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2019



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Aggenda

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EDITOR'S NOTE

am so excited to say hello to you, as your new editor! I am writing this from The Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport where I started my MPI career. I was introduced to MPI when Spring Education Day was

hosted in 2013 with our theme: "Your Runway to Success." I was the venue liaison and was proud to be a part of planning that day.



I remember it, as if it were yesterday, due to the great lineup of speakers. We heard from Shawna Suckow, CMP and a Flashpoint of NSA Speakers. We also had the privilege to hear from Cindy D'Aoust, Chief Operating Officer of MPI International at the time.

Since Spring Education Day in 2013, I've had the pleasure of being the Co-Lead for Spring Education Day and went on to become the Director of Monthly Programming, VP of Education and VP of Membership. I thoroughly enjoyed the people I worked with on the board. I spent many hours at my desk with my headphones on, listening to speakers as I really wanted to discover the next best presenter for our events. I have learned so many skills while volunteering on the board, including managing an event budget and learning the event planner prospective during RFP Season. I was honored to receive the President's Award from Jennifer Mell in 2017 which I still proudly display on my desk.

I am looking forward to my new role as editor and work with another group of great volunteers.

Even though I regret the alternating pink and green round linens I picked for Spring Education Day in 2013 (which clashed with the existing red/brown carpet) I will never regret the choice I made to be a part of MPI Wisconsin.



Katie McGinnis



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JO ELLEN GRABER President, MPI-WI Chapter

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

have been thinking about what I would say in this article, pretty much since the day I agreed to become president. So much, that I went back and printed out ten years of past presidents first *Agenda* articles to prepare. Most started out with how excited or thrilled they were, some started with what the theme for the upcoming year, but the one that resonated most with me is Tami Gilbertson's first article. Tami talked about the emotions she was feeling; excited, nervous, and questioning if she was ready. I feel the same way...but currently, nervous is winning.

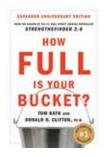
The things that make me nervous are making sure that we honor past leadership and respect the decisions that got us to where we are today: one of the best MPI chapters in the world. Gulp! Then, I think about new initiatives and how I don't want to be remembered as the president who did not move us forward. I realized something: the president will not sink this ship; our members are too passionate for that to happen. After all, it is our membership that makes this chapter so successful, the board just clears the road to get us there.

I once heard that MPI is 90% heart and 10% head, I could not agree more. When I was in membership, our survey talked about cliques and feedback that our chapter is not very welcoming. My first thought was, "How do we stop this?" Our board worked together with all of our members to create a receptive and accessible environment. I want everyone to feel welcome.

Don't miss our Annual Gala, on August 8th at the Hotel Retlaw. I hope to see you all there!

Years ago, a very tenured member and I were having a conversation at a reception. I asked what she thought of the speaker to which she replied they were "okay." As someone new to meeting planning, I had learned so much and was perplexed as to why she had not gotten as much out of this great speaker as I had. She then proceeded to tell me that she does not come for the education, although if she picks something up or hears someone that inspires her that is great. She really just shows up to network and see her MPI family. This was mind-blowing. It was my MPI "AHA!" moment. This organization has people that have been in the industry for 40+ years. While not every speaker is going to apply to them, they still show up.

I want to encourage both old and new members alike to "show up" and keep doing what has made our chapter so successful. If you are a new member, don't be afraid to walk up to a group and start a conversation. We all work, or want to work, in the same industry - there is your opener. Veteran members, please continue to be role models and advocates for meetings and events. Keep being you and keep coming to see your family. Like any family, you are missed when you're not there.



A book that really inspires me is *How Full is your Bucket*? While I am not an avid reader, my kids kept coming home with these articles from school about being a "bucket filler." I finally decided to learn what it was all about. Essentially, everyone has an imaginary bucket, every day you have an opportunity to fill someone's bucket or take from that bucket. It made me realize personally and professionally I had not been a bucket filler. I wasn't exactly taking from other buckets, but I was not filling them either. I want to be a bucket filler and I want us all to walk around with full buckets.

