

MPI-WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Agenda

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6 Different Ways



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Editor's Note

Happy 2023 MPI-Wisconsin!



When I crack open a new calendar in January, I tend to start planning for the year ahead. If you're that way too, I encourage you to work MPI into your plans. It's a commitment to be an active member, to take the time to travel and attend the meetings, and certainly, to volunteer.

Our Education team has worked diligently over the last year or so to make sure our chapter events offer not just excellent education but also ample opportunity to network with fellow members. Sometimes this has been an evening reception at the host property post-education session, sometimes it's an off-site activity. Whatever the case, it's much appreciated to know these extra opportunities are planned to give each of us more of a reason to attend. I know that's one of my goals for 2023...stick around for more of the fun! And while I'm there, I plan to do more exploring of the area we're in. To get started with those plans, see below for the 2023 event calendar list of locations and a suggestion or two from me to get your inner-explorer excited about the year ahead!

JANUARY

Wisconsin Dells (meeting: January 19th, Chula Vista Resort)

Oh how I love the Dells! I don't think there's been a single year in my whole life that I haven't taken at least one trip to the Dells. While most people think the Dells is a summer-only spot, there's loads of fun things to do in the area in January when our MPI is. I suggest warming up with a glass of wine at Fawn Creek Winery. They even have a micro-menu so you can snack while testing one of their fruit-flavored wines. (Don't worry wine lovers, they have standard varieties too!) Other places I recommend when in town: Nig's (because if you haven't had a "swig at Nig's," you haven't really been to the Dells), Showboat Saloon (great place for karaoke or dancing along with a fun band) or Howie's Restaurant (home of "Howie's huge" breakfast!)

FEBRUARY

Brookfield (meeting: February 23rd, Embassy Suites Brookfield)

Having lived in the Milwaukee area for 17 years, Brookfield has been a frequent destination when wanting to get out of my own neighborhood. One of my favorite places throughout that time has been the shops within Stonewood Village along Capitol Drive. It's this adorable little collection of buildings that have housed all sorts of independent businesses. My current favorite is The Bee's Knees, a big barn filled with handcrafted and vintage items like candles, home décor and repurposed furniture (my fave!). One of the best restaurants in the area is located in Brookfield, Mr. B's Steakhouse (a Bartolotta restaurant), however I'm also a huge fan of the Original Pancake House because really... breakfast food is awesome!

APRIL

Madison (meeting: April 12-13, Madison Concourse Hotel & Governors Club)

Madison is seriously one of the BEST places to visit in Wisconsin! I loved living there and still thoroughly enjoy getting to go back and visit all the places I used to spend time in that are still there. Within walking distance of the April meeting at the Concourse are loads of places to check out. The Orpheum Theater is a great place to catch a live show (and there ARE shows on the books for the Friday/Saturday after the meeting!). Roaming State Street to shop, eat and just wander is one of my favorite things to do. In April, that may be awesome, or it'll require a coat and commitment. Either way, it's worth it. The Soap Opera, Little Luxuries, Mimosa Books and B-side Records (yes, record stores still exist!) have been staples on State Street for decades and are fun to just walk through as each has their own little personality. Once you've worked up an appetite walking State Street, you're in the best place to try just about any cuisine you can think of. State Street is where my taste buds started to enjoy things beyond the meals I grew up with. My two favorite hole-in-the-walls though are the Plaza Tavern (I can almost taste the Plazaburger just thinking about it!) and Teddywedgers, right at the top of State Street with their delicious Cornish pasties (I recommend either the Traditional or the Sweet Potato Veggie).

MAY

Fond du Lac (meeting: May 11th, Hotel Retlaw)

Fond du Lac in May is a beautiful place to be. If you have some time to relax, head to Lakeside Park to enjoy a view of the south end of Lake Winnebago. Stop by Gilles Frozen Custard on your way and enjoy a treat al fresco. For a good meal (or just cocktails), on your way into or out of town, stop by Alla Roma. Good Italian cuisine and a nice big bar.

AUGUST

Madison (Awards Gala: August 10th, The Park Hotel)

Yay, two events in Madison this year...now I can talk about the other side of the Capital square! Summer on the Square is a great place to be, we're fortunate to have our Awards Gala in such a great location. When not celebrating our members, take a stroll around the Square (or through the Capital). Some places to check out on your way are: Fromagination (because what Wisconsinite wouldn't want to visit a cheese shop!), Candinas Chocolatier (some of the best chocolate I've ever had...a worthwhile luxury for yourself or someone you want to

impress), The Old Fashioned or The Great Dane Pub & Brewing to whet your whistle or check out a band at The Majestic Theater. Downtown Madison has so many little gems for you to discover!

