

2015 MPI DFW E-Newsletter - July 2015

Current - July 2015



MPI DFW Current - July 2015

We give everything we've got, then go back for more. No doubts, no holding back, no giving in.

Heart over head, inclusion over ego, united by passion, we go ALL IN!

MPI D/FW educates and prepares its members for their changing roles in the greater business world. The association validates relevant knowledge and skills while simultaneously demonstrating a commitment to meeting excellence. Record five-time winner of "Chapter of the Year"

A Message from the President...



ALL IN!

It took me a number of months and few revisions to formulate the theme and logo for this coming year as your Chapter President, but this one idea became crystal clear as I thought about where we are as a Chapter right now, and the opportunities ahead. In my opinion, one of the greatest accomplishments of Past President Amanda Wells' term was the turn-around of declining membership to increasing membership, coupled with an increase in membership retention. We have a strong core of members, planners and suppliers, young and old ("senior members") who are genuinely excited about MPI D/FW and their opportunity to be part of what makes us who we are. Now it is time to build on that and go to the next level!

Being ALL IN! is how we'll get there. So, what is ALL IN!?

ALL IN! is members in motion at all levels of the organization, both physically and mentally. It is being involved in the chapter activities, attending meetings, serving on committees, being a sponsor and supporter, and all the things we ask of our members each year, but that's not all.

Even more so, it is being part of the ongoing conversation about who we are, what we do, the benefits of being part of the ALL IN!, and what it can do for you, both personally and professionally.

ALL IN! is about advocacy. It is about telling our story....conveying the value of face-to-face meetings and special events that bring people together with their clients and about the value of MPI and the D/FW Chapter.

More than anything, ALL IN! is a culture...a culture of commitment to listen, to pay attention, to engage at any level that works for you and to be part of the fabric of who we are and what we do.

Last, ALL IN! is about accountability...which includes my part, the Board and on your part as a member. This is not my year, my Board, my anything except maybe my turn in the barrel. This is about OUR Chapter. IT IS ALL OF US, OWNING IT, and being part of the conversation.

One my goals this year is to bring ALL of us, active and non-active members, into an ongoing conversation about our Chapter, i.e., what's going on in the big picture, and what must we do to move our chapter forward and upward this year and in future years? Where do our priorities lie? What must we do today to have an impact now and to remain relevant in the years ahead?

As your Chapter President for the 2015-2016 term, I am asking YOU to help me and YOUR Board of Directors to deliver the education, networking opportunities and member services that allow you to make the most of your membership in MPI D/FW. Chapter members, we can do this and more if we're ALL IN!

I'M ALL IN! ARE YOU?

Tony Cummins, CMP, CMM

Chapter President, 2015-2016

MPI DFW Reaches for the Stars!

MPI D/FW chapter members "Reached for the Stars" at the Annual Awards of Excellence event on Thursday, June 25, at the Marriott Courtyard & TownePlace Suites in Grapevine, Texas. Over 160 chapter members and guests enjoyed an evening complete with red carpet, stunning décor, flavorful food, signature drinks and lively entertainment thanks to the host of sponsors who helped make the evening a huge

success. We extend special congratulations to all the award nominees and winners as we recognize them for their hard work and dedication on the Chapter's programming for the year.

And a heartfelt **"thank you"** to the outgoing Board of Directors for their leadership and a hearty **"welcome"** to the new Board of Directors who encourages us to be **"All In"** this next term of programming, partnership building and learning opportunities.

Congratulations to the Award of Excellence Winners!