Since I really don't have a theme for the year, I want to inspire you with a throwback to themes from the past ten years. So "Step up!" "Enthusiastic you," and "lead where you

are." figure out "How many more miles," you will have to go to "Bring out the best," because "It's going to be a great year MPI-WI"!

Don't miss our Annual Gala, on August 8th at the Hotel Retlaw. I hope to see you all there!

JoEllen Graber

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WHUM

Meet Your 2019-2020 Board of Directors

At April's Educational Event, we welcomed our new Board of Directors for 2019-2020. Since then, your new board has already met for an intense planning retreat. This group is energized and ready to serve! Reach out to any of us with ideas, comments, questions, or to jump in and serve. Our members make us great!

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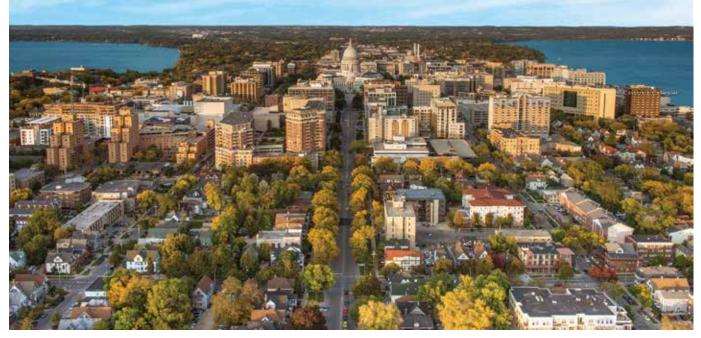
Director of Education Projects Kyra Popp Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau kyra@wisdells.com



madison

"Monona Terrace and Madison was a perfect venue for our meeting," said Carlos Carroll, Ph.D., of the Klamath Center for Conservation Research. "Attendance was the largest NACCB ever, and 92% of attendees reported that the conference was excellent or good. Net income exceeded our expectations."

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"My first reaction to hearing about One City One Contract was 'that's a game changer," said Donna Johnson, Director of Meetings and Events at Capitol Hill Management Services. "The One City. One Contract. concept saves our Conference & Meeting Planning Team a tremendous amount of time and energy." Some of the terms early-adopters find most exciting are:

- Attrition and cancellation fees are based on lost profit, not lost revenue that also provide inventory resale contingencies.
- Hotels will mutually indemnify groups.
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Madison also has a strong record of helping meetings thrive in attendance, attendee satisfaction, and net income.

Meeting professionals rave about increased income stemming from low food and beverage costs – like coffee under \$40 per gallon – and free Wi-Fi. Madison's natural scenery, vibrant culture, and walkable exploration make meetings unforgettable.

MPI-WI Trivia Night Recap

By: Melissa Falendysz, CMP

WHAT A NIGHT! MPI-WI's 1st Annual Trivia Night was such a success! We hope that everyone who came had a great time and those that didn't can see what the hype is all about next year.

The evening started out with a reception filled with delicious food and cocktails by The Ingleside Hotel Culinary Team. We then kicked off trivia with our Emcee, Tracey Bockhop, CMP who lead the team through eight rounds of fun and brain stumping questions. Team "EDI Know it or EDI Don't" (Destination Lake Winnebago sponsor table) and Kelly Pfeiffer with Visit Seattle, as an individual, emerged victorious as the first-time winners of the night.







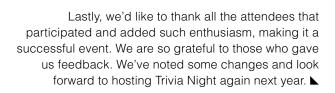
We'd like to thank and acknowledge the generous sponsors of Trivia Night:

- Memphis Tourism for being our trivia title sponsor.
- The Ingleside Hotel for hosting our event and for the amazing food, drinks, décor, and staff service during the night.
- Table sponsors: Caesar's Entertainment, Destination Lake Winnebago Region, Explore LaCrosse, Memphis Tourism, The Ingleside Hotel, and Visit Milwaukee.
- The Scan Group Inc., for graciously designing and printing the game materials.
- All of our auction donors and strategic partners for providing tremendous auction items that helped raise money for our chapter.

