

*Greetings from the President ~ Amy Mader*

**Welcome to the convention wrap up!** We planned, we conquered and we survived! The event was a truly memorable day and evening! NEAWP guests were treated to a day of education, outstanding speakers, delectable food, creative camaraderie, lasting friendships, fabulous fashions and uplifting presentations. The theme of the day & night was the Black Eyed Peas song "I Gotta Feeling- Tonight's Gonna be a Good Night". Our theme song got everyone in the mood! Here is the cliff notes version of the day! **Barbara Hearne of Barbara's Brides** began the day with an inspirational presentation of being the best you can be. My dove chocolate fortune was "Take five deep breaths". That could not have been more appropriate. T-shirts were tossed into the crowd along with Vera Wang stationery! The attendees reflexes were incredibly good. **Abby Larson of Style Me Pretty** eloquently provided valuable blogging information (and we are all going to utilize her tips!). **Sarah de la Fuente of Austin Weddings Unlimited** addresses incorporating spirituality in a ceremony and making the ceremony the most personal event at the wedding. **Nate Mayfield of Lake Austin Strings** informed the attendees of the how to effectively work with clients and musicians. **Chris Sitteri of Innovative Photography** treated us to the importance of customer service and how to take care of your client. **Diane Smith of Crescent Video Productions** gave us insight not only into the art of cinematography but how to

work with your spouse successfully in this industry. Our round table discussion addressed the hiring, firing and challenges of dealing with employees. All this happened before lunch!! When lunch rolled around, the fellow members of NEAWP modeled wedding gowns. Yes, you did miss Amy Mader wearing a wedding gown. Don't worry, photos were taken for blackmail! **Distinctive Details and Flora Fetish** took our breath away with table décor and florals during lunch. After lunch, **Suzette Neyra-Jones** educated the group on contract pitfalls (and held the most detailed question and answer session). **Nancy Owen of Alegria's** Invitations taught us to evaluate the value of who you are as a business owner. **Alan Berg from The Knot** inspired us that if you believe it, you can achieve it. We all were set to jump out of an air plane for our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday (or sooner). For me, the 1/2 marathon I will be running the weekend of November 15<sup>th</sup> did not seem so daunting. **Tony Sansalone of The Driskill Hotel** kept our interest by discussing the experiences he has had with being in the corporate world, opening a bakery and returning to the corporate world. His life learned lessons were inspiring. **Myra Adkins of Word of Mouth Catering** discussed the importance of menu selection and being a general manager of a company. **Leslie Moore of Word of Mouth Catering** taught us some fantastic life lessons on being successful. It is important to remember to read everyone's name tag. Our day was completed with a awe

inspiring presentation by **Colin Cowie** who truly was "Chic in the Heart of Texas". I gave the first three annual NEAWP awards during the gala. **Shelley Hale, PWC** received the 2009 Student of the Year Award. **Barbara Hearne** of Barbara's Brides received the excellence in the wedding industry award and **Delores Crum** of Premiere Party Central received the Charlotte A. Buschmann award. Who is Charlotte A. Buschmann? - read my gala speech to find out! This brief synopsis will not encapsulate all of the wonderful things that happened on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at The Driskill Hotel. 45 Vendors made this event possible. Many of them were NEAWP members, some were not. I will be forever grateful to everyone who contributed their time, knowledge and talents to this event. It was a true labor of love. I am requesting you take the time to read the names of everyone who participated. They all did an amazing job. Our attendance rounded out at 64 attendees for the day symposium and 147 for the first annual NEAWP Gala. The past four weeks have been quite a whirlwind and one wise woman said to me "SUCCESS IN THE END ECLIPSES MISTAKES ALONG THE WAY". Believe it and you can achieve it! Moving onward to a prosperous 2010!

Fondly- Amy

Now go plan beautiful events!



