

# VISIT DALLAS®

BIG THINGS HAPPEN HERE



## A MINUTE WITH ANNIE



**"I will love the light for it shows me the way, yet I will endure the darkness because it shows me the stars."**

OG MANDINO

Welcome to the 2020-2021 year of MPI D/FW! I am so excited that you are here to share in this journey with me. I began with the quote above because it exemplifies recent months and what some of the outcomes have been. Here are a few good things that I've seen come out of a pandemic: We have reacquainted ourselves with our families, children, neighbors, and our homes... all the baking! Can you say "Road Trip"?

I don't mean to discount all of the heartbreak and losses we have also experienced, and my heart goes out to all of you that have experienced any of this. However, as Og Mandino said above, "I will endure the darkness because it shows me the stars." Won't you agree that we've definitely seen some "stars" shining during this crazy time?

So –STARS of MPI D/FW – let's GO! In my mind, you are all stars and my hope this year is that I can help make you shine like never before! My theme for the year is *Be The Voice*. And I would love for you to join me in giving a voice to causes or charities – shining light on those organizations – that are near and dear to your heart! You will have a captive audience with control of the microphone, on stage at a live event or dedicated spotlight on a virtual event! I want all of you to truly *Be The Voice* for yourself, for this chapter, and for our industry.

Just to share a little bit about me...the DFW chapter of MPI has blessed me beyond words! I've gained some incredible lifelong friends, industry knowledge, and jobs along the way. I am honored to now be serving as your President for the 2020-2021 term, our 43rd year of existence. I am so proud of all those that came before me, humbled to now be associated with them in some small way.

We finished out 2019-2020 with some incredible virtual events. Check out the weekly webinars, still ongoing (shout out to Paige Mejia!). And we never would have made it through this year without the amazing Tuula (middle name Strategic) Westlake! Her leadership and forward-thinking has allowed our chapter to thrive financially during these times. Thank you again, Tuula!

Lastly, your MPI D/FW Board of Directors is here for you, and I will not be able to accomplish anything this term without them. I am incredibly grateful for each board member that has agreed to be on this rollercoaster with me and I can't wait to see what we will do – not only for you – but with you! Although this year is off to a different start, we STILL need your help! Please check out our Committee Interest page to see how you can be more involved with the chapter. Did you know that we are one of the top five largest MPI chapters in the world? I encourage you to engage, get involved, and get the best return on your membership investment.

Dallas/Fort Worth – We WILL meet again! I am confident we will come back stronger than ever! I look forward to all we will accomplish together and can't wait to see you again in person! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me any time at [President@mpidfw.org](mailto:President@mpidfw.org).

-Annie



## WELCOME YOUR 2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Today's circumstances might not have allowed us to gather in person, but your new MPI Board was still installed for the new term!

Join Immediate Past President Tuula Westlake as she reflects on the memories and accomplishments of our Award-Winning MPI D/FW Chapter over the last year. Steven Foster then welcomes and inducts the new board before passing the gavel to President Annie Matthews as she outlines the goals and addresses the challenges facing us this year, and encourages us all to Be the Voice of our passions and of our industry.

The future may not be certain, but one thing is for sure... your MPI D/FW Chapter is in good hands leading us into the upcoming year. We are in this together and we are here to support our members every step of the way!

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the recorded induction.



## MEET THE WINNERS!

### 2020 MPI RISE AWARDS

Your D/FW Chapter was represented by not one, but TWO RISE Award winners this year! Honored for exceptional achievements in the meeting and events industry. Sherry and Cassie were announced back in late June during the virtual Chapter Business Summit. This is a huge honor. Please help us in congratulating them!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full story.



**SHERRY DELAGARZA**  
CMP, CMM  
Meeting Industry Leadership



**CASSIE POSS, CMP**  
Young Professional  
Achievement



## CALL FOR COMMITTEES!

### OUR COMMITTEES NEED VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking to help shape the future of your MPI D/FW Chapter? We're looking for committee volunteers to assist in keeping MPI D/FW as one of the top performing MPI chapters!

There are a wide variety of opportunities whether you love face-to-face interaction or behind-the-scenes processes. Are you a creative at heart? Do you enjoy educating and mentoring? Perhaps you are a lover of logistics and planning?

Whatever your skills WE NEED YOU!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see which committee best suits you!

## #IHEARTMPIDFW ... DO YOU?



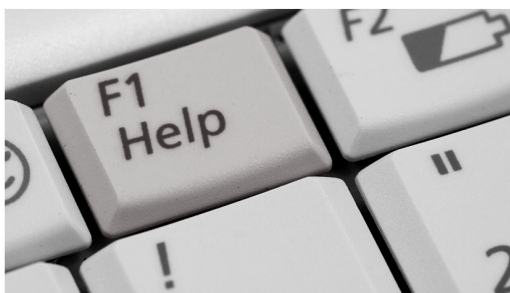
### JOIN IN THE FUN WITH OUR FRIDAY SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS!

Send us your photo with the #IHeartMPIDFW hashtag and we'll post your image on all our social media outlets on Fridays. Share the love so we can feel the hugs we're not able to give in real life! [CLICK HERE](#) to email us your entry!



### LOOKING FOR A JOB CHANGE?

Did you know MPI has a job board, free resume review, and education and certification programs? Find it all at the MPI Career Center!  
<https://careers.mpi.org>



### MPI MEMBER COVID RELIEF

If you are in financial distress from the impacts of COVID-19, please contact [help@mpi.org](mailto:help@mpi.org). MPI Global has several options available to help maintain your membership.



**RECONNECT.  
RESTORE.  
RESTART OUR PROFESSION.**

WEC is in our own backyard this year! Do not miss this hybrid event of virtual and in-person options focused on a renewed sense of purpose : rebuilding..

Learn all details and register risk-free by [CLICKING HERE!](#)



## UPCOMING WEBINARS

CLICK TO VISIT OUR FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION



AUGUST 5TH



AUGUST 12TH



AUGUST 19TH

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