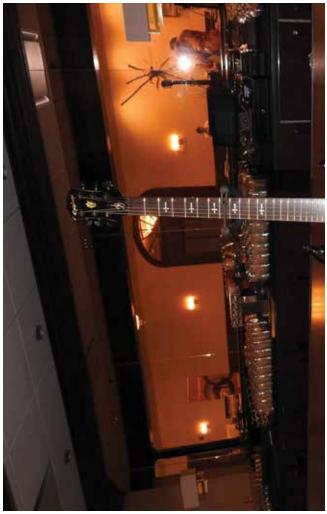














2018-2019 MPI-Wisconsin Hall of Fame Award



We are thrilled to announce that our 2018-2019 MPI-WI Hall of Fame Award goes to Dana Ecker, Director of Convention Sales at La Crosse Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Dana has been an active and valuable member of MPI-WI for over 15 years and has worked in our industry for almost 20 years. She has served on our board of directors and has volunteered on several committees including golf, the gala, sponsorships, and membership. Dana is also an active member in several other associations including Wisconsin Society of Association Executives, Associations North, MPI Minnesota, and serves as a board member for Toastmasters International – Wisconsin Club.

Dana has worked for the La Crosse Convention and Visitors Bureau for the past five years. Prior to her current role, Dana has worked at many familiar locations such as the Oshkosh CVB, the Radisson Paper Valley, Heidel House, the Pioneer Inn, and several properties in Minnesota.

Dana and her husband Hans have been married for 36 happy years. Together they have three children and four grandchildren. Dana and Hans love to spend time with their family. One activity they enjoy is to sing in their church praise band together. Dana, in addition to being a talented vocalist, loves playing piano at home and church.

Dana and Hans currently live in the beautiful Driftless Region of La Crosse where she loves Zumba, as well as traveling the world whenever time allows.

Congratulations, Dana!!

MPI-WI 2018-19 Award Nominees

This year's slate of nominees is loaded with exceptional industry professionals. Following our new plan, our sister chapter, Minnesota, will be reviewing and ultimately selecting award winners from the slate of nominees. The Team of the Year will be voted on and selected by our Wisconsin Chapter members. Thanks to all you who recommended fellow members for these awards. Each of these nominees has distinguished themselves as true chapter and industry leaders. Don't miss the announcement of award winners at our Annual Gala! Congratulations to all of our nominees:

INDUSTRY ADVOCATE

Criteria: Current MPI-Wisconsin member whose actions consistently promote the meetings industry in Wisconsin. The individual also encourages the growth and image of our industry through education, promotion, or lobbying should be nominated for this award.



Tracey Bockhop, CMP Meet Meetings

Tracey deserves the Industry Advocate Award because of her time, dedication, and commitment to the MPI-WI Chapter and Board and... our industry. She thinks outside the box, suggests things that will only help our chapter and others (even if that means lots of extra work for herself). Tracey goes above and beyond the call of duty ... When I think of a champion of this chapter, someone who is so passionate about this industry and is a leader, I think of Tracey Bockhop and I know many others do as well.



Jodi Goldbeck, CMP Madison College

Jodi is an instructor in the Meeting & Event Management Program at Madison College. She also teaches the CMP 101 classes the chapter offers. She is always the first person I think to ask when I have an industry-related question. She is happy to share her knowledge, is trustworthy, and honest!



Tom Graybill Tri-Marq Communications Tom is always inviting people to meet-

ings and is welcoming of new guests. He is a great advocate for our chapter and the industry.



Sarah Lemmers Destination Madison

Sarah demonstrates exceptional leadership, professionalism and service while showing dedication to the industry by actively participating in association, community, and industry programs. She drives our industry every single day to make it great. She is passionate and committed to the community and provides a rare heightened level of care to meeting planners and industry partners.

