

MPI Middle Pennsylvania Chapter

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MPI Middle Pennsylvania Chapter Holds Annual Year-End Celebration

HERSHEY, PA (May 27, 2021) – [Meeting Professionals International \(MPI\) Middle Pennsylvania Chapter \(MPIMP\)](#) gathered for its first in-person event in over a year. The chapters Annual Year-End Celebration held May 27, 2021, at the Wyndham Gettysburg, included a virtual silent auction, community service project and award presentations.

The chapter had a special visitor from MPI Global attend the Annual Year-End Celebration. Belinda Cottrell, CMP, CHS surprised us with the 2020 Outstanding Excellence Award. This award was given to three chapters out of 66! During the pandemic, MPIMP:

- 83% membership retention
- 85% membership growth
- Offered members seven accredited education courses (exceeded by one)!
- Kept a healthy reserve fund

A special congratulations to past President (2019/2020), Terry Cochran and current present (2020/2021), Cyndy Cosner for their dedication & efforts to keeping our members informed and engaged during the pandemic.

Members bid on more than 40 items in the virtual silent auction that brought in more than \$8,700 for the chapter's scholarship fund. Donated items included gift baskets, activity passes, hotel stays and more.

The event included a special visit from [Susquehanna Service Dogs](#), who partnered with MPI Middle Pennsylvania for an annual community service project. Susquehanna Service Dogs breeds, raises, trains, and places service dogs and hearing dogs, as well as facility dogs, to assist children and adults with disability to lead the lives they want to live. With the collaboration efforts, Susquehanna Service Dogs and MPIMP raised \$800.

The chapter awarded five of its members for their outstanding achievements during the 2020-2021 year, one filled with pandemic-related challenges. The evening's awards included:

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year: Teri Jakob, CMM, UPMC Pinnacle Foundation
Jakob is a busy healthcare professional, event supervisor and nurse who, despite a full calendar, is always willing to contribute her time and talents to the Communications Committee.

Planner of the Year: Ilene Sauertieg, PA Optometric Association

Sauertieg has a servant's heart with a boundless love for peers and colleagues, whom she reached out to often throughout the pandemic. It is these traits, in addition to her professionalism and attention to detail, that make her an outstanding planner.

Supplier of the Year: Sarah Farrell, Mohegan Sun Pocono

Farrell stepped up to meet challenges with a positive attitude and work ethic as she championed the chapter's educational programming during the pandemic.

Rock Star of the Year: Kimber Pierich, CMP, PA Association of School Business Officials

Pierich infuses the chapter with her spirit of positivity. She has been instrumental in leading the CMP study group that helps meeting professionals move their careers forward and helped the chapter navigate the new virtual platform for meetings.

Recruiter of the Year: Cyndy Cosner, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Cosner was able to recruit new members into the MPIMP family. She is someone who leads by example and inspires other members to recruit.

About Meeting Professional International (MPI) & MPI Middle Pennsylvania Chapter

MPI is the largest and most vibrant global meeting and event industry association. The organization provides innovative and relevant education, networking opportunities and business exchanges, and acts as a prominent voice for the promotion and growth of the industry. MPI membership is comprised of approximately 20,500 members belonging to more than 80 chapters and clubs worldwide. The 160+ member Middle Pennsylvania MPI Chapter (MPIMP), established in 2008, empowers its members to increase their strategic organizational value through education and networking opportunities. For more information, visit www.mpimiddlepa.org and follow us on [Facebook](#).

To learn more or to register for the event, visit www.mpimiddlepa.org.