Planner of the Year



Carol Benavidez, CMP, CMM
HelmsBriscoe

Supplier of the Year



Pam Madewell
R. Fox Designs

Rising Star



Martina Fundaro
Prague Convention Bureau

Mentor of the Year



Peg Wolschon, CMP, CTA
Strategic Meeting Solutions

Mentor of the Year



Sherry DeLaGarza, CMP, CMM
Ernst & Young

Volunteer of the Year



Peg Wolschon, CMP, CTA
Strategic Meeting Solutions

Venue of the Year



Program of the Year

*Design on a Dime-
Creating an Experience with Innovative Thinking
Speaker: Steve Kemble
Chair: Renee McKenney*

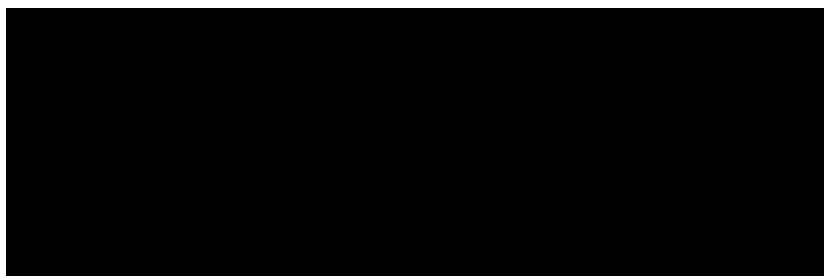
Event of the Year

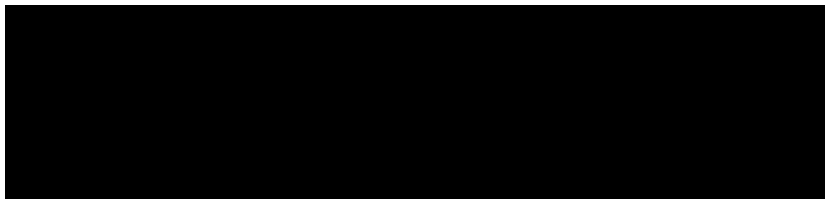
*12th Annual CMP/CMM Recognition Breakfast
Chair: Dara Hall, CMP, CMM*

Committee of the Year

*Emerging Leaders Program
Chair: Gregory Pynes*

See all the fun we had at the Awards of Excellence Dinner!

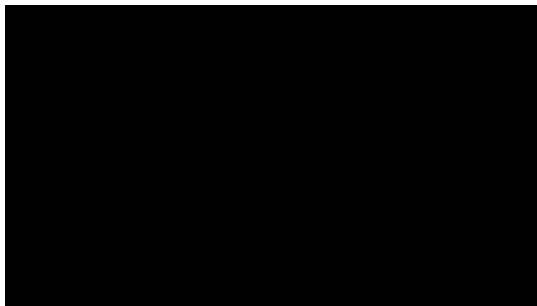




Get Ready MPI D/FW!

Our July Chapter Experience will be an Experience to Remember!

WEC Sneak Peak! Kai Kight, WEC 2015 speaker will address the chapter on how to transform your leadership skills into momentous experiences. Join us for a program that will leave you inspired. Kai Kight, an innovative violinist and composer, he is sure to bring you fresh inspiration that you can use in life and work. Kai seamlessly fuses his diverse expertise on creativity into an experience that you will not want to miss.



Kai Kight is an emblem of purpose and ingenuity. He believes in a future where all feel compelled to offer their unique passion to the world. A product of Stanford University's Design School, Kai remains fascinated by the leaders, artists, and companies who dare be different. As both a Mayfield Fellow and Kleiner Perkins Designer Fellow, Kai has proven to be part of the next generation of innovative talent and intellect taking Silicon Valley and the world by storm. Kai teaches individuals and organizations how to become game-changing leaders in their lives and work. He has created impactful experiences for audiences ranging from top executives in the Digital Media industry to millennial generation employees at PricewaterhouseCoopers. His mesmerizing and original violin performance beautifully becomes a sonic metaphor for the core of his message: to inspire people to compose a part of imagination and fulfillment.

Join us as we honor chapter members for their years of membership. VP of Membership, Paige Mejia and O.D. O'Donnell will conduct the annual pin ceremony. If you are celebrating one, five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, or even thirty years of membership with us - we look forward to seeing you there.

When: July 23, 2015



12720 Merit Drive, Dallas TX 75251

Time: 11:00 am - 11:30 am - New Member Orientation & Mentor Café
11:00 am - 11:45 am - Registration & Networking
12:00 noon - 1:30pm - Luncheon and Program

Advance Registration Fees: MPI Member: \$35.00
Non-Member: \$40.00
MPI Student Member: \$25.00

Walk-in registration will be taken for this program on a first-come, first served basis if seating is available.

