



# DALLAS STARS

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS; 10 TEXAS PLAINS CHAPTER MEMBERS ATTENDED**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Grant Writing Made Simple</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Programs</i>	4

Amarillo and the Panhandle were well represented when the AFP International Conference on Fundraising kicked off March 25 in Dallas.

The AFP Conference is the largest gathering of fundraising professionals in the world, attracting more than 4,000 attendees annually, according to AFP.

Ten Texas Plains Chapter members took part in this year's conference, which provided unparalleled opportunities to learn more about the profession and to network with fellow fundraisers.

"Texas shined as we hosted fundraising professionals from around the world," said Charlotte Rhodes, president of the Texas Plains Chapter and a member of the AFP International Board of Directors.

"To remain strong as a professional community, we must participate through professional development, sharing of ideas and networking," Rhodes said. "This conference offered these opportunities to everyone."

Rhodes also served on the host committee for the conference. While in Dallas, the Texas Plains chapter co-hosted a reception with the Fort Worth chapter for all Texas delegations.

"Once again, the AFP International Conference presented an incredible opportunity to learn, network and recharge within the nonprofit community," said Katharyn Wiegand, director of the Non-

profit Service Center and vice-president of the Texas Plains Chapter. "I returned to Amarillo with great information for our topic files, resource books for the library and a revitalized commitment to my job."

Other AFP-Texas Plains members who attended the conference included: Jill Denise Bempong of United Way of Amarillo/Canyon; Susan Brooks of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch; Dianne Hill of Opportunity School, April Riggs of Sharing Hope Ministries; Laura Street, consultant; Patricia Ward of Amarillo Area Foundation, Emily Wood of Opportunity Plan, and Jelaine Workman of Make a Wish of the Texas Plains.

Among the featured events at the conference:

- ◆ The Exposition on Fundraising and Philanthropy — A large collection of companies providing services to fundraisers
- ◆ Sessions — Hundreds of educational forums with topics ranging from grant writing to youth philanthropy to capital campaigns
- ◆ Plenary Sessions — Invited speakers included Brooke Shields, Lance Armstrong, social entrepreneur Craig Kielburger and former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To All Members:

I cannot think of many careers more outstanding than the fundraising profession. Of course, there are other jobs as noble as fundraising, but I would suggest that none give you any greater satisfaction of helping to change the world for the betterment of others.

I am so pleased to serve as your President this year and delighted that we were represented by 10 individuals at the International Conference. My, how things have changed since I served as President in 1994.

This year is packed full of educational and networking

opportunities and I hope that you will take advantage of all and encourage others to do so.

It is time for you to begin thinking about your nominations for National Philanthropy Day, our signature event, and make plans to invite your outstanding donors and volunteers for recognition. The date is November 8, 2007.

I invite you to plan this year as one to enjoy, participate, learn, and share!!!!

— Charlotte Rhodes  
ACFRE



*Charlotte Rhodes, ACFRE*

## Save This Date!

**June 15, 2007**

### **2007 DFW AFP Philanthropy Conference Discover Your Hidden Treasure**

**American Airlines Conference & Training Center**

**This affordable one-day conference is perfect for development officers, executive directors and board members (with all levels of experience) who want to increase their fundraising knowledge, supplement their learning from the International AFP Conference, or are short on time and want a powerful tutorial that is locally and regionally significant.**

**For information, visit:  
[www.afpdallas.org/dfwconference.asp](http://www.afpdallas.org/dfwconference.asp)**

## **Don't Forget!**

**Mark your calendars now for the  
2007 National Philanthropy Day.**

**11:30 to 1 p.m.**

**Thursday, Nov. 8**

**Amarillo Civic  
Center Heritage  
Room**

# Grant Writing Made Easier

*AFP workshop/meeting revealed the 'Secrets to Successful Proposals'*

Grant writing presents enough challenges to make even the most experienced fundraiser stress out.

There are no easy solutions that will guarantee simplicity or assure success, but grants expert Linda Pitner offered attendees at an April 25 workshop tips on reducing grant writing stress.

The two-part seminar also featured a lunchtime panel discussion featuring experts in the grant field.

"I hope that people left the session with a positive attitude about proposal writing, confidence to move forward and the desire to learn more," said Pitner, the grant and scholarships program officer for the Mary E. Bivins Foundation.