RISING STAR NOMINEES

Criteria: Current MPI-Wisconsin member for a minimum of six months at the time of nomination, who has been a member in good standing for a maximum of two years at the time of nomination. The member also has demonstrated an immediate interest in MPI-WI by volunteering individually, on a team, working on a specialty project, or leading a committee.



Beth Schnabel, CUDE Filene Research Institute

Beth has recently started to get involved with MPI-WI Chapter ... and is willing to step in wherever she is needed. She was on the MPI-WI 1st Annual Trivia Team and really shined. She has experience with this type of event through work and brought great ideas and suggestions to the table, as well as was an amazing score keeper to stay ahead of the game. She was already asking when the next event is she can help with.



Sarah Lemmers Destination Madison

Sarah has been a great addition to MPI and is always there to help out with anything you need. She is a person you can ask if she would like to help out and she says yes.

Sarah did a great job with the summer social in Madison last year; she was really thrown into it. Also, she is great at connecting our members; she is a great resource. As a new member, she is very personable and ready to pitch in where she can.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Criteria: Team of the Year can be a special chapter project, fundraising, or monthly meeting team. A successful Team of the Year is a team that shares in the work together. The team has aligned and accomplished the goals set by the chapter. The team also must have completed the work between August and June of each year to be considered. The Team of the Year must be made up of volunteers and cannot be a board team.

Bidding for Good

Online Auction Fundraiser, November 16 – December 4, 2018 Team: Tracey Bockhop, CMP, Nicole Ellickson, CMP, Melissa Falendysz, CMP, Brooke Miller, CMP, Alison Huber, CMP

Gala

September 20, 2018, at the Miller High Life Theatre

Team: Tracey Bockhop, CMP, Nicole Ellickson, CMP, Liz Unruh, Sarah Banach, Wanda Gilles, Cathe Gorski, Casey Neverman, Jessica Rieflin, Brandon Smith, Shannon Timmerman, CMP, Michelle Tyo-Johnson, and Michael Wall

May Education

May 16, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport **Team:** Liz Unruh, Josh Wimmer, Judy Keller, Jackie Kuzminski, Greta McCue, and Laura Lutter Cole

Trivia

April 10, 2019, at The Ingleside Hotel

Team: Tracey Bockhop, CMP, Nicole Ellickson, CMP, Melissa Falendysz, CMP, Beth Schnabel, CUDE, Reggie Driscoll, CMP, and Lindsey Hess

OUTSTANDING LEADER

Criteria: Current MPI Wisconsin member that is involved in teams and has been a team lead. This person is very active in the chapter and cannot be a current board member. Multiple winners in a year are possible.



Melissa Falendysz, CMP, NATP Melissa deserves the Outstanding Leader Award because that is what she is - OUTSTANDING! Melissa took the lead on the Bidding for Good team last November and also was a huge part of why the MPI-WI 1st annual trivia night was such a success. She shows dedication, commitment, is eager to learn and grow with this chapter.



Deana Heinisch Waukesha Pewaukee CVB

Deana led the Spring Education Team, which I was a part of and did a fantastic job of infusing fun into our group! She is a collaborative leader and always happy to help or delegate where appropriate.



Michael Wall, PWG

Michael has stepped in and taken initiative with support from his company and donations. Through his support the visual appearance of Gala has really stood out. He is always willing to help out where needed and does it with a smile!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVOLUTION

By: Kathy Reading

It's been a fun, furry, and feathered journey with our annual community outreach partner -- The Wisconsin Humane Society. At monthly events, our members have been very generous with donations. At our April Education event, we worked together to craft 60 fluffy blankets for our furry friends. And, it looks like a few members and their pets will join the regional Pet Walks. The Wisconsin Humane Society is grateful for our help.