Pre-Payment by Credit Card is required.



Don't Forget to Stop by and Visit with our July Member Showcase Partners!



We are getting a new website!!

Look for the launch announcement later this month!



[MPI D/FW Chapter is now a CMP Preferred Provider!](#)



Would you like to attend an MPI D/FW Chapter educational program and receive clock hour credits toward your CMP designation or recertification without tracking and submitting your name and program information to CIC (Convention Industry Council)? Now you can!

When you see this logo on one of our event announcements, you will know the program has been pre-approved for clock hour credits and your CIC account will be credited automatically if you have an account, but sign-up is required.

There will be more details available in the coming weeks, but here's what you need to know right now to take advantage of this opportunity. The key for you is to:

- a) register for Chapter programs using the same email address you use on your existing CIC account, or update your CIC account to match what you use for MPI, or
- b) open a CIC account using the same email you use to register for Chapter events

Don't wait! Do this now and watch for the CMP Preferred Provider logo on some of our future programs.

Our Fall CMP Study Group classes have already been approved! If you will be enrolling in CMP Study Group this year, now is the time to sync your CIC account with your Study Group registration. Registration for the [Fall CMP Informational Session on August 17](#) is open through Friday, August 14, 2015. [CMP Study Group registration](#) is open through Friday, August 28, 2015.

Thank you to Chapter Member M.T. Hickman CMP, CTA, CPECP and Richland College for hosting our Fall CMP Study Group classes!

Congratulations to MPI D/FW's Newest CMPs!



Cindy Silvey, CMP



Faith Gladden, CMP



Join us for the MPI D/FW CMP Informational Session

Fee: Complimentary

[Register](#)

On-Line Registration Closes at 2:00 PM Friday, August 14, 2014

For information please contact Carol Benavidez, CMP, CMM @ 972-396-0423 or cbenavidez@helmsbriscoe.com

Program Schedule:

6:00pm-7:00pm: The focus of the first hour will be towards meeting professionals who have not yet applied for their CMP. We will cover everything from "Why become a CMP" to "How and when do I apply."

7:00pm-8:00pm: The second half of the session will provide an outline of the upcoming MPI D/FW CMP Workshop Session and The University (a study and practice test program) and how to master the CMP exam.

Planning to participate in the Study Group and/or Study Day?
[Click here for more information](#)

Why Become a CMP?

Recognition:

As the premier industry certification, the CMP distinguishes holders as career professionals who have demonstrated a high level of experience, skill and knowledge.

Competitive Advantage:

The designation conveys credibility to a meeting professional's opinions and ideas, both at work and in the greater meetings, conventions and exhibitions industry.

Peer Acceptance:

CMPs are immediately recognized by other CMPs as fellow professionals

Salary Enhancement:

CMPs can use the certification as a competitive advantage when it comes to negotiating salaries and other business.

Personal Achievement:

After passing the exam, CMPs express a profound sense of personal achievement at finally being regarded as the exceptionally skilled professional they are.

Commitment:

Successful completion of the certification process conveys that the certified meeting professional is committed and goal driven in their career.

If you are interested in earning your CMP Certification this is a must-attend event!

This two-hour informational seminar will:

Explain the tremendous benefits of becoming a CMP

Help you understand who is qualified to take the exam

Guide you through the application process

Outline which books and study materials are required

Clarify how the self-guided and Workshop sessions will keep you moving forward towards your CMP Certification

This introductory session is a great way for you to meet other people who are taking the exam so you can network and we will help you form mini study groups.

Summer Has Begun Renewal Drawing!