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I look forward to seeing you all at the holiday party on December 2, 2009 11am - 1pm at the AT&T Conference Center. Bring a \$15 gift to exchange. Could be a little crazy, classy or trashy. Gift cards accepted...but live on the edge! The goal is to have some amazing fun to kick off the holiday season!! -Amy

Welcome to the first annual Nuptial Essentials gala! We had an outstanding and memorable time here at the Driskill today and I truly look forward to finishing off the evening the same way. Be prepared to get comfortable since I have a lot to say this evening! Tivo your tv shows and be prepared to get up and down from your seat. If you check your watch, we will be signing you up for clean up! I would like for you to first introduce yourself to the members at your table if you have not done so. No need to hand out business cards, take a moment to get to know them at dinner! It has been a fantastic learning experience putting this event together and I am honored to see the turn out that we have this evening. Not only do we have the Austin event industry represented, but we have Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Boerne and Corpus Christie here. I would like to welcome our distinguished guests: Colin Cowie, Colin Cowie Lifestyle, Sara Zamor of Colin Cowie Lifestyle, Alan Berg VP of marketing from The Knot, Cindy Elley from the Knot. This morning we had outstanding presentations from Barbara Hearne of Barbara's Brides, Abby Larson from Style Me Pretty, Rev. Sarah de la Fuente of Austin Weddings Unlimited, Nate Mayfield of Lake Austin Strings, Chris Siiteri of Innovative Photography, Diane and Gary Smith of Crescent Video Productions Linda Poole and Tony Sansalone of The Driskill Hotel, Suzette Neyra Jones- Attorney at Law, Nancy Owen of Alegra's Invitations, Alan Berg of The Knot, and Myra Adkins and Leslie More of Word of Mouth Catering. This amount of talent spans over 113 years on the wedding and event industry. My deepest appreciation to you for sharing your time and talents with us today.

As many of you know, most of big ideas come to me when I am pregnant (and no, I am not pregnant right now, so stop those rumors). Pregnant with my first child, Noah, I began the Austin Wedding & Event Coordinators which has grown into a leading wedding planner organization here in Austin. I would like to acknowledge the charter members of AWEC who are present here tonight. Please stand and know that there are still conversations regarding standing rules and bylaws at the meetings. I would like to also acknowledge the current AWEC members who are here this evening supporting NEAWP. 80% of AWEC members hold a certification from our school and 50% hold a dual membership with NEAWP. NECI began 5 years ago when I had the unusual circumstance of being involved in a wedding certification school that "closed its doors". Pregnant with my daughter, Emerson, I thought it was a fantastic idea to work on a 450 page manual and complete an 8 inch thick application through the state of Texas. The steps were taken to become the only state licensed vocational school to certify wedding consultants. With our online and distance education, we have had the distinct pleasure of certifying wedding consultants worldwide. I would like to acknowledge all of our graduates and current students who are here with us this evening. Three years ago (and I must have had some sort of inkling that I was pregnant, a decision was made to create NEAWP, Nuptial Essentials Association of Wedding Professionals, shortly after the birth of my third child, Abby. This would be a forum where our students and recent graduates would be able to get their feet wet in the wedding industry, build up their vendor database and referral lists by meeting each month and collectively working together to become educated consultants who would be able to join other local organizations. In addition, they would be able to cultivate relationships with their competitors to become the top in their industry. Our meetings consisted of 10-15 consultants and consisted of round table discussions. We began to videotape our meetings so that our membership worldwide would be able to view our meetings on our website from Idaho, California, Missouri, Florida, Mexico and the Virgin Islands to name a few locations. Paul Raila with Wild Parrott productions has been instrumental in creating our videos for the entire membership to view. Thank you Paul! I would like to also thank our Austin Chapter board for all of their hard work to ensure the success of these meetings: Sarah Miller, Caplan Miller Events-Chapter Director, Courtney Caplan, Caplan Miller events- program director and facebook guru, Shelley Hale- newsletter dynamo, Becky Brock of BZ events- blogging diva, Hospitality & admissions advisor, John Cook- well John John the wedding butler, Cortney Zieke of BZ events- our prestigious vendor gal, Wendy Neuman & Laura Elskan- Philanthropy Chairs, Amelia Tarbet and Eric Hegwar- Wedding photo genius' and Barbara Hearne- our resident Malibu Barbie who takes our new members under her wing. Thank you for all your assistance in making each meeting valuable and worthwhile to all who attend. Words cannot express how much you all mean to me personally and professionally. Although she is not able to be with us tonight, I would like to acknowledge Holly Appel of Your Very Own Fairy Godmother who is the Houston Chapter president of NEAWP. It is not always easy to head to Houston every month but with Holly's help, it has been a wonderful experience. The next city that we will be opening up a chapter in will be San Antonio in 2010.

