

Spring Training and an Education Grand Slam

By Kimberly Forte

The Lone Star Capital Chapter, North Texas Chapter and the Wild West Chapter hosted their annual Joint Conference this year at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dallas, TX. This year members had a little "Spring Training and an Educational Grand Slam." The theme was



to provide the educational opportunities as well as opportunities to reinforce and build professional relationships. It was certainly a GRAND SLAM!

The conference began on Friday, March 5th with a Silent Auction and a welcome reception. The welcome reception was sponsored by the Crowne Plaza Dallas and was a great way to renew old friendships and certainly make new ones. There was a live band which, in fact, one of the band members was an SGMP member! These cowboy boots were definitely a boot scootin' boogie!

Saturday was jam-packed with Spring Training! Opening remarks were made by all three chapter presidents. We moved to the "Recipe of Life" keynote program by Debbie Gore. The "Recipe of Life" program stimulated new ideas and perspectives in a high-energy presentation. I was trained on how to become more effective personally and professionally and was encouraged to choose my own unique ingredients to create a balanced life recipe!

The trade show began and it was a great way for me to get to know many of the government planners from Texas and Oklahoma! After the tradeshow we had a "moving" lunch! "Move Baby Move!" is a music-based, chair aerobics exercise program that promotes wellness and helps increase flexibility and range of motion. I never heard so much laughter in an audience before. The rest of the day was full of breakout sessions that included: "Business Etiquette and Protocol," "Meeting Planning Treasures" (the speaker even dressed up as a pirate), "Email Management," "Social Networking for Meeting Planners," and my favorite: "How to Kick Butt Without Breaking a Nail!" The breakouts were phenomenal and it was a great way to learn a lot in a short amount of time. The day concluded with a little Texas BBQ!

Finally, the conference ended with a lot of karate chopping! Kyle Eastham gave his keynote on "Good Enough for Government Work- How to Squash Mediocrity in Your Organization." Kyle is always a pleasure to hear. Keep your eyes out for the Joint Conference next year at the Isla Grand Beach Resort on South Padre Island!!