Are you up for renewal this month? Renew your MPI membership in June and you will be entered into a drawing for one of THREE great prizes. The winner will pick one from the list below:

1/2 off registration to WEC 2015 in San Francisco (Aug 1-4) or EMEC 2016 in Copenhagen (Feb 7-9)

6 month extended membership

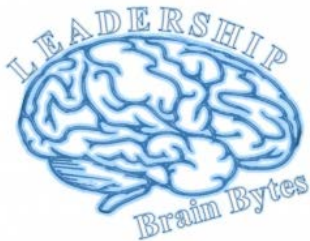
2 complimentary tickets to RENDEZVOUS 2015 (Aug 3) at WEC

Renew today

Commitment Starts in the Heart

Communication - Without It You Travel Alone Having excellent communication skills is absolutely essential to effective leadership. The leader must be able to share knowledge and ideas to transmit a sense of urgency and enthusiasm to others. If a





leader can't get a message across clearly and motivate others to act on it, then having a message doesn't event matter. ~ Gilbert Amelio, President and CEO of National Semiconductor Corp.

How do you rate your ability to communicate with others? Is communication a priority for you? Can you inspire and motivate people? Do you express your vision in such a way that your people are able to understand, internalize and implement it?

The 21 Indispensable Qualities of A Leader - John C. Maxwell

Members on the Move



From Texas to Florida.....

Sandi Galloway, CPECP, who recently retired from the Canadian Tourism Commission, is moving July 23 to Ponte Vedra, Florida. Sandi Galloway and Associates will teach travel safety awareness to travelers with focus on corporate travel. We'll miss you, Sandi!



Welcome back, Jane!

Susan Price, Sales Manager, and Craig Sundell, General Manager, Westin Stonebriar Hotel & Golf Club (the new name) announce Jane Richards as Golf Tournament Sales Director at Stonebriar Country Club. Great to have you back in north Texas, Jane, after a year in Nashville!



The Hilton Lincoln Center Announces New Additions!

John Crosier, Assistant Director of Sales, Hilton Lincoln Center, announces two new Sales Managers: Jonathan Lopez who previously was with Sheraton Dallas and Courtney McConnell who previously was with Marriott Market Center.



- Karla Baker- Snomass Colorado Tourism
- Marsha Bradley, CMP- Hilton Anatole
- Chloe Calloway- University of Texas at Dallas
- Unique Carey- Student- Colin College
- Meredith Commender, CSEP - Significant Events of Texas
- Peter Cwalino- Crown Plaza Dallas Downtown
- Kim Dooley- Visit Kansas City
- Samantha Elliott- TX Society of CPAs/ CPE Foundation
- Nicole Hage- American Golf Corporation
- Alex Luna- Student- University of Texas at Dallas
- Holly Maldonado - Sheraton DFW Airport
- Danielle Marshall- Student- Texas Christian University
- Karen Metcalf- Young Presidents Organization
- Trang Nguyen- Student- Colin College
- Inh Phu- Student- Richland College
- Diane Poe- Medtronic Neurologic Technologies
- Randy Roberson- Randy Ro Entertainment
- Jessica Rodriguez- The Joule
- Misty Ruger- Creative Cuisine
- Kristi Walker, CMP- WorldVentures
- Concheiva Washington, CHSP, CDMP- Philadelphia CVB
- Jessica Wells- Novation

Sponsor Spotlight

Thank you to these sponsors for supporting our June Awards of Excellence Gala!



Tracy Tilton joins the Crown Plaza!

Robert Lockwood, Crowne Plaza near the Galleria, announces Tracy Tilton, as Associate Director of Catering. Tracy who formerly was with an Aimbridge property in Chicago, replaces Valerie Moreland who retired after 20 years.



Tara Judd with Imagine Events

Tara Judd, CPECP, is now focusing exclusively on her company, Imagine Events, for which she is doing event planning, etiquette and protocol training, and professional speaking



Composing Your Life

World-class violinist and genre-defying composer Kai Kight talks innovation and creativity during the multidisciplinary Flash Point at MPI's World Education Congress

By Michael Pinchera

What advice do you have for business professionals seeking to challenge themselves and start creating?

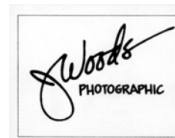
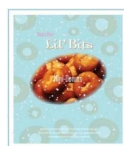
At some point you must be willing to put a bet on yourself. I think a lot of people miss opportunities because they are scared to fail and need things to be 100 percent certain before they move forward. This creates a scenario where you wait and become inactive because the future will likely never be 100 percent.