In March, at the request of our coordinator members, we held our first annual vendor membership drive. Since March 2009, our vendor membership went from 0 to 76 members. Our meetings average 55 attendees and occur the first Wednesday of the month at various facilities in Austin. If you are a current member of NEAWP, please stand. Not only do we have educational meetings, but our meetings are a forum for our members to learn and grow personally and professionally (and they must have fun along the way). This summer we took home 4 trophies at the ISES summer games with the team we put together. I am looking forward to defending our titles next summer. Our members make the event industry a better place to work in. They are willing to share their knowledge and experience and assist colleagues when needed. They truly are one in a million and I appreciate each and every one of them. Do take the time to read all the vendors who have participated in this symposium and gala. If you need glasses, borrow from your neighbor. I would like to thank the 45 vendors who assisted with making this event a success whether it came from a time, talent or financial contribution. Please stand when your company is announced. (See list)

I would be remiss in not thanking each of you who purchased a ticket individually or for your company. If you recall at the October meeting things were a little hairy as to what would be happening on October 27th. I cannot express the feelings I had at the response of membership to my talk at that meeting. I was speechless (and you all have figured out that is pretty hard for me to do). My request for ticket sales did not fall on deaf ears with you all and if I realized that spilling my guts to you all would increase ticket sales I might have done it I month earlier. I would like to acknowledge two people specifically who grabbed the "tickets by the horn" and sold 12 tickets each Rita Nowakowski of Austin Wedding Day and Delores Crum of Premiere Party Central. Thank you for doing this! I would also like to thank the Vintage Villa team as they were the first ones to purchase tickets!

For general kudos, I would like to thank the entire staff of the Driskill hotel for their hospitality this evening. Most specifically, Wendy Neuman, Linda Poole, John Spomer, Brett Boering & Linda Mauer. Your professionalism and attention has been most appreciated. I would also like to thank Colin Cowie and Sara Zamor and allowing us to share a little bit of Austin hospitality with them. In addition, if any of you know of a cowboy with jeans and Stetson hat on, Sara needs to have a photo taken with them to take back to New York.

Last, but certainly not least, I need to thank my family. It is over the years that they have been extremely supportive of all these crazy ideas I implement in my life. They know the ways to make me smile and put life in perspective and keep me grounded. They make it impossible for me to get too big for my britches. They have the unique ability to understand the passion I have for this industry does not outweigh the love I have for them (although it has been tried many times). Most of you know that my husband and I met in 8th grade and are high school sweethearts. Although many of you do not know what he looks like (who I always affectionately refer to as "the husband" (just go on my facebook he is in my profile photo)), he is the main reason why I am who I am. Words cannot express how much of an influence that he has been on me in this industry. He truly puts things in perspective by saying things like "you need to give these people a reason to take two hours out of their day to attend a meeting" "what new things are you doing to keep your students awake during your class presentations", "are you making sure they are enjoying themselves", "what are you getting out of this? What are you putting into this?" "you valet parked for what reason?" "did you ask yourself, does this make sense?" and "thanks for coming to bed". His financial contribution and support of me is why this event happened. I truly hope that each of you has a person in your life that is like Matt. He makes the world a better place.

I truly hope I did not forget to thank anyone here as I have revised this list 10 thousand times and it does not mean that you have been bumped down from varsity to JV. It just means I am an idiot.

Did you think I was done talking...not even close. I would like to give out a couple of awards. This is time for you to whoop and holler for the success of your colleagues. Do know that if you are a not a recipient of an award, you are number two in the program but number one in the hearts of everyone here. These acknowledgments will be given annually at our convention. You cannot pay for an award (well actually, no one approached me about that). They are given due the excellence in the industry on behalf of a person. Popularity contest...not so much. It is me being aware of the contributions that people make with regards to raising the bar of professionalism in the industry.

The first award that I would like to give is the student with the most potential in the wedding industry. This award will be given to Shelley Hale. Shelley graduated this spring from the NECI certification course receiving a 194.5 out of 200 points averaging 97.3%. The students need to complete the 450 page manual coursework, 27 chapter exams and a virtual wedding project. They are required to plan all aspects of their business and a full event in their final project. Quite often I need to "read into" what someone is saying on their exams to see if they get what I often refer to as "it". The first couple of chapters the students on average are a little shy and have short answers until I tell them to "dig deep" and look outside the box. I did not have to say this to her. Quite frankly, I was a little taken aback when I opened her exam online since there were so many words in the answer box. I actually logged off and opened it back up at a later time. From the first exam, I knew she had "it". Her thoroughness and clarity she provided in her answers was amazing. I absolutely enjoyed reading what she had to say and anxious if I had to decrease her score (although that rarely happened). She allowed me to dig deeper to see what I could provide to her as an instructor. She turned in her final project and I asked my husband to look at it since I was truly looking for things to be nit picky on since I knew something had to be incorrect on it. To only lose 5.5 points is an amazing feat. I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know her better as a person and watching her grow as an event planner. I look forward to seeing her develop into one of the top event planners. She has completed her first full service wedding and was the NEAWP wedding consultant of the month. It is with great honor that I present Shelley Hale, PWC with the 2010 student of the year.

