



PURCHASING DIRECTOR HONORED

The County is a member of the Maryland Public Procurement Association, (MPPA). MPPA, Inc is a professional organization comprised of over 300 procurement professionals throughout the State of Maryland. MPPA, Inc. members represent various public purchasing entities including the federal government, state, cities, counties, colleges and universities, libraries, hospitals, commissions and other public agencies. MPPA, Inc. is the local chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), which has over 70 chapters in the United States, Canada, and internationally.

The aims and objectives of MPPA, Inc. are synonymous with those of the parent National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) organization. NIGP is dedicated to establishing and maintaining increased professionalism in the field of public sector procurement. The NIGP Code of Ethics is the standard for MPPA, Inc. as well as the importance of education. MPPA, Inc. offers educational and training seminars designed for members to obtain professional certification status, including Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO) and Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB).

In 1991, the Maryland Public Purchasing Association presented the Stanley D. Zemansky Award. The award was established to recognize outstanding individuals for their significant contributions and services to public procurement. This prestigious award is to honor the professional who has given exemplary service, made outstanding contributions and promoted professional development to the public procurement profession.

In 1980, Mr. Zemansky was awarded the Walter Kirkman Award by the Nation Association of Purchasing Management - Maryland Inc. The Walter Kirkman Award is a prestigious and coveted award only presented to those in the procurement profession who have made outstanding commitments and for their long term dedication to professional development. This same year, Mr. Zemansky helped to establish and become the first president of the Maryland Public Purchasing Association. He served as president until 1982. Mr. Zemansky was very active in NIGP and served as its 39th national President. In 1984, he was bestowed with the prestigious Albert H. Hall Memorial Award from NIGP.

The Stanley D. Zemansky Award is MPPA'S highest award and is associated with a professional who is respected for outstanding deeds and dedication to the procurement profession. This award was established to recognize the dedicated outstanding professional who carries the same respect for procurement and professionalism as does Mr. Zemansky. The honor of receiving this award from your peers recognizes the outstanding contributions the professional has made and ensures the contributions of Mr. Zemansky will not be forgotten.



Purchasing Director Karen Luther with County Commissioner Bill Wivell

Karen received her AA degree in Business Administration in 2008, earned her Certified Professional Public Buyer Certificate (CPPB) in 1990 and her Certified Public Purchasing Officer Certificate (CPPO) in 1993. As a member of MPPA, Inc. she has served on the Executive Board as Treasurer, Director and was elected as President in 2003. She has chaired various MPPA committees including Budget & Finance, The Fine Print Editor, Nominating, the 2000 NIGP Forum chairperson, and is currently the By-Laws committee chair. In 2003 Karen received the MPPA distinguished Service Award.

She has annually attended the NIGP Forums held at various cities in the U.S. and Canada since 1993. She also served at the national level as the Treasurer for the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc.'s (NIGP) 2000 Forum held in Baltimore, Maryland when hosted by the MPPA chapter. She has served as a co-moderator at various sessions at a few of the Forums. She presently serves on the NIGP LES Grants and Scholarships Committee.

Karen has been a member of the Washington County Purchasing Department staff for over 24 years and has been the Purchasing Agent for over 23 years. As the Purchasing Agent, she supervises a staff of five (5).

Also a dedicated member of our community she has volunteered her time as a Cub Scout Den Mother, donated time to the United Way fundraising, board member of the American Heart Association, a mentor in the Washington County Public Schools “Maryland’s Tomorrow Mentoring Program.”, Secretary of the Washington County Sports Hall of Fame, a member of the South High School Alumni Association, former member and President of the Antietam Exchange Club of Hagerstown and Leadership of Washington County.