SEPTEMBER

Oshkosh (meeting: September 14th, Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel)

Fall in the Fox Valley! As a relatively new resident to the Fox Valley, I'm still learning all the best places in Oshkosh but here's a jumpstart if you have a little time to spare while in town for the MPI meeting (and all close to the Best Western Premier!) For a little extra treat or some shopping, Caramel Crisp Corner is just a short walk from the hotel. Take some yummy bakery items or gourmet popcorn home to your family. If you're up for something active, head over to the Howard for some bowling in their uber luxe lanes. And if you've got time for dinner, take in The Roxy supper club for a traditional supper club experience.

OCTOBER

Stevens Point (meeting: October 19th, SentryWorld)

Ok, to be honest, I haven't spent a lot of time in Stevens Point... but that's just all the more reason to check it out this October! Here's my short list of places to visit while I'm there, join me! Before the sun sets, visiting the Stevens Point Sculpture Park looks like a good idea. Free admission, fresh air, get some steps in and discover all the sculptures throughout the grounds...I heard there's one made of old leather saddles! After a long walk, I recommend partaking in some wine or beer either at the Sunset Point Winery or Stevens Point Brewery. Lastly, if dinner's in the plan, I heard The Silver Coach has been serving up delicious dinners in a restored railroad car for ages...but I could be found just as easily at the Rock 'N' Roll Café!

There's lots of other opportunities to explore with MPI in 2023 as well, whether it's through attending IMEX in Frankfurt this spring, MPI's WEC in June (hello Mexico!), IMEX America this fall in Las Vegas or carpooling to Michigan in November for GLES. Don't let this year go by without seeking out somewhere new...even if it's just a restaurant in your own town you've never been to. Cheers to a new year my MPI friends!



President's Message



**MPI-WI Chapter President
Rebecca Staats**

Wow, I cannot believe that just like that and in the blink of an eye 2022 is over and here we are again starting a new year. I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season & Happy 2023 to MPI Wisconsin!

As I reflect on my last year, there have been so many incredible memories made, many of which involved my MPI-WI family! From the Awards Gala, to Sep & Oct Education events and to GLES, I have made so many connections with each of you. I am proud to share that in 2022, our chapter hosted a full calendar of in-person events, the same number of in-person events we hosted prior to pandemic. Although MPI Global has reduced the number of in person events required, MPI-WI's vision and dedication is to continue to host the same number of high quality events we always have and continue to hold the bar high for our amazing education content.

Early in November, the WI, IN & MI MPI Chapters hosted the Great Lakes Education Summit at the Grand Geneva in Lake Geneva, WI and the conference did not disappoint! The opening keynote speaker was CJ McClanahan and his message about time management and reducing distractions really stuck with me. In fact, my work email inbox is closed right now, so that I can really focus without interruptions and get this President's article written and turned in before the deadline. The 80's themed reception was my favorite reception at GLES - nearly everyone dressed the theme and danced and enjoyed themselves. I'd also like to say another thank you to the GLES WI Chair, Tamara P. Jesswein, CMP, VEMM. We appreciate your volunteerism, hard work and dedication in planning a very memorable GLES and for representing Wisconsin so well.

Also in November we hosted our annual Online Holiday Auction through bidding for good and raised approximately \$3,500 for our Chapter. Thank you to all who participated in the Holiday Auction. And in mid-December we hosted a Virtual Holiday Happy Hour & Scavenger Hunt. Sometimes I forget how competitive our Chapter members are and I love it! Everyone embraced the theme, Christmas Vacation. Thank you to all who joined us and congratulations to Jennifer Mell, CMP for winning the scavenger hunt with a spatula, plunger and cleaning solution!

Did you know that January marks the first half of my MPI-WI Presidency being over? Gosh. I have no words.

It has been so much fun planning, preparing & leading our events and I cannot believe how quickly my term is going by. I would be lying if I said that the President role isn't challenging, because it is. But leading others always comes with challenges and I am proud of all we have accomplished. THANK YOU to our wonderful Board of Directors!

I'd also like to say THANK You to all of our leaders, volunteers, sponsors and Strategic Alliance Partners. Without your continued support, our Chapter would not be where it is right now. Your dedication to our Chapter is extremely valued.

And in the New Year, invest in yourself and join MPI Wisconsin for some really great professional development & education events that we are working on for you in 2023. On January 19th we will be at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, on February 23rd we will be at the Embassy Suites in Brookfield and on April 12th & 13th we will be at the Madison Concourse in Madison for Spring Education Day! I look forward to seeing all of you real soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Staats', written in a cursive style.