I used to have a giant problem with stage fright when I was a younger performer – I would even cancel shows because the anxiety was just too much to handle. I was consumed with thinking about the horrible things that would happen if I messed up on stage. What helped me overcome this is that I changed my view of failure. Instead of putting each performance on a pedestal where it felt like an all-or-nothing situation, I started seeing each performance as one step along a much longer journey. I started to realize that if things did not go well in a show, I could use that experience to help inform my next performance. These days, I can comfortably perform in front of thousands without putting so much pressure on myself because I embrace that the show goes on regardless.

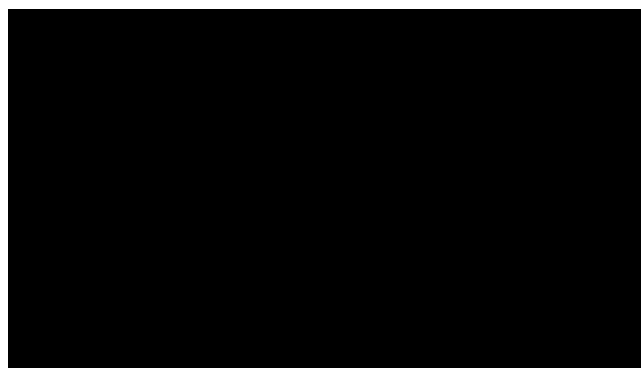
Imagine you are using a GPS map. If you zoom in too much, all you can see is a span of red. You might be consumed by the traffic right in front of you that appears all-encompassing. But if you are able to zoom out and see the whole map, you can see that the span of red is quite insignificant in comparison to the length of your entire journey. For those who desire to start creating, it is important to “zoom out” and see that the actual danger is miniscule compared to the frantic stories we tell ourselves.

What is your greatest failure and how did it change you?

My greatest failure actually looked like success from the outside. People often assumed that I went to music school, however, my background is actually in engineering and innovation, which I studied at the design school at Stanford University. I was following the traditional path for this and landed a job that was deemed successful by everyone around me. My *résumé* looked great, but at my core, I felt empty, unsatisfied, and was not performing at my highest level. Every morning I would feel this heavy weight pulling at my spirit because I knew that I was meant to do something different with my skillset.



Have you Registered for WEC?



Meeting Professionals International (MPI) is committed to providing industry-leading professional development, networking and marketplace opportunities for our members. The annual World Education Congress (WEC) is the signature event through which MPI delivers top-rated education, networking and business opportunities to the meeting and event community. For 3 ½ days, WEC attendees are immersed in a variety of learning experiences designed to give you the competitive edge when planning meetings.

WEC features programming and people that will allow attendees to think and grow in new ways. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore a variety of topics that will not only impact their individual performance, but also understand the impact to the industry as a whole. WEC educational sessions give attendees the best tools, exposure to sound business practices and the latest business trends.

WEC provides attendees with outstanding networking and marketplace opportunities for conducting business. With both formal and informal scheduled face-to-face activities, WEC attendees can connect to industry peers and partners that will allow them to expand their business network.



TOMORROW STARTS HERE™

This was a large factor of how my career in speaking began, because I started to look for ways to bring music, my passion, back to the forefront of my life. Instead of viewing my career as an "either/or" decision between innovation and music, I wanted to find a unique way to do both.

This experience taught me how important it is to trust my internal aspirations over [those of] others. Today, my actions are not guided by going for awards or anything that looks shiny; my choices are based on what is true to me and the impact I would like to leave on the world. I used to live my life as a checklist, but now I imagine it as a work of art, a piece of music, for which success is not defined by just playing the right notes, but by offering unique sounds to the world.

Do you have a favorite piece of classical music and what does it mean to you?

My favorite piece of classical music is the Chaconne in d minor for the solo violin by Johann Sebastian Bach. Whenever I hear or perform this piece, the music gives me chills because it is soul riveting and encompasses a plethora of human experiences. Bach's compositions have most likely had the greatest influence on my work as an artist. His work was legendary and groundbreaking because he innovated with techniques on the violin that had never been explored before. In addition, the improvised nature of his creations reflects his priority of reaching the soul, rather than following the conventions of his time.