As we evaluate our future community outreach strategy, some concerns linger. We see that our members support a variety of charitable causes for which you feel personally passionate. Rather than connecting our chapter with a cause which may or may not resonate personally with each of you, we're taking another approach. Our continuing social goal is to support our members and encourage positive change. We recognize that our members are uniquely positioned as leaders in our dynamic industry. To serve you all best, we will re-focus on social causes related to our industry. MPI Global, for instance, has championed advancements in diversity, sustainability, and the fight against human trafficking.

For our chapter, this means that you may see fewer calls for charitable contributions of specific goods or dollars at educations meetings. Instead, we'll share specific actions and improvements that we can all make as meetings and events leaders. ►

Remember: "When we meet, we change the world."



MPI WISCONSIN

NEW MEMBER

TESSA AUGUST Director of Sales Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva

SHAUNA BARANCZYK Event Manager Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation

KAYLA BOONE Group and Meetings Manager Hotel Indigo Madison Downtown

BECKY CRNKOVICH Director of Events Metropolitan Builders Association

PEGGY CURTIS Adminstrative Assistant National Electrical Contractors Association

MARIA DEMCO Corporate Sales Manager The Abbey Resort & Avani Spa

ANN FEIST University Conference Coordinator University of Wisconsin Madison

LORI A. FUHRMANN Sales Manager Potawatomi Hotel and Casino

ALYSSA J. GREIBER Member Services & Events Coordinator University of Wisconsin Madison JUANITA GUZMAN Meeting Specialist Northwestern Mutual

SAMANTHA HOLTZ Sales Manager Metropolis Resort

KRISTI KLEMENS Meetings Planner National Funeral Directors Association

KATRIN MADAYAG-ARD Business Development Manager Destination Madison

DAVID NYQUIST Marketing Manager The Four Seasons Resort on Miscauno Island

JESSICA O'DELL Sales & Corporate Sponsorship Manager PC/Nametag

LAURA OLSEN Student

TARA RIPP Administrative Manager National Electrical Contractors Association

MARIE ZOROMSKI maZoro Consulting

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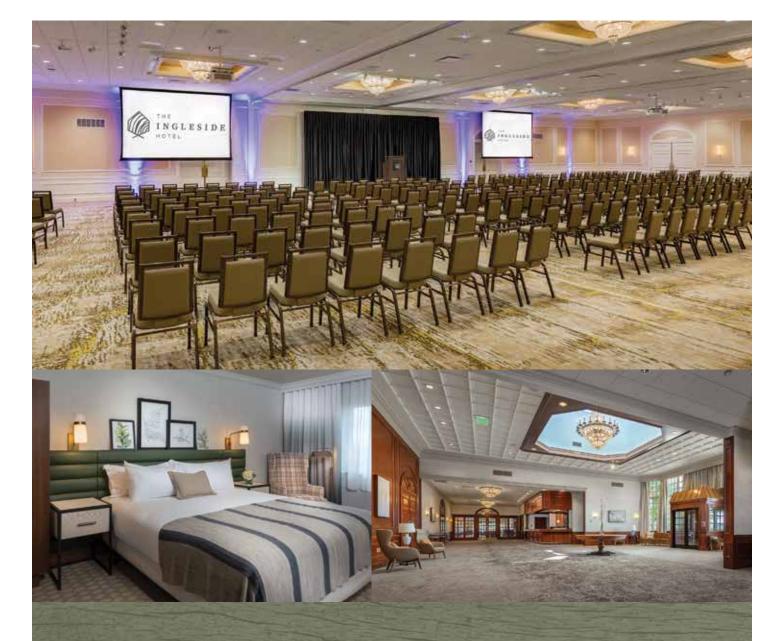
BRIAN M. SCHULZ Director of Business Development Central WI Convention and Expo Center

– 1 YEAR ——

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Spring Education Day Recap

An Amped Up Day of Education and Networking

By: Deana Heinisch and Maria Peot, CMP

e changed things up a bit for this year's Spring Education Day by moving the event from May to April, and the change was very well received! Although we had the "surprise" April snowstorm, which threw a few challenges our way, the event went off without a hitch at the stunning, newly renovated Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee.