When a team of San Francisco-based software gurus shared their holiday wish for a winter wonderland, we had a vision: welcome party guests to a 372,000-cubic-foot, real-life indoor snow globe scene, complete with fresh-cut, moonlit pines.

Then add falling snow.

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Madison, WI

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January MPI WI Chapter Event

Thursday, January 19

Chula Vista Resort

Wisconsin Dells

JANUARY MPI-WI Chapter Event Preview

**Hello! . . . Do YOU give THE most common answer?
Hmmm.**

Quickly respond to the question – “How have you been?”

- Pause and think
- What would you say?

The most common response usually includes the word . . . wait for it . . . Busy. And, you ARE busy. Being busy has become the norm. And I believe it’s become an epidemic.

Getting Beyond the Busy is the umbrella phrase I title my leadership programs because it resonates with people. When audience members hear the statement “Getting Beyond the Busy,” most often I’m met with heads nodding, heavy sighs, people compassionately looking at one another, or smiles from kindred spirits who yearn to be less stressed by the busy. Being very busy isn’t an out-of-the-ordinary situation. We are constantly pushed, by ourselves and others, to do more. The expectation is 1) don’t complain and 2) simply find more ways – new platforms, less sleep, apps, assistants, AI, or whatever – to get things done.

We need a major reset. And it starts with each one of us. Do we want our work to be our life? Or do we want our life to include our meaningful work? There is a significant difference between the two. The world needs us to be our best and it starts with intention.

In 2019 I read research on loneliness which stunned me. In fact, it was so monumental I chose to include it in every presentation to every audience in every industry because of

its significance. In 2019, 48% of Americans said they were lonely. When asked what “being lonely meant,” respondents identified not having a confidant to lean on or reach out to for support. This simple fact meant nearly every other person I met was probably lonely. How sad. The world suddenly seemed more disconnected and less stable after hearing these findings. It became my mission to spread the alarm and let people know this very sad fact.



Patty Hendrickson

Then we were hit with a global pandemic in 2020. The prescription was to isolate and avoid personal contact. If half of Americans were already lonely, this certainly was not helping. I anxiously awaited new research to see the impact of the pandemic on loneliness. And sadly, today it is worse. Today 61% of Americans say they are lonely. Now instead of every other person I meet, it’s three out of every five individuals are lonely.

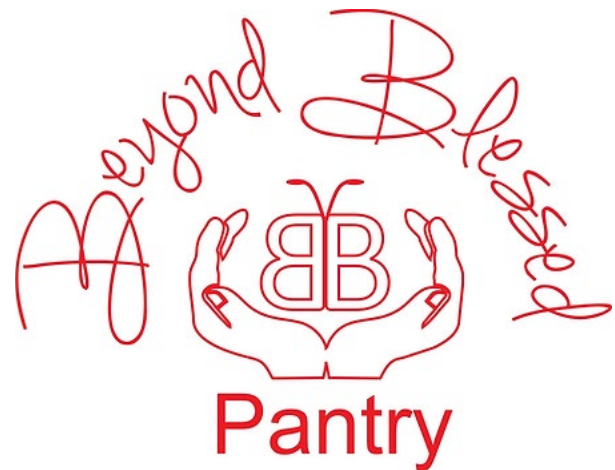


This is our reality. And as a leader in your community and at work we can set the tone to help people. But it starts with an intention. The intention needs to be “Connection Before Content.” Every person who shows up to work needs to know they belong, they are safe, and they matter. This is about first honoring the value of everyone. It’s putting the relationship first and foremost.

Connection Before Content is the first step in Getting Beyond the Busy. The practice of building momentum of “Connection Before Content” happens in endless ways. Whether it’s being the first to smile and earnestly welcome everyone. Whether it’s making certain every time you gather for a meeting people randomly sit by others whom they know and don’t know. Whether it’s making a commitment to regularly celebrate small wins. Whether it’s regularly having conversations with colleagues and direct reports about what’s going well for them. These are all a sample of the small and large ways we continue to make that connection.

So many workplace phrases are all too familiar – Quiet Quitting, Great Resignation, Talent Shortage, Career Cushioning, and more. The reason Connection Before Content is the first strategy is because all of these current conditions and trends include people. When people feel they belong, they are safe, and they matter they will invest their talents because they feel supported and valued. This is how work becomes meaningful and we begin to get beyond the busy.

You can see Patty and the rest of your MPI-Wisconsin friends in Wisconsin Dells on January 19th, 2023. This educational event will be held at Chula Vista Resort. Registration is open, but hurry – the room block closes on January 5th!