What does innovation sound like to you?

True innovation does not always sound great to the ear. People often will listen to me perform and ask how I came up with a certain rhythm or melody. While I would love to say that ideas just come to me through some creative spirit, the truth is very different. For each piece that I create, there are at least 10 prior drafts that I believe no one would ever want to listen to. When I am creating, my first idea is never the one idea I finish with. My process is to just start with something and then rapidly make changes until I create the sounds I am pleased with.

In any field, I believe that innovation is rarely one idea that just works. It is a collage of many ideas that are progressed by a mindset of perseverance and flexibility.

How should music best be utilized at meetings and conferences?

I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to perform for people across the world, from Beijing to Berlin. From this experience, I've learned the true power of music. It is a universal human language that can quickly connect people to a common idea across differing backgrounds and borders. At their core, meetings and conferences strive to do the same thing: unite and galvanize people from different places to a common purpose. I think music should be used strategically as a medium to drive a specific collective emotion at any point at a conference. It should be considered from a top-down, strategic level, just like any other portion of the agenda. Instead of defaulting to music as just background during breaks, I believe there is an opportunity for meeting planners to look at a specific section of their agenda, define the purpose or emotion they want to build in their audience and then select music accordingly.

See Him at WEC

Don't miss Kai Kight's Flash Point session at the World Education Congress (WEC), Aug. 1-4 in San Francisco. To register or learn more, visit www.mpiweb.org/wec.

Reprinted with permission from the July 2015 issue of *The Meeting Professional*, the official monthly magazine of MPI."

The steps to securing the future of the meeting and event industry are being taken today by the MPI Foundation.

The MPI Foundation fuels the growth and advancement of MPI members by providing them professional development and career opportunities through grants and scholarships. The MPI Foundation propels the meeting and event industry forward by funding research initiatives that support the strategic plan of MPI.

The mission of the MPI Foundation is to fund education and pan-industry research that drive the success of meeting professionals.

Click on the logo above to learn more about scholarship and grant opportunities.



BECOME A SPONSOR!



Do you want to get your company or organization in front of more than 1300 event professionals? Do you have a service or a venue to provide for one of our Chapter Experiences?

Email Kelly Moore, Finance Chair at kelly.moore@ihg.com for more information!

More than 85% of MPI Members buy from other MPI Members!

650 Members in DFW Chapter- 5th largest in the US

Buying Power in the DFW Chapter is \$861 Million Dollars

50% Meeting Planners/50% Suppliers ratio

21% of our planners book meetings in the southwest, 14% in Midwest, 14% in Northeast and 12% in Mountain Regions of the US with the rest being other destinations.

55% corporate meeting planners/30% Third party planners

MPI D/FW membership includes representation in some of the corporations and associations including:

AdvoCare, American Heart Association, Bell Helicopter, Dr. Pepper Snapple Group,



Ericsson, Ernst & Young, Exxon Mobil, Frito Lay, GlaxoSmithKline, Lennox Industries, Levi Strauss, Mary Kay, NEC, and VHA.

Now that's serious potential ROI!



CAREER CENTER

Great News! The Career and Resources page on the MPI D/FW.org website has changed. You can now directly access the MPI International Job Board from here. Looking for a job? Looking for new team members?

Go to the MPI Career Center!

Do you have **IDEAS** or **SUGGESTIONS** to make MPI DFW BETTER? ***Share Your Feedback!***



August

- 1st** - CMP Study Day
- 11th** – Board of Directors Meeting
- 17th** - CMP Informational Session
- 27th**- Chapter Networking Event

September

- 8th** - Board of Directors Meeting
- 24th** - Chapter Education Experience

October

- 13th** - Board of Directors Meeting
- 22th** - Chapter Experience
- 31st** – CMP Study Day



MPI DALLAS/FORT WORTH CHAPTER
MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

ABOUT MPI

MPI—founded in 1972—believes that meeting and event planners serve a critical role in the success of business, and is committed to giving its members the very best in professional development, business opportunities and a vibrant industry community.

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