB
IPPA President
Robyn Swaney, CPPB
IPPA Communications Chair
We are proud to say we have members who are passionate about the procurement profession and stay in tune with Idaho State Statutes. Our Legislative Chair, Keith Watts, in partnership with Bob Perkins, our Professional Development Chair, stay very connected with legislation and advocate for the need for change in certain policies that may affect many in our field.

In 2019 they decided to tackle legislation for the second time, this time revolving around Cooperative Purchasing. They worked with the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC), Association of Idaho Cities (AIC), as well as the Idaho Association of Highway Districts (IAHD) and in the end IPPA got their support on the proposed changes (Members from these organizations actually joined our membership this year and were involved in our trade show too)!
LEGISLATION INVOLVEMENT, CTD.

They worked hard with these associations as well as legislators to improve the ability to get our jobs done as efficiently and smoothly as possible by being able to use cooperative purchasing agreements.

They were successfully able to repeal and replace the statute for cooperative purchases I.C. (67-2807)! Governor Brad Little signed SB1047 into law on March 3, 2019 and it went into effect on July 1, 2019. This allows political subdivisions to utilize some of the largest and most appealing co-ops out there, saving agencies time and money in the process.

We were even lucky enough to receive NCPP’s first ever “Champions of Change” award to celebrate this great achievement, at Forum in Austin, Texas.

PROCUREMENT MONTH

March 2019 was another wonderful celebration of Procurement Month! Two trainings were offered, proclamations were signed, chapter individual award winners were announced, and we offered some fun and interactive activities. We had a trivia contest and an IPPA webpage scavenger hunt. Also, we wanted to go above and beyond to show our appreciation to our members in 2019, so board members made in-person donut deliveries to various hard-working agencies in the Treasure Valley and sent gift cards to agencies across other regions of the state!
The RVTS is our largest annual event because our vendors and buyers get to make valuable connections, it’s a great way for vendors to learn how to do business with our agencies, and we are able to provide some training for both buyers and vendors.

We decided to play off of our legislation successes in our theme this year and included a focus on cooperative purchasing while tying it into what everyone loves about the event - networking. As a result we thought this would be a great opportunity to bring in Tammy Rimes as our keynote. Her talk on “Taking Your Cooperative Procurement Strategy to the Next Level” entertained buyers and vendors alike as we could all relate to her narratives.

Another huge enhancement made was our educational piece. In the past we did 1 break out session. This time we tried a morning and afternoon track with 2-3 different sessions to choose from at each time. We brought in a variety of speakers and panels, including a Cooperative Purchasing panel featuring representatives from 4 of our largest co-ops. We also hosted a “How To Do Business” panel for the vendors, and some of our members sat on the panel.

We learn every year how we can improve this event and the biggest thing we needed to change this year was the location. From survey feedback we received after the event we realized we made the right decision - it was overwhelmingly apparent that everyone loved the new space. Although it cost more, the value was worth it!

Also, we were able to give away scholarship money to some lucky members, and we raised nearly $300 for our local Boise Bicycle Project (they provide bicycles to children in need in the Treasure Valley).
Education is at the heart of what IPPA is all about and what is most important to our members.

Because education is a huge part of our chapter, we continue to survey our members on what they want to see annually and we bring in a large variety of NIGP trainings, Lunch & Learns, and educational sessions at our quarterly Dinner Meetings.

In 2019 we hosted 4 NIGP courses, 2 Lunch & Learns, as well as a CPPB/CPPO prep class, and an Idaho CM at Risk class. This accumulates to a total of 10 days of in-person courses and 80 educational contact hours! 68% of our members attended at least one educational event developed by IPPA in 2019. We also collaborated with our neighboring chapter in Washington and advertised some of their NIGP courses on our website, while they did the same for us.