Bring the following items to donate to
Beyond Blessed Food Pantry:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit
- Tuna
- Soup

About Beyond Blessed

We started a community outreach for the food scarcity issue for the Baraboo, Lake Delton, Wisconsin Dells, and surrounding areas. The pantry began with a once per month mobile pantry. A few months later, we added a twice per month perishable pantry to disburse the food received from the local grocers. In 2016, we assisted over 2,000 individuals. In 2018 and 2019, we served more than 6,000 individuals. We are seeing our numbers continue to grow and we are serving more individuals. We provide one weekly distribution.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: JANUARY EVENT

CHEF ALEXANDER
CHULA VISTA RESORT



Originally from South Africa, Chef Alexander was lured into the culinary world when his passion for this industry and for food was recognized at an early age. Chef Raymond went on to study at the SAAF Royal Culinary Academy. After graduation, he worked at some of South Africa's elite hotels and restaurants, namely the Protea on Church Square, The Mount Nelson Hotel and the Cape Grace Hotel, before being invited to be one of the Staff Chefs to the State President of South Africa at Libertace and Tuin Huis.

Raymond joined Sun International as Chef de Cuisine and led the culinary team at the "Plume," the fine dining flag ship restaurant in the acclaimed Palace of the Lost City Sun City. Chef Raymond decided to leave his native South Africa and further his education at Brigham Young University's Marriott School of Business. It was in Salt Lake City he met his wife,

Nannette. After graduation he continued to pursue his passion of food and beverage. Over the past 20+ years Raymond has worked in the capacity of Resort AGM, Executive Chef and Food and Beverage Director for industry leaders such as Marriott, Hilton, JQH Hotels, Interstate Hotels and Resorts, and Aparium Hotels. Raymond has been with the Chula Vista Resort and Kaminski Family since March 1, 2020, working under the mentorship of Mike Kaminski, CEO and Executive Chef.

In October 2021 Chef Raymond Alexander and Mike Kaminski were inducted into the Disciples Escoffier International Society in Nice, France with four other chefs from France, including the Prince of Monaco. The group works to establish contacts between professionals and students, organize culinary events where members can gather to discuss French haute cuisine, and to unite all Disciples Escoffier from around the world.



Flan Pâtissier

(French Custard Tart)



Preparation: 45 min

Cooking: 45-50 min

Chilling: 6 h

Freezing: 20 min or refrigerate for 45 minutes

Makes: 12 servings

INGREDIENTS

CRUST

1 1/2 cups (375 ml) unbleached all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon (15 ml) sugar

1/4 teaspoon (1 ml) salt

3/4 cup (180 ml) cold unsalted butter, small diced

1/4 cup (60 ml) whole milk

1 egg yolk

FLAN (FILLING)

3 cups (750 ml) whole milk

1 cup (250 ml) sugar

1 vanilla bean, split and scraped or 4 tsp Vanilla Extract

6 tablespoons (90 ml) cornstarch

1 cup (250 ml) heavy cream

5 egg yolks

1 egg

Flan Preparation Method

- In a saucepan, bring milk, sugar, vanilla bean (or extract) to a boil.
- Remove from heat, cover and let steep for 10 minutes.
- In a bowl, dissolve cornstarch in cream with a whisk.
- Add egg yolks and whole egg.
- Slowly incorporate into infused milk.
- Cook over low heat, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon or spatula, taking care to scrape the bottom of the pan, until mixture thickens and coats the back of a spoon.
- Remove from heat and strain. Cover with plastic wrap directly on cream and let cool in the refrigerator or over an ice water bath. Set aside.

Crust Preparation Method

- In a food processor, combine flour, sugar and salt.
- Add butter and pulse a few seconds at a time until it is the size of peas.
- Add milk and egg yolk and pulse until a ball begins to form. Shape into a disc with your hands.
- On a floured work surface, roll out pastry and line an 8 by 2 1/2 inch in diameter deep spring form pan.
- Press firmly. Place in the freezer for 20 minutes or 45 minutes in the refrigerator.

Crust & Flan Assembly

- Pour cooled custard into crust.
- Cut off excess dough to 1/2 cm (1/4 inch) of the custard level.
- With the rack in the lowest position, preheat the oven to 200°C (400°F).
- Place on a baking sheet and bake for about 40 to 45 minutes or until custard is only slightly wobbly.
- Set the oven to broil and caramelize for about 5 minutes or until surface of custard is partially burnt.
- Remove from oven. Let cool and refrigerate for 6 hours.
- Unmold, slice and serve.