Pitner said she hoped to offer practical information for writing "fundable proposals."

"Proposal writing has become an essential skill in many nonprofit positions, and the reality is that there is no magic in proposal writing," Pitner said. "It is all

about being able to articulate or effectively communicate your story."

Among the participants in the popular workshop was AFP board member Susie Akers of Ceta Canyon.

Akers said she appreciated that Pitner reinforced inside tips, particularly one key idea: Funders fund people, not organizations.

"We need to include testimonies, letters from clients, photos and more, if allowed, because that makes our proposals real and puts a face on them," Akers said. "It makes our proposals more than just a stack of paper."

Following Pitner's presentation, four other grant experts conducted a panel discussion.

Participants included Angela Lust of the Amarillo Area Foundation, Judy Day of the Bivins Foundation, Dayle Tipton of the Brumley Foundation and attorney Vanessa Buzzard of Peterson Farris Pruitt & Parker.

## AFP Board Meeting Agenda 8:30 a.m. May 9, 2007 Neely Conference Center at Amarillo Area Foundation

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Committee Reports
  - A. Education
  - B. Membership/Scholarships
  - C. Communication
  - D. Ethics/Diversity
  - E. NPD-2007
  - F. Development
- V. Strategic Plan
- VI. New/Old Business
  - International Conference
  - Web Page
  - Amarillo College Class
  - Calendar
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

## Join AFP at Special Price

The Texas Plains Chapter has an opportunity for you! Enjoy the benefits of membership in AFP with a Membership Scholarship of \$100.

Ten new members will be eligible to receive a \$100 scholarship to help with the cost of their AFP annual member dues. To be eligible, applicants must not have been a member in the last 12 months and must submit an application.

"All of us in the non-

profit field need support to do the challenging and important work we do every day. Membership in AFP gives me that support," said Dianne Hill, membership committee member. "We're excited to be able to help more people enjoy being part of the professional community of AFP."

To apply for a scholarship, request an application from Hill at 373-4245 or email her at [dianne-hill@nts-online.net](mailto:dianne-hill@nts-online.net).

## 2007 AFP Board of Directors

Charlotte Rhodes, President  
Katharyn Wiegand, Vice President/NFP Chair  
Janie Singleton, Treasurer  
Susie Akers, Secretary  
Caroline Chamblin, Development  
Kellie Tiner, Ethics & Diversity  
Chip Chandler, Communications  
Laura Street, Education  
Mary Shields, Membership  
Dianne Hill, Membership-At-Large  
Patricia Ward, Past-President  
Roxann Ball, Chapter Administrator

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, June 19**                      **11:45am – 1:15pm**                      **AFP Audioconference**

***Why Business Continuity Planning is an Essential Tool for Nonprofits and Fundraisers***

Betty Fay and R.C. Neely Conference Center ~ Amarillo Area Foundation

\$10/Nonmembers                      free/NSC and AFP Members

*Jason's Deli box lunch available for \$5 – must RSVP for lunch*

**Speaker:** Peggy M. Jackson, DPA, CPCU

**Wednesday, August 22**                      **10:00am - 1:00 pm**                      **AFP Workshop & Membership Meeting**

***Branding: The Right Message, at the Right Time, to the Right People, in the Right Way***

Betty Fay and R.C. Neely Conference Center ~ Amarillo Area Foundation

**Morning Session**

\$35/Nonmembers                      \$30/NSC Members and AFP Members

**Luncheon**

\$15/Nonmembers                      \$10/NSC Members and AFP Members

**Speaker:** Molly Davis, Account Executive, Admarc Southwest

**Wednesday, September 19**                      **11:30am – 1:00pm**                      **AFP Members Only Meeting**

***Transforming Downtown Amarillo***

Betty Fay and R.C. Neely Conference Center ~ Amarillo A

\$10 luncheon cost ~ AFP Members

**Speaker:** Debra McCartt, Mayor, City of Amarillo

**Wednesday, October 18**                      **10:00am - 1:00 pm**                      **AFP Workshop & Membership Meeting**

***Managing Organizational Change***

Betty Fay and R.C. Neely Conference Center

**Morning Session**

\$35/Nonmembers                      \$30/NSC Members and AFP Members

**Luncheon**

\$15/Nonmembers                      \$10/NSC Members and AFP Members

**Speaker:** John Paul, Partner, Association Works, Dallas TX