

Dear MPI Virginia Members,

I hope you have heard the buzz about the energy and inspiration from our recent April Education & Networking event at the Hilton Richmond Downtown. The team at the Hilton's active engagement and enthusiasm truly made it a memorable occasion, and I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to their team and everyone who participated as an attendee or presenter.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding sessions that took place during the event, each offering unique insights and valuable knowledge:

*You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks*

Moderator: Bob Ramsey

Panelists: Steve Tewksbury, Ariel Cole, Rachael Holt

*Events Unplugged: Real talk about mastering logistics, elevating experiences, and engaging creative strategies*

Speakers: Kelli Lemon, Faith Wilkerson

*Richmond's Been Busy Growing... And We Have the Results to Prove It*

Speaker: Leonard Sledge

*Assessing Group Value: Insights into Stakeholders, Preferences, and Negotiation Dynamics*

Moderator: Christi Ruddy

Panelists: Scott Sears, Tim Stacer, Chris Beck, Darby Gyscek

Each session brought forth valuable insights and perspectives, enriching our professional knowledge and enhancing our skills in the meetings and events industry.

As we continue to harness the momentum from April's success, I'm excited to remind you of our upcoming Member Meet-ups, the next one is scheduled for May 15th. This promises to be another great opportunity for us to enjoy time together, catch up, and experience some of the different venues the Richmond region has to offer. More information is always available on the [Events page on the MPI Virginia website](#). Our communities and networks grow when our members extend invitations to events like these. Share the event information with your colleagues and industry friends, inviting them to join us for what is sure to be a fun Wednesday evening.

Remember, our community thrives on collaboration and collective knowledge-sharing, and your active participation is what makes our events truly special.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and dedication to MPI Virginia. I look forward to seeing you all at the May meetup as we continue to learn, gather, and inspire one another.

Gather Well,

Martina James