The second award I would like to present is to an event planner who believes in the integrity of the wedding industry and supports the growth of education amongst their peers. The recipient of this award is Barbara Hearne of Barbara's Brides. I have known Barbara for over 10 years and still the only one who can call her Barbie and not get slapped. She hails from the catering industry in hotels and country clubs before opening Barbara's Brides and has worked with brides for over 25 years. She truly loves the magic of weddings and how unique each one is. She prides herself in relieving stress off the brides and can be the best mamma bear to all who are close to her. She was one of the first consultants who came to awec with a vision to raise the bar of professionalism with wedding consultants. I have sat in numerous board meetings with her when I held my various board positions and she hers. We have not always agreed on everything, but she I one of the only people who will go head to head with me in an argument and I do understand that her goal is to push me to be a better person. She stands up for what she believes and people can not waver her on an issue. She was one of the first to develop an internship program allowing prospective wedding consultants to come work for her and gain knowledge and experience in the industry. One of her first interns, Tanya Posavatz was trained under Barbara and she created a successful event company here in Austin, clink events. In addition to her internship program, Barbara has taught seminars with topics ranging from "effective bloggings" establishing and promoting you business to teaching brides how to plan a wedding (knowing that not every bride will hire an event planner). Her passion and desire for this industry is unmatched. It is with deep pleasure that I present Barbara Hearne of Barbara,s Brides with the first annual excellence in the wedding industry award.

The third award is the Charlotte A. Buschmann award. Who is this? Well that would be my grandmother. It is because of her that I have immersed myself in the wedding industry. Most people who knew the both of us, say that we are identical people born at different times. She and I could fight like cats and dogs but she pushed me further than anyone else I knew (my husband took over that role when she passed). Charlotte Alice Elizabeth Catherine Gallagher Buschmann (you have to love the irish catholics) was a pioneer among women entrepreneurs. It was 1948 when she began Charlotte's Hat Shoppe in her home after investing \$500 into a supply of Easter hats, just in time for the holiday. Her home business grew to be Charlotte's Bridal Shoppe in 1953 with a modest selection of six bridesmaids dresses and five wedding gowns. It may not have seemed like much, but it made history. Hers was the first bridal salon ever opened in a woman's own home, a story told across the country. This was at a time when sales people came to your door and your word was your honor. Handshakes make a deal and everyone was coming out of the effects of the depression. She grew her salon to over 700 wedding gowns and 300 bridesmaid's dresses. She believed that full service required the undivided attention of all wedding consultants knowing everything about every client that walked in the salon doors and complimentary alterations. Her staff of 18 serviced three generations of brides and 50% of her employees were employed by her for over 20 years and they knew they had to be on top of your game.

Here are some lessons I learned from her: The customer is not always right, but the employee surely better not have screwed up. If you did screw up, admit it right away and she would fight for you till the end. She firmly believed you stand behind your employee in front of a client. Treat your employees well and they will stay with you. If they threaten to leave, call their bluff. She would say “there is a Chevy around every corner” She would be the first one to supplement a staff’s income, have my grandfather pick up and drop off employees (she did not drive but one day in her life), or help them in any way they needed to make coming to work worthwhile. She would do anything for a customer to make their day as special as it could be. I watched her behind the scenes giving a wedding gown to a bride who could not afford a dress, ripping up a receipt if it needed to be done to make the customers life a little easier. She truly believed in pay it forward. However if a client threatened her little 5 foot 4” body, she would respond with “oh honey, go right ahead and go to the business bureau and while you are there tell them I need better business then what you are providing to me. Thank you for shopping at Charlotte’s Bridal Shop.” Know what your competition is doing at all times. Go to lunch with them and keep an open relationship. You might be able to help each other out some day. In the 1980s the Mississippi river flooded in La Crosse Wisconsin. Some wedding gowns were ruined and she worked with the other three bridal salons in the city and they collectively were able to get dresses to all the brides whose dresses were ruined. I had better be nice to Matthew Mader because if she was my age she would have taken him from me.