February Event Preview

By: Ed Buchner

Join us on February 23rd at Embassy Suites Brookfield as we learn a new strategy called the 5th Question™ for more effective networking with our speaker Gina Glover!

A taste of Italy? Why not! Our afternoon will begin with a delicious Italian lunch and activities to follow the event. After we enjoy our meals, we ask you to consider this question: “What could happen if we moved past the typical networking small talk?”

Gina will share a presentation called Focus on the 5th Question™. It will help guide our conversations to allow real relationships to develop and it will increase our networking confidence. Gina is a professional speaker and career coach who speaks about communication, networking, and career change. She will demonstrate how she uses the 5th Question to connect business professionals to new skills that allow them to network effectively, speak confidently and achieve their personal best.

For those interested in earning their CMP, join Naomi Tucker, CMP, HMCC from 10:30 – 11:30am for a CMP 101 session.

Post education session, there will be a social event after. Starting at 4:00 PM we will gather together for networking, comradery, and a fundraiser Wine Pull! The Wine Pull team is collecting bottles of wine to give back to everyone who donates to the MPI Wisconsin Chapter. At \$15 a donation, you will be guaranteed to get a bottle of wine! Everyone wins!

If you want to help, we are looking for bottles of wine, six packs of craft beers, spirits, or fancy bottled sodas. One bottle is great. Multiple bottles are awesome! The value of bottles of wine should be above \$15, but really, we will take anything. If you have something sitting in the basement, we will take that too!

To collect the wine, you can:

- Collect it yourself and bring it to the meeting in February.
- Collect it yourself and a team member will come to get it from you.
- Ship it to Ed’s office.

We will also take donations of money to sponsor a bottle of wine. That way they don’t have to transport anything, and we will buy the wine ourselves to save on transport. Each bottle will have the donator’s name/business name on the tag. A great way to promote them as a sponsor of MPI! We of course are looking for sponsors for the event. We could have them tagged on the website, in emails, and on signage. If you want to help out, please contact Ed Buchner at ebuchner@majicpro.com.



FEBRUARY 23RD AT 4:00PM
EMBASSY SUITES - BROOKFIELD



MPI – February Registration Description

Join us on February 23rd at Embassy Suites Brookfield as we learn a new strategy called the 5th Question™ for more effective networking with our speaker Gina Glover!

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We have one course prior to the keynote speaker:

- 10:30 – 11:30 am CMP 101 – Naomi Tucker

The evening reception will consist of a wine pull and cork auction! This time will be great to practice your new networking skills and truly make those connections count.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: FEBRUARY EVENT



CHEF MICHAEL AGNELLO
EMBASSY SUITES • BROOKFIELD

PORK CHOP + APPLE CHUTNEY



Ingredients

Pork	8 oz
Asparagus	4 oz
Potatoes	4 oz
Spiced Apple Chutney	2 oz

1. Lightly pound pork until tender
2. Season
3. Grill pork until temp
4. Grill asparagus
5. Saute potatoes in butter, thyme, garlic
6. Heat apple chutney

APPLE CHUTNEY

Ingredients

12 Apples, peeled, diced
Brown sugar, 8 oz (1 cup)
White sugar, 8 oz (1 cup)
Apple cider vinegar, 16 oz (1 cup)
Salt
Cayenne pepper, 1 tsp
Cinnamon, 1 tsp

1. Add sugars, salt, vinegar, and spices to a pot and bring to a boil.
2. Peel, core, and dice apples.
3. Toss in lemon juice to prevent browning.
4. Add apples to surup and reduce heat to low
5. Cook for 45 minutes, mixing gently.



