



VIRGINIA
CHAPTER

VA Voice: May 2023

A Message from your 2022-2023 President Elect, Martina James Nalley.

“According to a study by the World Scholarship Vault, event planner stress levels are hitting a new high — the third-most stressful job in the world for 2023.” This is the opening line of an article that PCMA recently published. While I might argue the jobs of first responders, teachers, and military personnel are a bit more intense at times, there is no argument in saying our line of work is high-stress...”

[Read More](#)

Leadership News

2022-2023 VIRGINIA CHAPTER AWARDS NOMINATIONS

DUE BY 5/30/23



The 2022-2023 Chapter Awards Nomination deadline has been extended.
Nominations are now due by 5/30/2023.

Fill out the nominations form [here](#) to celebrate the volunteer members of the MPI-Virginia chapter now. We have a variety of awards categories this year and need you to submit who you feel deserves an award this year!

Timeline to consider:

Nominations open NOW

Nominations close ~~May 22, 2023~~ **May 30, 2023**

Voting opens June 6, 2023

Voting Closes July 6, 2023

Winners announced at the August 10th Awards Celebration at the Annual
Conference at Wintergreen Resort

If you are interested in joining the Awards committee to help with nominations and planning the Awards Celebration at the Annual Conference please reach out to Megan Hazzard at haz029@henrico.us.

Upcoming Events



Join us to meet fellow members of the MPI Virginia Chapter, and learn more about how to get the most out of your membership.

TOMORROW, May 23, 2023, 12:00pm-1:00pm

Learn more about ...

- *Networking Opportunities*
 - *CMP Information*
- *Virtual & Live Educational Sessions*
- *Member Engagement & Getting Involved*
 - *And Much More!*

Register Here!

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

MPI VIRGINIA 2023 EDUCATION CONFERENCE

 **Wintergreen** Resort

AUGUST 9-11, 2023
EDUCATION | NETWORKING | FUN

39 MOUNTAIN INN LOOP, WINTERGREEN, VA, 22958

Join us for an exciting time on the mountain-education focused on the most relevant topics impacting the industry, networking with talented peers, and 11,000 acres of beautiful scenery.



The expert event for event experts is back! Our goal is for WEC23 to reinvigorate you, revitalize your skillset—and your connections—and leave you feeling really good about what you do. What better place for that than in the Mexican Caribbean?

After all, you refresh others through the meetings and events you create. Isn't it time YOU got refreshed?

[Register Here](#)

Membership News



Your Name
Location

We want to feature ALL of our amazing members! Please complete your [profile](#) today!

We want to celebrate YOU!

We love our members and want to celebrate each 5-year milestone that you're with our chapter. If you have not received a lapel pin that correlates with your years of membership, we'd like to make that right by properly recognizing you at this year's Annual Conference. Please see Megan Hazzard or reach out via email at haz029@henrico.us to confirm and she'll make sure to include you in this year's membership milestone presentation during our awards gala on August 10th at the Annual Conference!

Happy May Membership Anniversaries!

Kara Allen, Wintergreen Resort- 1 Year

Melanie Miller, HSMAI, Hampton Inn and Suites Downtown Roanoke- 1 Year

Tyler Reed, James River Transportation- 1 Year

Maureen Stengel, Virginia State Bar- 1 Year

Chris Beck, CMP, Owens & Minor Inc. - 3 Years

Marc Matthews, CPIM, CIS, Pulse Experiential Travel- 3 Years

Anita Gambill, STIHL Inc.- 5 Years

Allyn Hodgins, Virginia Association of Health Plans- 5 Years

Jenny Toomey, CMP, Virginia Agribusiness Council- 5 Years

Toby Word, TMP, Chesapeake Convention & Visitors Bureau- 5 Years

Susan Moore, CMP, Virginia Sheriffs' Association- 6 Years

Elizabeth Buhl, Society of American Foresters- 7 Years

Anita B. Aaron, CHSP, Virginia's Historic Natural Bridge Hotel & Conference Center- 8 Years

Heather Outhuse, American Wire Producers Association- 8 Years

Anna Pretty, Downtown Lynchburg Association- 8 Years

Susan Benshoff, CMP, CTA, DES, PCAX, American Express Global Business Travel- 12 Years

Linne Diiorio, CMP, Linne diiorio Communications- 16 Years

Kimberly Carter, CMM, Continuing Education Alliance- 27 Years

Welcome New Members!

Eva Chaisson, CMP, Ferguson Enterprises

Juli Leonardo

Chelsea Totten, Association of Proposal Management Professionals (APMP)

Featured News

How ChatGPT Will Impact the Meetings and Events Industry

"In the not-so-distant future, the world of meetings and events was transformed by the rise of artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT. These powerful AI systems promised to revolutionize the way events were planned, executed and attended, offering unparalleled convenience and efficiency for event organizers and attendees alike. With the ability to handle complex tasks, from scheduling to ticket sales, with ease and accuracy, the impact of ChatGPT and other AI programs on the events industry was profound and far-reaching. The result was a world where events were more seamless, more engaging and more accessible than ever before."

[Read More](#)

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