She worked in her business until she was 86 years old and only was retired 2 years prior to her death. If I ever doubted myself or a decision I was making she would say “how will you make it happen?”. Only one time I said “I don’t know” Her response was “if you do not believe you can do it, then don’t because you will surely look like an “a double s” (she never swore—that was uncouth). If you believe it, you will do it. All of those years were spent with my grandfather in the back scenes running the financial part of the company. When she decided to sell her business, it sold in 24 hours for the price she was asking (that is how I came to Austin since if it did not sell, I was going to stay in WI to continue to run it). If you are wondering if I would say all this if she was alive, absolutely and I did. She was truly an amazing person who believed that the wedding industry was not just a hobby but a profession. You needed to have a passion to believe in yourself and making that bride feel the best she could feel. If you did that, you did good.

The recipient I have selected for this award is Delores Crum of Premiere Party Central. I met Delores many years ago at a networking event when she was talking to me about Austin Party Central. Unlike a typical networking event (which all of you know I hate typical networking events), she seemed to spark a nerve with me that was/is pretty indescribable. It was at a later meeting that she asked me if it was important to me that a woman was the head of a business. I do recall that my answer was initially no stating that I would work with anyone. However, now that I think about it, I do see that as an important aspect. My grandmother was a successful business owner for over 50 years and was able to support three generations on the wedding industry. Delores began Party Central in the fall of 2000 without any prior rental experience. She quickly became involved with NACE and ISES. She testifies to the importance of networking, time and time again. Delores has served on the NACE board as the newsletter chair, treasurer, community service chair and most recently Fundraising. Delores has also served as the ISES president. She has an active role with the Texas Rental Association and has served as the Region Leader and President. She has conducted seminars for the American Rental Association and received her CERP (certified event rental professional) from the American Rental Association. She is an active member in NEAWP and ABC (association of bridal consultants). Delores has established herself as the leader in the rental industry and is a woman of integrity and diligence. She leads by example as her staff has testified to (and yes, they have been asked). She is fond of saying that hard work builds character. As her daughter Angela can attest, her character has been molded since the age 5! All of her children who work with her and a family business full of working family members always offers some unique elements. I know from personal experience. She has two generations working at Premiere Party central and priming up the third generation! Earlier this year Delores purchased Premiere Tents and Events and merged them with Austin Party Central to form Premiere Party Central. She opened a second showroom (so us northerners do not have to drive south) to view their products. She is a person that I can obtain a professional opinion from and is always eager to offer any assistance. She truly believes in the growth of professionalism in the wedding industry by offering scholarships to wedding consultants. As quoted by Angela “As a daughter, I am blessed to have a professional role model like her in my life. For Delores, hard work and dedication come naturally and we should all be so blessed”. It is with great pleasure that I present to you Delores Crum the first annual Charlotte A. Buschmann award.

Congratulations to all of our recipients this evening.

### More from Amy ~

The fashion show was a HUGE success. I would like to thank Amanda Dudley of Big Event Productions and Erica Janke and Amanda Hepter of Blush Bridal Lounge for making this event a success. An additional thank you to Andrew Sterling for taking photos at the event. To view or get photos for your website, contact Andrew Sterling.

<http://www.sterlingimagesonline.com/gallery/bridalshow>

My deepest thank you to all the vendors who participated in this event! A special thank you to Howard Fletcher and the crew from First In Last Out Productions. Your tireless hours of working through the audio and visual production of the event were most appreciated. I would like for you to view the participating vendors in the attached documents. Each vendor did an amazing job and because of you, this was a fantastic event! I truly am honored to know each of you and appreciate the new friendships that were formed and cultivating the “oldies but goodies”.

We will be having the Post Convention Thank you Spectacular in January (due to everyone’s schedules, we changed it from November 22 to January at Vista West Ranch—details will follow).

THE GALA WAS A FANTASTIC EVENING! Laura Sartoris of Anthology Photography took amazing photos for our attendees. Check out some of fun at <http://tinyurl.com/lx8je8> (password = Cowie). If you would like a copy of any of the photos, contact Laura at 512-535-2600 or [www.weddingphotos.com](http://www.weddingphotos.com).