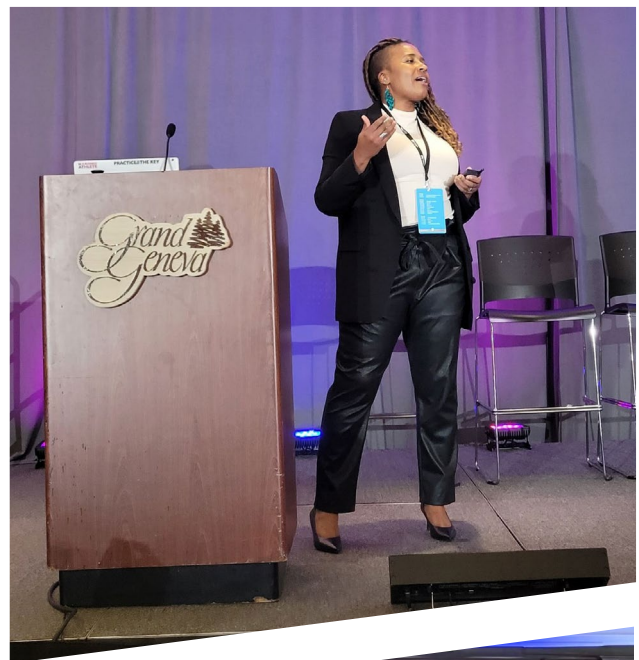
GLEES

By: Jacob Adamski

My name is Jacob Adamski, and I am the new Sales and Event Experience Manager at the Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. While I am originally from Mason City, Iowa, I have been lucky enough to call Stevens Point my home for the last five years. I am new to my role as I am a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. I joined MPI at the beginning of October after starting my new role. The Great Lakes Education Summit was my first MPI event and it did not disappoint. I was not entirely sure what to expect going into this event, but I knew I was going to get as much out of my first event as possible.

The venue, the Grand Geneva Resort, knocked it out of the park for this year's Great Lakes Education Summit. The resort was beautiful, the food was amazing, and the resort ensured that the guests were well accommodated during their stay.

Keynote speakers and the breakout sessions at this event were very insightful, while also being very collaborative. I can say that I was able to take a lot of the information that was presented during the breakout sessions and use it in my position. I really enjoyed the collaborative atmosphere during the sessions as attendees were able to discuss and share our experiences in our own personal lives and our work lives.





To cap off a day of learning and networking – was the 80's themed reception which was nothing short of fun. I think everyone can say that they had a great time networking, enjoying a great variety of food, and of course dancing to some great music.

Continued on page 17





One of the most valuable things that I received from the event was the power of networking. With being new to the industry and the first MPI event for me, I didn't know many people going in. Fortunately, the chapter members from not only Wisconsin but also Indiana and Michigan, were nothing but welcoming. Thank you to the members that allowed me to tag along with them throughout the event. It was great getting to talk with so many people with various experience levels in the industry, while also getting to know them beyond outside of their work lives.

I am grateful that I was able to connect with so many people through this great event and learn a lot of valuable information. I am looking forward to the Great Lakes Education Summit in 2023, attending WMPI Chapter events throughout the next year, learning more about what MPI has to offer, and continuing to learn from my peers through MPI. ▴



Did you miss out on GLES? Hear why you should go in 2023!

Question:

What was your favorite part of GLES this year?

ELIZABETH POH: The education, networking opportunities and how they brought everyone together for each event! It was such a great experience for my first GLES!

REGGIE DRISCOLL, CMP: My favorite part of GLES is connecting with the members from Indiana and Michigan. It is refreshing to know that others in our same positions are having the same issues and celebrations that we are having here in Wisconsin. It is an awesome way to make our MPI Family grow beyond just the Wisconsin borders.

LINDSEY DREXLER: We had amazing keynote speakers and loved the 80s reception!

MICHELLE EGGERT, CMP, CDS: I have been a long-time subscriber to Jason Kotecki's Sunday morning emails – and always find his message uplifting and time always well spent!

TAMARA JESSWEIN, CMP, VEMM: I would say all the awesome networking opportunities!

JACON ADAMSKI: With this being my first MPI event my favorite part of GLES was getting to meet great people not only in the Wisconsin Chapter but also MPI members from Indiana and Michigan. The group was very welcoming, and I am looking forward to future MPI events!

GENNA KRUSE: I enjoyed all the breakout sessions and Monday nights 80s-night dinner reception! It was so much fun meeting everyone.

CLARE MULCAHY: The boat cruise.

JESSICA KAROW: The reception at the Ski Chalet was a blast!

DANNIEL KACZOROSKI: CJ McClanahan's Keynote speech was very inspiring!!! Loved the energy! Also, of course the 80s night of fun was AMAZING!!!!

CARRIE JENSEN: This was my first year attending GLES. I loved the networking with MPI-WI peeps, and meeting other chapter members from IN & MI. Seeing some of the venues in the Lake Geneva area was helpful as well.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS



CARRIE BERGER

Carrie Berger is new to MPI and has stepped up to the plate to volunteer. She is helping with our February MPI Education meeting and taking the Team Lead role. She is excited to be a part of our team and willing to help in any way she can. Thank you, Carrie!!



KYRA POPP

Kyra has taken on the role of our team lead for the January Education Event and has been doing an outstanding job! Thank you for your continued support, we appreciate it.

If you're interested in volunteering, reach out to us. admin@mpiwi.org

MPI WISCONSIN

ANNIVERSARIES

CELEBRATE!

