

SMG E-ZINE

BOOKINGS & EVENTS

Convention Center Highlights

The first quarter welcomed home several trade shows, consumer shows and conventions that have been faithfully returning to the Memphis Cook Convention Center every year. The *Memphis Boat Show*, *RV Show*, *Easy Riders* and the *Helen Brett Gift and Jewelry Show* combined, bring more than 25,000 people through the Main Hall.

The annual *MidSouth Farm and Gin Show* was a huge success attracting nearly 20,000 local and regional farmers to Memphis to learn about the future of the cotton industry and to see some of the latest farm equipment.

Merry Maids, headquartered in Memphis and *Mary Kay*, held their annual conventions at the Center where they showcased new products for their industries.

Cannon Center Highlights

On April 26, Tennessee's favorite daughter, *Amy Grant*, brought her Grammy-Award winning contemporary music the center to cap off the Memphis Symphony Orchestra's Pops season.

Coming soon! Saturday, May 3rd, *The Memphis Symphony Orchestra* performs Joan Tower's *Made in America*, Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Violinist James Ehnes performs Elgar's *Violin Concerto*, considered one of the most challenging violin concertos. *Mike Epps & Friends*, Friday, May 9 - an evening of hilarious comedy with one of America's top comedians. *Bow Wow & Friends*, Sunday, June 1 - hip-hop meets rap with Bow Wow and his label mate friends. *Raheem DeVahgn & Chrisette Michelle*, Sunday, June 8 - two of the hottest performers in the neo-soul genre.

CORPORATE INITIATIVES

Training

SMG's k'nekt Sales Training class for spring of 2008 was completed and met with rave reviews. Look for the next sales class to be offered in late fall.

Savor....Catering by SMG

Savor Earth, Savor's program for sustainability, has launched its 6-Step Pledge. Savor also announces the addition of the Taubman Museum of Art, Nassau Coliseum, BOK Center and Tulsa Convention Center to its growing account roster.

Convention Center Sales

Dan Hayes of the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City, has been named Executive Director, SMG Convention Center Sales. Dan will work with Sr. VP Gregg Caren to expand and strengthen our convention center database and lead sharing programs, to be announced before our next issue!

MPI "Big Game" Client Event

Houston's Reliant Center hosted 'Big Game' weekend in January where Meeting Planner International guests were invited to Reliant Park, an NFL stadium, to watch the Super Bowl on multiple screens while enjoying a first class reception. The event was a huge success.

OPERATIONS

34 Year Old Floor New Again

Preferred Concrete Polishing of North Carolina worked during the night in December to completely grind and polish the Main Exhibit Hall floor. Requiring close attention to detail, the job was completed several days ahead of schedule without disrupting the normal business of the Convention Center. Denise Brown, Director of Operations, says "The diamond polishing has brought such life back to this floor and has caused the room to appear much brighter and larger."

Cardboard Recycling Program Paying Off

Our aggressive cardboard recycling program has yielded several tons of cardboard from our events and hundreds of dollars paid back to the Center for the material. Waste Management and Weyerhaeuser are part of our recycling team.