*Thanks so much for the kind words! We had a great time assisting where we could (even under the tight time constraints) and thought the event, as well as the entire day was FANTASTIC!! Bravo to you for bringing your vision to life. Colin Cowie was so inspiring & captivating and worth every penny :)! See you soon!*

*Sincerely,  
Cortney Zieky, PWC  
BZ events*

*Hi Amy,*

*I wanted to say first of what an amazing job you did with the conference and Gala. It was an amazing experience. I really got a lot out of it and had a great time at the party. I am always impressed with your composure and public speaking. You are a wonderful role model for all of us. I am definitely going to join NEAWP.*

*Keri Wootton  
Leave the Details to Me*

*Amy,*

*I simply cannot tell you how touched I was by last evening's wonderful award. It was your story...and your grandmother's example that made the award special. Your heartfelt and sincere appreciation for her, her work and her role in your life made me feel so blessed to be the "inaugural" recipient. I did want to comment on yesterday's Convention and last evening's event. I know what a struggle it was for you, so I hope you'll appreciate some unsolicited feedback. Our 8 attendees had the highest praise for the experience. They found it enjoyable and informative...they appreciated the content and the presenters... they are pumped!! As for last evening, it was "magical". The setting was so lovely...the presentation sublime. What a wonderful job you and your team did! And everyone looked so AWESOME...seemed to me a good time was had by all. Colin Cowie was so delightful. Both his presentation and his persona...thoroughly enjoyable!! So kudos to you, and thank you again. My family and my work family make what I do possible...and I'm so grateful for each and all of them.*

*Blessings,  
Delores Crum  
Premiere Party Central / Premiere Tents and Events*

*Hi Amy,*

*Hope you are doing well. Thank you so much for the additional night at the Driskill. It was such a treat to stay another night in that amazing hotel. I'm going to have to plan a romantic stay there with my husband soon. The convention was fantastic! I came home with inspiration, ideas, and new contacts from the wildly talented vendors you have in Austin. You have created such a wonderful organization for wedding professionals! Thanks again! I hope to attend another one of your events and/or sign up for the next online class.*

*Have a great weekend!  
Andrea Wiggins*

*Amy,*

*I can only say that Tuesday was a fabulous evening! Thank you so very much for bringing Colin Cowie to Austin, Texas! This evening was so perfect. My thanks to you and all of the people that collaborated to make this evening possible. If I can help be a support to you; please let me know! Keep up the excellent work!*

*Coby Neal  
The Flower Studio*

*Good morning guys~*

*I just wanted to let you know how excited I am for you! I thought that the conference went really well and you pulled off a huge undertaking. I know a lot of blood, sweat and tears went into this undertaking! Thank you for letting us be a part of it and for your wonderful hospitality on behalf of Alan and myself. I don't know if you have plans to do something like this again but if you do I hope you will think of us for help. What you are doing for the Wedding Industry is so worthy and as always you raise the bar! Congratulations!*

*Cindy Elley  
The Knot*

*Amy,*

*I just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed last night. I only attended the dinner, but everyone from Premiere had very positive things to say about the sessions during the day. I heard you rocked a really cute wedding dress in the fashion show!!*

*I also wanted to thank you for honoring my mother. It meant the world to her. She had no idea!! I was touched by your story about your grandmother. I am very close to my grandmother and my mom was very close to her grandmother, so it really meant a lot to us as a family. I think you and your crew did an excellent job, and I just wanted to pass along my kudos.*