Congratulations to those members celebrating a milestone anniversary in January & February!

Congratulations!

— 20 YEAR —

HEATHER DYER

— 5 YEAR —

REBECCA ROGERS

NEW MEMBERS



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

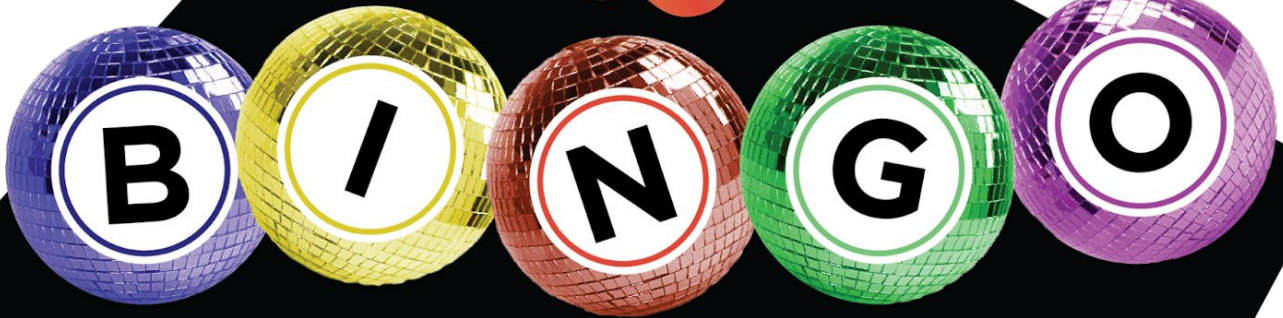
WILLIE BENJAMIN

MANDY BUBLITZ

MARK DUNNING

CALEY MUTRIE

Drag Queen



MPI

WISCONSIN
CHAPTER

APRIL 12TH, 2023

MADISON CONCOURSE HOTEL

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

BINGO STARTS AT 7PM



Board Member Profile: Kortnee Carroll



Kortnee Carroll

Director, Publications & Community Outreach

Senior Sales Manager

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions

Tell us about the company you work for: Kalahari Resorts & Conventions are full-service vacation destinations, including meeting & convention facilities that combine America's largest indoor Waterparks with the magic of Africa. Located in Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania; Sandusky, Ohio; Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin; and Round Rock, Texas, Kalahari Resorts & Conventions' innovative Waterparks, family entertainment centers, luxury spas, adventurous restaurants, and convention centers deliver beyond expectations, all under one roof. Whether you're 3, 83, or anything in-between, we pride ourselves on having something for everyone!

Tell us a few things about your role on our Chapter Board: I put together the *Agenda Magazine* and help plan our community outreaches.

What drew you to serve on our Chapter Board? I love working with likeminded individuals that want the best in our industry. I have learned so much already in my first year on the board and have created some amazing friendships as well.

What are your hobbies and interests? I have recently been on a fitness journey, and I have loved learning different workouts and what works me/my body. I also love to cook and hang out with my family.

Tell us about your family: My husband is a veteran and is currently on the police force. We have three amazing kids who are all into sports and always keep us on our toes.

Favorite band: Any pop band from the 90's! You will find me on the dance floor anytime they play some 90's music.

Person you admire and why: My grandma Carol. She has taught me to always giveback to everyone and be there for those that are in need. I admire her heart and I strive to be just like her.

What is something that is still on your bucket list? Running a marathon.

Tell us your words to live by or share a favorite quote: "Your mind is a powerful thing. When you fill it with positive thoughts, your life will start to change."





MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT!

By: Alison Hutchinson

MPI WI hosted a virtual Holiday Happy Hour on December 15. Members were dressed in festive attire and shared their plans for the holiday season. There were lots of jokes and laughs that surely made spirits bright. Many agreed that in the new year they are going to FOCUS more.

President Rebecca Staats conducted a virtual scavenger hunt. The group raced through their homes to find items like a teddy bear, amazon box, hand sanitizer, dirty dish, sidewalk chalk, shamrock and Clorox wipes. The top three finalists had to find a spatula, plunger and a cleaning product. **Jen Mell** was the winner and received a gift card to Target.



Supplier Profile: Danielle Campbell



Danielle Campbell Great Wolf Lodge – Wisconsin Dells

Favorite thing about being an MPI-WI Member: The connections we get to make with our peers in the industry. Everyone is so nice and welcoming!

Favorite thing about your employer: My favorite part about working for Great Wolf Lodge is that we are here to help families make memories!

