



A.M.P.A.

Association For Merchandise Planning and Allocation

AMPA Meeting Summary

NRF Annual Trade Show

New York - January 14, 1996

The Merchandise Planning Users Group held an informal meeting on January 14, 1996 at the NRF Annual Trade Show to discuss ideas about the User Group. In attendance were:

- Terry Donofrio, Retail Systems & Services
- John O'Leary, Retail Systems & Services
- Chuck Hill, Retail Systems & Services
- Bill Luckert, Service Merchandise
- Todd Willingham, Service Merchandise
- Susan Gallego, Bear Creek Stores

The initial thinking was for a general Merchandise Planning User Group whose purpose would be to allow an interchange of ideas and experiences about Merchandise Planning. Based on our communications through trade shows, RS&S seminars and a small mailer we have an active following of about 30 people. The following ideas were discussed at the meeting:

- how it might work
- future meetings
- the benefits to the members
- exchanging information and ideas

User Group Meetings

The most important discussion concerned when and how to meet. From our survey the members indicated that a semiannual meeting at various trade shows would be the best forum. The NRF Annual show was the first choice followed closely by RISCON and the RSA midyear event. The attendees concurred with this approach suggesting a half or full day meeting. We are now planning for the following meetings this year and next:

- RS96: Jun 11-13th; Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas (One day Merchandise Planning Symposium being held on June 10th)
- RISCON: Sept 29th - Oct 2nd; Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
- NRF Annual Show: Jan 12-15th, 1997; Javitts Convention Center, NYC

At the initial User Group Meeting, hopefully in June, we should discuss the following (other suggestions are most welcome):

- How future meetings should be scheduled and conducted
- Topic areas for future meetings and user group in general
- Methods of communication
- Planning system surveys or interchange of ideas
- Electronic forums
- Schedule for next meeting and tentative agenda

User Group Ideas

At our initial meeting the following ideas were suggested for the User Group:

- Exchange ideas through surveys
- Investigate a forum on CompuServe or other on-line service
- Consider an eventual full day version of the user group meeting
- Twice a year
- Defined and organized program
- Speakers from group or outside the group

- Organized running of user group
- Possible product demos
- Administrator function in future
- List of topics to choose from for meetings

User Group To-Dos:

1. RS&S:

This mailing to user group members Mailing for more members and announcing June meeting Prep for June meeting: room, logistics, time, agenda etc. Notification of details for June meeting to members attending

2. Members

Provide agenda ideas