

## President's Message

### March 2010



***"TxPPA promotes the public purchasing profession through education, collaboration and networking for the benefit of our members, our agencies, and ultimately the citizens we serve."***

The officers and directors of TxPPA - with the help of several other members - recently participated in a strategic planning meeting where we carefully crafted our mission statement and identified four strategic goals for the association with several objectives for each goal. The goals we came up with are:

1. Communicate the value of our profession/association to all our stakeholders
2. Promote certification
3. Increase membership
4. Promote and support volunteer leadership opportunities

I hope you agree that these are challenging, yet attainable goals for TxPPA. If you have comments or suggestions for how YOU think we can meet these goals, I'd like to hear from you! Or if you would simply like to review the action plan let me know and I can send it to you. I want to publicly thank Beth Fleming for her research, coordination and leadership for facilitating our Strategic Planning meeting.

Other actions the Board considered include adopting the TxPPA annual budget; lifetime membership nominations; and conference site selection for Fall 2011 - Tyler, Texas here we come! But before we make our way to beautiful east Texas, we need to complete our 2010 education tour: Momentum Conference in sunny South Padre Island at the Isla Grand Hotel in June and the Fall Conference in San Angelo, Texas in November 2010. Check out this site for more details.

Other news...We are embarking on a new legislative year with new opportunities and new challenges. Transparency will be the hot topic along with other buzz words such as "limiting government" and "saving taxpayer dollars". Last legislative session, TxPPA got further with our advertising bill than we ever have before; so we've decided to try again this year. We are going to try to reduce the mandatory newspaper notice to bidders to once at least 14 days prior to bid opening. The other legislative initiative the group decided to address is an effort to get payment and performance bonds to the same monetary threshold - \$100,000. Our panel experts from the Spring Conference gave us some tips for dealing with legislators:

- Visit your legislator before the legislative session begins; during the session calls are best;
- One subject rule – pick the most important issue; too many subjects diminish the priorities;
- Always be accurate, factual, honest and forthright;
- Close the deal – simply and politely ask "May we count on your support?";
- Bring out the Big Guns – but only when absolutely necessary. Elected officials often have great influence even in Austin; but use them sparingly; and
- Always thank your legislators!

Regards,

Cheryl K. Turney, C.P.M.  
TxPPA, President  
City of College Station  
Assistant Finance Director