

# ❖ Consultants in Minnesota ❖

December 1996

## President's Letter

From: "Joan Barnes" <jebarnes@igc.apc.org>

OK. So here's what's been happening in the last four weeks. On a Friday afternoon, on or about November 15, I got a phone call from a fellow who was chairman for a technology conference for state and local governments. Says he, "We've had one of our speakers cancel, and I got your name from I don't know where, and I was wondering if you could help us out." And I said, "Oh probably. What's the topic, and when is it?" And he said, "Technical issues of the Year 2000. It's next Wednesday. There are 150 people signed up for that session. It's the most popular session of the conference." And I said, (gulp) "Sure." (gulp) "No problem." And he said, "Whew. Thanks a lot. I really appreciate it."

So I called Bill McTeer and said, "Yeow! Now what?", and he said, "Let's go have a drink somewhere." So we did that, decided which ICCA-MN members to rope in on the deal, the focus was PC stuff, and sat down for dinner on Monday evening with Ray Giske, prez elect who specializes in government stuff, and Bill Buending, ex prez who specializes in PC stuff, and decided who was going to say what.

So in a day and a half we put together a presentation, and judging from the evaluations (4s and 5s out of a possible 5) that were turned in, it was a good one - for which Ray and the two Bills get the credit, and we all owe them a big thank

you. ICCA-MN got some nice visibility and publicity, and we will probably be asked to do a presentation or possibly two at next year's conference - this time with a bit more advanced warning.

The other thing we got was \$100 honorarium which spent a mere nanosecond in the ICCA-MN coffers and headed out directly to rent the Festsaal at the Black Forest Inn for our Holiday Fun "meeting" - details in a minute.

So after the presentation we headed off into the ice and snow to the ICCA-MN monthly meeting at the Lido (the conference was at the Radisson South). We were a bit late, some of us later than others, but we didn't miss dinner and didn't miss Robert Kelsey's talk on mainframe/CICS/SNA vs UNIX/TCP-IP communication stuff. Robert really knows the insides of both the IBM mainframe and the UNIX world, so it was a refreshingly objective talk about the strengths and weaknesses of each environment and how they can work together. Both mainframe and UNIX specialists probably learned something. If ICCA did evaluations, it would probably have been about a 4.8. Thank you, Robert.

So back to Holiday Fun. It will be Wednesday, December 18 at the Festsaal banquet room at the Black Forest Inn. Social hour is 6:30 to 7:30. A buffet style dinner at 7:30. There is a piano in the Festsaal as well as stereo equipment. Bring music if you wish. Also, bring a date if you wish. I will bring the traditional akvavit. A special invitation with all details is being sent to members and wanabes. So Mark the 18th on your calendar. Hope to see you at the Festsaal.

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Minnesota Chapter

## View From the Past

### 1996 CPC Meeting

By Bill Buending

The Chapter Presidents Council met in St. Louis on Thursday, October 24, the day before the start of the 1996 ICCA Conference. We were on CPC time, of course. While the rest of the nation's mid-section was reading 8:30 AM on their clocks, we were starting our meeting as scheduled promptly at 8:00 AM.

A quorum was declared when the 11th representative appeared, although there was a flurry of discussion as to whether ICCA has 21 or 23 chapters. While the adamant were at each others throats, a 12th rep showed up, mooting the point.

Elliott Greene volunteered as recording secretary, his third time. John Genzano, CPC Chair, added three items from the NBoD meeting to the Agenda, and Lewis Shireman added two items. The Agenda was approved as modified.

Members and guests alike introduced ourselves. The CPC makes four awards every year; Best Chapter Newsletter, Best Chapter Program, Best Chapter Directory, and the Murray Zuckerman award to an individual. Thus, we 12 reps divided ourselves into the required four judging committees.

Up to now, the CPC awards have been plaques given to the Chapters. The problem has been how to get the plaques to Chapter meeting sites to let the members and prospects see the Chapter's accomplishments. The NO presented new banners being given to each chapter. These are big, 3' by 6' or so, emblazoned with Independent Computer Consultants Association. They are printed on both sides, so the banner can be hung against the wall or

hung to be seen by aisle traffic coming in each direction. From now on, the CPC awards will be issued as ribbons or badges that can be attached to the new banner by Velcro strips. Since it is an individual member award, the Murray Zuckerman will continue to be issued as a plaque.

We asked that the CPC awards also be represented in the NO. It was proposed that the four award plaques be mounted in the NO, with attachments to identify the year and winning Chapter or individual. This was approved. The NO will also try to identify winners over the last 20 years, based on available information.

It was moved that the work of the current CPC Chair be evaluated. After much discussion, mostly to the point that management of an on-line CPC meeting cannot be evaluated in the same terms as a face to face meeting, and because we were going to discuss new guidelines for conducting on-line meetings in the very next Agenda item, the motion failed.