*Angela Nussel, CERP  
Premiere Party Central / Premiere Tents and Events*



**Alegra's Invitations**  
Nancy Owen and Stephanie Caplan  
[www.alegras.com](http://www.alegras.com)

**Bella Flora Creative**  
Harper Ferguson  
[www.bellafloracreative.com](http://www.bellafloracreative.com)

**Flora Fetish**  
Carrie Beamer  
[www.florafetish.com](http://www.florafetish.com)

**Platinum Linens**  
Kimberly and Anthony  
[www.platinumlinens.com](http://www.platinumlinens.com)

**Rae Cosmetics**  
Rochelle Rae  
[www.raecosmetics.com](http://www.raecosmetics.com)

**Favors You Keep**  
[www.favorsyoukeep.com](http://www.favorsyoukeep.com)

**Austin Wedding Guide**  
Bob Lowman and Beth Kuhn  
[www.austinweddingguide.com](http://www.austinweddingguide.com)

**Distinctive Details**  
Francesca Nilsen  
[www.distinctivedetails.com](http://www.distinctivedetails.com)

**Unexpected Elements**  
Wendee Robbins  
[www.unexpectedelements.com](http://www.unexpectedelements.com)

**The Knot**  
Cindy Elley and Alan Berg  
[www.theknot.com](http://www.theknot.com)

**First In Last Out Productions**  
Howard Fletcher  
[www.filodesigns.com](http://www.filodesigns.com)

**Simon Lee Bakery**  
Judy Lee  
[www.simonleebakery.com](http://www.simonleebakery.com)

**Verbena Floral Design**  
Luann Dickson  
[www.verbena.com](http://www.verbena.com)

**Crescent Video Productions**  
Diane and Gary Smith  
[www.crescentvideo.com](http://www.crescentvideo.com)

**The Driskill Hotel**  
Brett Boering and Linda Maurer  
[www.driskillhotel.com](http://www.driskillhotel.com)

**Anthology Photography**  
Eric and Laura Satoris  
[www.weddingphotos.com](http://www.weddingphotos.com)

**Blush Bridal Lounge**  
Erica Janke and Amanda Heptner  
[www.blushbridallounge.com](http://www.blushbridallounge.com)

**KK Bloom Stationery**  
Krystina Mayhew-Bloom  
[www.kkbloom.com](http://www.kkbloom.com)

**Platinum Weddings and Events**  
Amy Mader, PWC  
[www.myplatinumevent.com](http://www.myplatinumevent.com)

**Say Cheese for Fun**  
Todd Darby  
[www.saycheeseforfun.com](http://www.saycheeseforfun.com)

**Wild Parrott Productions**  
Bob Knauf and Paul Raila  
[www.wildparrot.com](http://www.wildparrot.com)

**Marquee Event Group**  
Damon Holditch  
[www.marqueeeventgroup.com](http://www.marqueeeventgroup.com)

**Dustin Meyer Photography**  
Dustin Meyer  
[www.dustinmeyer.com](http://www.dustinmeyer.com)

**Petal Pushers**  
Stacey Hogge  
[www.petalpushers.us](http://www.petalpushers.us)

**Thompson Poole Photography**  
Denise Poole  
[www.thompsonpoole.com](http://www.thompsonpoole.com)

**Innovative Photography**  
Darcie and Chris Siiteri  
[www.innovativephotography.com](http://www.innovativephotography.com)

**The Driskill Hotel**  
Wendy Neuman and Linda Poole  
[www.thedriskill.com](http://www.thedriskill.com)

**Big Day Event Productions**  
Amanda Dudley  
[www.youreventproducer.com](http://www.youreventproducer.com)

**Word of Mouth Catering**  
Myra Adkins and Leslie Moore  
[www.wordofmouthcatering.com](http://www.wordofmouthcatering.com)

**The Driskill Hotel**  
John Spomer and Tony Sansalone  
[www.driskillhotel.com](http://www.driskillhotel.com)

**Austin Weddings Unlimited**  
Rev. Sarah de la Fuente  
[www.austinweddingsunlimited.com](http://www.austinweddingsunlimited.com)

**BZ Events**  
Becky Brock and Courtney Zieke  
[www.bzevents.com](http://www.bzevents.com)

**Barbara's Bride's**  
Barbara Hearne  
[www.barbarasbrides.com](http://www.barbarasbrides.com)

**Premiere Party Central**  
Delores Crum  
[www.premierepartycentral.com](http://www.premierepartycentral.com)

**Sterling Images**  
Andrew Sterling  
[www.sterlingimagesonline.com](http://www.sterlingimagesonline.com)

**Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
Beth Krauss  
[www.austintexas.org](http://www.austintexas.org)

**Caplan Miller Events**  
Courtney Caplan and Sarah Miller  
[www.caplanmiller.com](http://www.caplanmiller.com)

**Hale House Weddings**  
Shelley Hale  
[www.halehouseweddings.com](http://www.halehouseweddings.com)

**Premier Bride**  
Donna Brieske  
[www.premierbride.com](http://www.premierbride.com)

**Austin Wedding Day**  
Rita Nowakowski and Christie Vaughn  
[www.austinweddingday.com](http://www.austinweddingday.com)