installed in front of the event attendees. We have a talented group of individuals who will be leading us in the coming year. A special thanks to this group for your leadership and commitment in the coming year! Next, we got hands-on to make blankets for the WI Humane Society, the organization that we have been

Over 150 planners and suppliers joined in on this excellent day of learning. Following a delicious breakfast by the Ingleside, featuring live chef-made omelet stations, we had announcements and our first speaker of the day, Corbin Ball, CMP, CSP, DES, MS. Wow! Does Corbin have a wealth of technology knowledge up his sleeve! Notable was his description of virtual reality and the impact it is making on the events industry.

After Corbin's session, we took a break to mix and mingle with our sponsors and Strategic Alliance partners in the foyer outside of the ballroom. This valuable time allows for planners and suppliers to connect over upcoming event needs, or just catch up over a second (or third!) cup of coffee. Thank you to all of the Partners who supported us throughout the year, allowing all planners to attend this event for free! Thank you also to those organizations who specifically stepped up to sponsor the 2019 Spring Education event.

Following the break, we heard from replacement keynote speaker AJ Gibson, who shared his very personal and life changing story with our group. His session "Winning the Internal Head Game: How to MOVE When Life Feels Stagnant" was very well received. We are lucky that he was able to step in on short notice when our original speaker was stranded in Denver.

Thank you, AJ, for making the trip to Wisconsin! I think we all know it was meant to be to have a Gibson at our event! Some official business had to take place at the event as well. The 2019-2020 Board of Directors were officially



Thank you to all of the partners who supported us throughout the year, allowing all planners to attend this event at no cost!



supporting throughout the 2018-2019 MPI year. Although there were no dogs in attendance, we all enjoyed making fleece tie blankets that the pups will be able to use during their time at the Humane Society.

The Ingleside Hotel served up a delectable lunch – stuffed chicken paired with short ribs, along with a refreshing salad, fingerling potatoes, and root vegetable hash. Both bananas foster cheesecake and tiramisu were available for dessert – yum!

After such a filling meal, we had two electrifying breakout sessions to choose from, and good thing or we all would



have gone into food comas! Attendees could choose to hear from Corbin Ball again, this time on ideas to improve audience engagement at events, or from Chris Gasbarro, who was presenting on the attendee experience. Each session had great takeaways and kept us alert for the afternoon.

A second break allowed us to check out any exhibitors we missed during the morning break, and featured an elaborate build-your-own trail mix bar, along with fancy Wisconsin cheese and an MPI-WI carved watermelon fruit basket. The Ingleside was really out to impress our group, and they did!



Chris Gasbarro wrapped up the day with a final keynote, "S H - - T," where he expanded upon ideas from his earlier breakout session and encouraged us to take calculated risks and challenge ourselves when planning our future meetings. According to Chris, we owe it to our attendees to be creative in the design and execution of our events.



Thank you to everyone who joined us at this year's new and improved Spring Education Day in April! Without the many attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, partners, and speakers, the day would not have been as amped as it was. Great job to everyone who helped plan the day, and special thank you to our host property, the Ingleside Hotel for going above and beyond to electrify our event!







WHO'S NEWS

Our MPI President, JoEllen Graber, has accepted the position of Account Executive with Impact Association Management, which specializes in the management of homeowner and condominium associations. This growing company is known for



responsive, effective and proactive customer service Sounds like a perfect match, JoEllen!



Cathe Gorski has started a new position as Event Coordinator with Diggers Hotline. Cathe will coordinate, attend and participate in events throughout the state for this important safety company. Congratulations, Cathe!

Allison Rocca, CMP has joined Meetings & Incentives Worldwide, as a program manager. This new role will have multiple responsibilities related to a variety of events. Your CMP should serve you well, Allison!





As an Independent meeting planner, Susan Kainz wears many hats. She's added yet another as the new Executive Director with Shaken Baby Association. The mission of Shaken Baby Association is to educate every single person about the irreversible effects of shaking a baby. A single

moment of uncontrolled frustration can take a life. A single hour of education can save one. Thanks for your dedication, Susan!