One of the things that came out of the CPC's first on-line meeting last Spring was a set of Guidelines for conducting such electronic meetings. In order to make the Guidelines official, we had to approve them for inclusion in the CPC Operating Procedures. We did.

Last May and June, an attempt was made in Consult's Section 17, the CPC Section, to fire the CPC Chair. Access to Section 17 is reason enough to run for Chapter President. If you do not or cannot monitor it, you miss some great entertainment. Of course, you also bypass some overpowering chaff, so you might have the right idea after all. At times, the discussions exceeded Fahrenheit 451. As a result of last Spring's free exchange of ideas,

a motion was made in St. Louis to add a Method for Removal of the Sitting Chairperson to the CPC Operating Procedures. The motion passed.

The NBoD asked the CPC if they should pursue setting up a means whereby non-ICCA mediators could be engaged to assist troubled Chapters, described as Chapters having internal conflict or conflict between the Chapter and the NBoD or NO. We said, "Sure."

The NBoD told us that they had approved a new policy allowing non-members to receive directory, referral, and Internet services for \$475/yr, as long as they met the normal ICCA qualifications of being engaged in computer-related work. Such otherwise qualified non-members could also share in Chapter directory, referral, and Internet services by paying the local Chapter dues or some reasonably higher figure. We don't have to give these services to non-members in order to maintain our non-profit tax status. And we do not have to advertise that the services are available. You might ask why would someone pay \$600-700 for something they could get for \$260 or less? The new policy's very point.

Finally, the NBoD asked the CPC for input regarding Single-Price Dues. Essentially, this means that member would pay say \$260 a year in dues, whether they were a Chapter member or National only. \$160 would go to National. The other \$100 would be sent to the closest regional Chapter, or to a Chapter of the member's choice, or split between Chapters, or some other plan as yet not determined. Since there was limited time to explore this issue, the Chair said that it would be on the Agenda for the next on-line CPC meeting which will get

*(Continued on page 3)*

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started in the next couple of weeks.

There followed a motion to suggest the NBoD pay more attention to member benefits than to Bylaw changes. The motion failed.

The afternoon was spent in a Chapter Operations Training Session conducted by Debbie Handler. It was well developed and covered a lot of useful ground.

If you have any questions about the CPC meeting and/or it work this year, give me a call.

programs will interpret the year 2001 as 1901. The site also includes links to other related sites and e-mail lists.

If you are responsible for mission-critical information systems, you should be aware of these problems, and the Year 2000 Information Network site is a good place to start.

[PJD]

[ed. note: Bill Smale sends me stuff he gleans from the ether. This arrived just after Joan's article.]

## Year 2000 Stuff for you!!

FROM: "William B. Smale", INTERNET:  
smale002@gold.tc.umn.edu

16. Year 2000 Information Network  
<http://web.idirect.com/~mbsprog/>

The Year 2000 Information Report, sponsored by the Year 2000 Information Network, offers several articles discussing how IS managers can deal with the hardware and software bugs that will be revealed by the coming of the next millennium. A large number of the programs currently in use for payroll and other important applications use only two digits to represent a year; these

Meeting Reservations: Members may phone your reservation to Joan Barnes' office at 257-2570, **by 3:00 PM, Monday, December 16**. Non-members should mail this form to ICCA Minnesota, c/o Sheridan Timms, 6940 Tartan Curve, Eden Prairie, MN 55346.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Holiday treats                      Member \$??    non-member \$?? x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

# December Meeting

## Holiday Fun

Holiday Fun will be Wednesday, December 18 at the **Festsaal** banquet room at the Black Forest Inn. Social hour is 6:30 to 7:30. A buffet style dinner at 7:30. There is a piano in the **Festsaal** as well as stereo equipment. Bring music if you wish. Also, bring a date if you wish. I will bring the traditional akvavit. A special invitation with all details is being sent to members and wanabes. So Mark the 18th on your calendar. Hope to see you at the **Festsaal**.

[ed. note]

☞ Joan mentions a special invitation for the Holiday Fun event. What you see here is what I know but I am certain we are expected to make reservations so call her (257-2570).

☞ I had a call from a state agency about **Year 2000** issues. It was actually about how much to budget for handling the problem. It seems the State has a plan and budget for this so you might check with your favorite agency as they prepare RFPs in the coming months.

☞ This is my last (or next to the last) issue to edit. I will miss knowing everthing before you do, but I won't miss those 2 AM deadline parties. I'll look for Magne's work in the mail.



### Next Meeting

#### Holiday Fun

Wednesday, December 18  
*Black Forest Inn*  
*2??? Nicollet Ave S*

### FUTURE MEETINGS

Jan 21      Vendor Fair  
Feb 19  
Mar 20



5788 Lincoln Drive  
Edina, MN 55436