**Penguin Entertainment**  
Joshua Wilkinson  
[www.penguinentertainment.com](http://www.penguinentertainment.com)

**The Wedding Butler**  
John John  
[www.idobutler.com](http://www.idobutler.com)

**The Book People**  
[www.bookpeople.com](http://www.bookpeople.com)

**The Driskill Hotel**  
Wendy Neuman and Linda Poole  
[www.driskillhotel.com](http://www.driskillhotel.com)

**Lake Austin Strings**  
Nate Mayfield  
[www.lakeaustinstrings.com](http://www.lakeaustinstrings.com)

10133 Planters Woods Drive  
Austin, TX 78730

Phone: 866-766-NECI  
Fax: 888-682-4109  
E-mail: amy@nuptialesentials.com

The Nuptial Essentials Association of Wedding Professionals (NEAWP) provides networking, resources and support for Professional Wedding Consultants. We also offer continuing education for experienced consultants through Nuptial Essentials Curriculum & Education (NECI).

**NECI Wedding School:** If you or know anyone that would benefit from our legitimate and rewarding program, please contact John John. We are offering program scholarships to those who qualify.

*Important Dates: Mark your calendars!*

Dec 02, 2009

AT&T Conference Center - Austin

### Austin Chapter Contact Info

**Philanthropy Committee:**  
Wendy Neuman - The Driskill Hotel  
Eric Sartoris - Anthology Photography

**Event Venues for meetings:** Sarah  
sarah@caplanmiller.com

**Event Speakers & Facebook:** Courtney  
courtney@caplanmiller.com

**Newsletter submissions:** Shelley  
shelleyahale@yahoo.com

**Blog information:** Becky  
becky@somethingtocelebrate.biz

**Continuing education & membership:** Amy  
amy@nuptialesentials.com

**Hospitality & School Enrollment:** John John  
johnjohn@nuptialesentials.com

*\*If you feel you would be an asset to our Austin or Houston chapter members or if you want to add some titles to your resume, email Amy for more information.*

### NEAWP Membership Special...

At the request of our attendees, NEAWP is offering a membership discount to all who attended the conference. As a user, enter the promo code "chic2009" and you will receive a \$75 discount off the \$250 annual membership.

### Miscellaneous Membership Information

**Meeting Evite:** NEAWP has not been able to master Evite! We do know how to send out the Evite, but quite often it goes into spam/junk folders or is not delivered at all. We are currently working on a better way to send out invitations. Upon receiving your membership packet, there is a letter that states the meetings for the Austin Chapter are the FIRST Wednesday of the month. The Evite is posted on the association website at [www.associationofweddingprofessionals.com](http://www.associationofweddingprofessionals.com). You can pay on the website as well as view the meeting information. If you do not respond to the Evite, your payment is your reservation. Do watch for the change in meeting invitations. If you have not received the Evite by two weeks before the meeting, NEAWP encourages you to go to the website to find out the meeting information.

**Invoices:** If you pay with a personal check at the meetings, you will most likely receive an email that will state you have a balance on your account. The reason is because NEAWP needs to manually enter in your check payment and to do this, an invoice needs to be created. Prior to sending an email stating that you paid with a check, log into your member account to see if the balance is zero. If it is not zero, then there is an issue. Thank you for your attention to this.

**NSF Checks:** As of September 1, 2009, the NSF check fee will increase to \$35.00.

**Membership Certificates:** If you have not received your membership packet, do email amy@nuptialesentials.com.

**Non-Attendance at Meetings:** Effective September 1, 2009, if you RSVP "yes" and you are a "no-show" your account will be charged a \$10.00 office fee. NEAWP does not have an attendance requirement policy but we do need to be reimbursed for the meal that you requested. If you came to the meeting and did not have a meal, you most likely would be contacting NEAWP requesting a refund.

### ~Vendor Shout Outs!~

#### Mandola's Italian Market

Contact: Julie Schor  
Director of Catering & Events  
Email: julie@mandolasmarket.com  
Twitter: @mandolas\_market  
www.mandolasmarket.com  
512.600.3555

#### Pink Avocado Catering

Contact: Brent Schumaker  
Email: info@pinkavocadocatering.com  
www.pinkavocadocatering.com  
512-656-4348

#### Vendor Shout Out Thanks to...

Cortney Zieky, PWC  
BZ Events  
bzevents.com  
(512) 779-5396  
cortney.zieky@gmail.com

### Note from John John~

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY  
WEDDING SEASON & THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR DEVOTED SUPPORT!!

SINCERELY,  
JOHN JOHN  
THE WEDDING BUTLER

### Final thought

In Thanksgiving...

*For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

*And go plan beautiful weddings & events!*