Looking for a creative team-building event for or a fun night with friends? Kristen Salewski, CMP is offering \$15 off a Sun Prairie Board & Brush wood sign-painting workshop for MPI-WI members. To book a class visit www. boardandbrush.com/sunprairie and use code: Kristen15. Thanks, Kristen!



Please let us know of any MPI member news for future Agenda issues: reading@scangroup.net.

Cheryl Oswald, CMP, supported

a state-wide event by receiving her first speeding ticket on the Wisconsin State Patrol's Blue Day on April 16. This day is designed to raise public awareness about highway safety during construction and high traffic



with increased law enforcement, air, and media presence. (Cheryl's citation has been reduced to impeding traffic.) Way to participate, Cheryl!



Lake Geneva crowned the country's best

small town for outdoor adventure by the readers of USA Today's 10Best. The Walworth County city (pop. 7,875) was nominated by a panel of experts, and readers voted for their favorites with Lake Geneva coming out on top. "This is inspiration to get outside and enjoy our little corner of the world," said Stephanie Klett, president and CEO of VISIT Lake Geneva. We can't wait for our next adventure in Lake Geneva!

Destination Madison

has launched "One City. One Contract," a one-of-a-kind program

destination madisor

allowing planners to sign one master contract covering multiple brands across Madison. This master contract outlines common customer-centric terms for attrition, indemnification, force majeure, change in management, bankruptcy, renovation, and remodeling. Then, hotels issue a simple addendum to this master contract which secures rates and concessions. So far, it's the only program of its kind in the U.S. We applaud this creative collaboration, Madison!

DoubleTree by Hilton Appleton opened in April with a dedicated team and enhancements made in the newly redesigned restaurant, rooms and public spaces. The 227room, state-of-the-art, full-service hotel is located minutes from downtown Appleton. Welcome, DoubleTree!

Wisconsin Department of Tourism reports the ninth straight year of tourism growth, with direct tourism spending increased 4.86% to \$13.3 billion in 2018. Sara Meaney, the state's Tourism Secretary designee, is especially touting the 4.9% increase in spending per visitor to \$118. "We're getting more dollars out of each visitor," said Meaney, "it's a fantastic indication that people are finding more ways to spend time and dollars in Wisconsin." Wisconsin proud!



Save the Date for Great Lakes Education Summit!

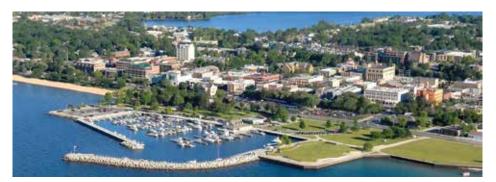
By: Rebecca Staats

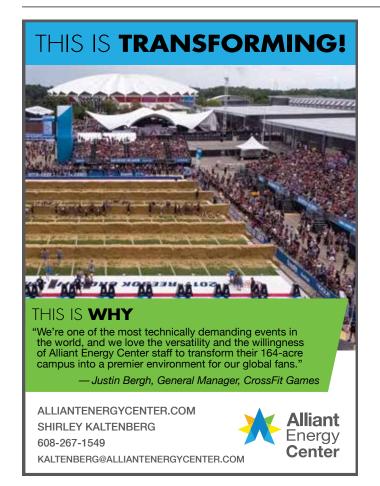
The sixth annual Great Lakes Education Summit (GLES) will take place November 3-5, 2019 in Traverse City, Michigan. The Park Place Hotel & Convention Center will be home to this tri-chapter summit. The MPI Chapters of Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin are collaboratively planning an exciting offering of educational programs and fun-filled activities. If you're working towards or renewing your CMP, this is a terrific opportunity to earn more CE's. This conference will have something for everyone and is always a valuable event for each of our chapter members.