Tell us about your family: My husband Collin and I are High School sweethearts and have been together for 13 years. Together we have a 1 ½ year old son name Lawson who is very sweet and keeps us on our toes! We also have a dog named Lambeau and love spending time together as a family.

Who do you admire most, and why: I have always admired my mom, even more after becoming a mom myself. She has been such a great role model and someone for me to look up to. I hope I can be the same for my kids one day!

Favorite quote or words to live by: Be present and enjoy the moment



WISCONSIN DELLS, WI



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Planner Profile: Kristin Espelien



KRISTEN ESPELIEN

Regional Sales & Marketing
Coordinator
Dakota Supply Group

Tell us about your company and/or position: DSG is a people-centric, customer-obsessed, and growth focused wholesale distributor. With expertise in electrical, HVAC, plumbing, waterworks, utility, communications and more. We are proud to be 100% employee owned, with an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). With a culture that genuinely cares for people beyond their job title, our purpose is to serve our fellow employee owners, our industry partners, and our local communities. My role, as part of our Regional Leadership Team, is to provide marketing, sales management, and administrative support to our Sales Team.

How long have you been in the meetings industry?:
Six years.

What drew you to become a planner?: I tend to be motivated and energized by being a helper and serving those around me. My current role as Sales & Marketing Coordinator developed into what it is from other roles and experiences I've had. I value genuine connections and staying organized and helping make other's lives easier; being a planner is a natural fit for me!

What do you like most about being a member of MPI? The opportunities for additional training, education, networking, and resources available as a member of MPI has been invaluable to me this year, as a first-year member.

What was your favorite team or project you have worked on for MPI? While I haven't worked on any specific projects or teams for MPI, my favorite training so far has been the Meeting and Event Strategist certificate program.

Tell us about your family: My husband and I have been married for 27 years (met as a blind date in high school!) and are soon to be empty nesters when our last two children (of 4 – 1 girl and 3 boys) at home move out in 2023.

What are your hobbies and interests? In my free time I enjoy cooking, true crime podcasts, relaxing with our two rescue dogs and listening to my new found favorite, Audible! My husband and I are looking forward to more travel time in the years ahead.

Favorite song//band/artist/movie/book: My favorite book is *Cues* by Vanessa Van Edwards

Tell us about the person you admire most and why: Both my paternal and maternal grandmothers are a source of admiration for me. They were both such affectionate, kind, caring, loving people. How they conveyed patience, compassion and the capability of handling whatever life threw at them is something I look back on with fondness and hope I display even a fraction of those traits.

What is something that is still on your bucket list? A vacation to Turks & Caicos Islands!

Tell us the words you live by or share a favorite quote: My favorite quote is the first line of the poem, *Desiderata*, by Max Ehrmann... "Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence."



WHO'S **IN THE** NEWS

Compiled by Kortnee Carroll

1



Danielle Campbell started a new job at Great Wolf Lodge as their Sales Associate.

Congrats, Danielle!

4



Carmen Smalley, CMP, CHE received Associate of the year from the Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association (WHLA). [Read full article>](#)

Congrats, Carmen!

2



Kortnee Carroll got promoted to Senior Sales Manager at Kalahari.

Congrats, Kortnee!

5

MPI Members **Michelle Eggert, CMP; Keola Shimooka,** and **Reggie Driscoll** were on a panel at the WSAE 2022 Summit speaking about virtual and hybrid events.

3



Kathy Raab, CAE, CNAP won the WSAE Hall of Fame Award.

Congrats, Kathy!

6



Kalahari Resorts & Conventions had a float in the Macy's Day Parade for the 5th year.

[Read full article>](#)

NOTE: if you have any news to share in this column, please contact Kortnee Carroll, Director - Publications & Community Outreach, kocarroll@kalahariresorts.com.



Enhance your meeting planning career with the

MPI ACADEMY

With hundreds of hours of free education for MPI members, the MPI Academy is your one-stop shop for meeting planning and event industry skills training, CE credits and certificate courses. Featuring online and in-person classes and webinars, it's the perfect resource for the job you have - or the job you want.

CERTIFICATE COURSES: <https://www.mpi.org/education>

SAVE THE DATE

2023 CHAPTER EVENTS

JANUARY 18

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

FEBRUARY 23

Embassy Suites, Brookfield

APRIL 12 – 13

Spring Education Day & Drag Queen Bingo — Madison Concourse, Madison

MAY 11

Hotel Retlaw, Fond du Lac

AUGUST 10

GALA — Best Western Premier Park Hotel, Madison

SEPTEMBER 14

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel, Oshkosh

OCTOBER 19

Sentry World, Stevens Point