Registration will open mid-summer, and there are many opportunities to sponsor or exhibit to this enthusiastic audience. Please visit www.mpigreatlakes.org or contact Hillary Kraemer at hkraemer@meetings-incentives.com for more information.

Mark your calendars now and be ready for a spectacular experience with our neighbor chapters.

Traverse City, known as a four-season playground, is now celebrated for quality cuisine, wine and culture. Miles of sugar-sand shoreline include the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore with romantic lighthouses and coastal villages.









VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

April Education Event Attendees

We're thrilled to shine our volunteer spotlight on all of the kind and generous members who helped to make 60 blankets for our furry friends at the Wisconsin Humane Society.

Fluffy and Fido thank you!

If you'd like to find a volunteer role that's just right for you, please contact Reggie Driscoll, CMP, rdriscoll@wisbar.org. You can also talk to any board member at our education events to learn what may best fit you to serve our chapter.

SPOLUNTEER



BOARD PROFILE:

Jason Kauffeld, CMP, CPP, RPCV Nepal

Position on the MPI WI Board:

Vice President of Communications

Place of employment & location:

I represent the Green Lake Conference Center (celebrating our 75th year in 2019!) as Director of Group Relationships.

How long in the meeting/event industry?

5 years formally and full-time. However, I also spent 10 years with federal and state agencies during which time I 'voluntold' for event committees organizing statewide conferences.

Tell us about yourself:

Most importantly, I married a wonderful woman, Giselle, from Trinidad and Tobago and we have two children: Ashna (10) and Chancellor (4). My experience includes several years of international development work in some of the world's poorest countries including two and half years with the Peace Corps in Nepal.

From 2003-2006, after finishing an environmental protection and food security project in Armenia, my wife and I sold everything we owned and pursued a dream: we would travel around the world until the money ran out. Over the next thousand days and fifty countries, we survived an elephant attack in Borneo, played with AIDS orphans in Africa, drank yak butter tea to make it through a frigid night on Mount Everest, and hiked forty days and forty nights through Mongolian wilderness to visit the Reindeer People. Since our trip ended, I have been engaged in leveraging group wisdom to create something better. If you want to talk about how to best pack for a trip around the world or putting together a great retreat or annual conference, I am a good choice to invite to the table.

Tell us 2-3 things you are responsible for on the board:

Learning from an established and experienced and awesome communications committee which oversees putting together our chapter's magazine, the *Agenda*, and leveraging social media channels to promote MPI's mission.

What drew you to join the board?

I was personally invited by a current board member and I have a deep appreciation of how this amazing chapter gives me so much joy and learning and friendship that I wanted to give back.



What is the best advice you can give to someone who is thinking about getting more involved in MPI?

You will get out of it what you are willing to put into it.

What do you like about being on the board?

Continuing a culture of openness and forward thinking.

Favorite musical artist, band, movie or book?

I love it when my children make up songs to sing to me and when they put together little books/cartoons for me.

Favorite hobbies or pastimes?

Backpacking the world, mushroom hunting with my children, ballroom dancing, attending board game conventions, game mastering.

When not at work, I enjoy staying involved in hospitality by running a Bed & Breakfast out of our late period Victorian home in Ripon, Wisconsin. We call ourselves Wisconsin's only B&B&B because Giselle and I also provide ballroom dance and board game lessons to our guests. Hospitality enriches our lives and that of our children as they have interacted with over 250 guests from 10 different countries over the past four years.







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DATEBOOK: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

Help support

2018-19 Community Outreach partner Wisconsin Human Society

Paws & Claws Gala Saturday, October 19, 2019 Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, WI



2019

8

19

3-5

MPI WISCONSIN AWARDS GALA Hotel Retlaw, Fond du Lac, WI

SEPTEMBER EDUCATION EVENT Wilderness-Glacier Canyon Lodge

10 OCTOBER EDUCATION EVENT Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel Menomonee Nation Arena Oshkosh, WI

> GREAT LAKES EDUCATION SUMMIT Park Place Hotel & Convention Center Traverse City, MI