



### Presidential Ponderings

We have a big problem! Human trafficking is a \$32 billion problem in the U.S. and it is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. While the trade of humans can be in a form of forced labor, sexual slavery and commercial sexual exploitation are most common. While victims of trafficking can be any age and any gender, a disproportionate number of women are involved in human trafficking both as victims and as culprits. With an average sale of \$90, we can understand the massive numbers of victims whose average age is just 13 with some victims as young as five years old. A 2017 study from the University of Texas estimates that there are 79,000 victims of child sex trafficking in Texas. It is also important to note that the consent of the trafficked person becomes irrelevant whenever any of the 'means' of trafficking are used. A child cannot consent even if the 'means' are not involved.

Bill Morse, Community Engagement Director at New Friends New Life, was the keynote speaker at MPI D/FW-HSMAl's July program. Morris explained that Texas has the second largest sex trafficking market after California. This problem is happening right within our community. 35% of Texas trafficking takes place right here in Dallas and the market value of this illegal commerce is \$99M in our Dallas community with approximately 400 teens on the streets nightly.

"This is ugly, but we can do something" stated Bill Morris. His organization, New Friends New Life, has been serving the Dallas community for the past 19 years with the mission of restoring and empowering sexually trafficked and sexually exploited women, teens, and their children. By providing access to education, job training, interim financial assistance, mental health counseling, and spiritual support, New Friends New Life

## Welcome to 2017-2018 term of MPI D/FW Chapter!

Meet your [Board of Directors](#) at this month's chapter event or by clicking the link above.

**President**  
Erin Lucia

**President Elect**  
Paige Mejia

**Immediate Past President**  
Sherry De La Garza, CMP



The member directory will be out soon. Help us to find you by making sure your member information is up to date. Please [click here](#) to log in and update ASAP!

Register for the  
September Chapter Experience:

**Meeting Industry Quick  
Draws for AV, RFPs, and  
E/R- Minimize cost and**

helps women and teens overcome backgrounds of abuse, addiction, poverty, and limited opportunities. You can learn more about this important work at [www.newfriendsnewlife.org](http://www.newfriendsnewlife.org)

The meetings industry is in a prime position to take action to limit this organized crime. Knowledge is power, so educate yourself. Simple acts such as hotels placing signage inside bathrooms with toll-free hotline number for victims can make a difference. Meeting planners can drive industry education by requesting that hotels offer training for their staff on recognizing possible victims and the protocol for notifying authorities. Individuals and corporations are able to drive anti-sex trafficking measures to become an important legislative issue. A Second Chance Jobs Partner program and No Harm Network are also part of solutions to this big problem. As meetings professionals we have the power to make a difference.

In the coming months, we will continue to cover topics that **engage** our minds, help us to **embrace** all members and all the changes and that will **energize** our careers, industry, and our lives. Now, let's go and make a difference!

Erin Lucia  
2017-2018 MPI D/FW Chapter President



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## Member Ponderings

Get Engaged! By Kimberly Marriott

“You get out of it what you put into it.” You’ve heard that adage throughout your life. Nowhere is that more true than in Meeting Professionals International. Yet, in a chapter as longstanding as ours in the D/FW area, it can be difficult to decide where to begin. The easiest and most obvious option is to regularly attend the monthly Chapter Experiences. Yet, even the most outgoing among us can be a bit intimidated when walking into a chapter experience event for the first time. Everyone seems to know each other. There is a lot of hugging and people clustered in small groups. How does one approach a group that seems to be deep in conversation? How do I become one of those small group huggers?

One of the best ways to meet people at a chapter experience is at your lunch table. Exchange business cards. When you get back to your desk after lunch, send each of your tablemates a

## 17. Minimize Cost and maximize your attendee's experience

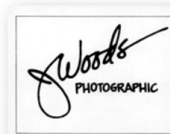
When:  
Thursday, September 28, 2017  
11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Where:  
Gilley's Dallas  
1135 South Lamar Street, Dallas, TX 75215



For more information on our featured speaker and meeting, please click [here](#).

Come early and enjoy great networking opportunities with your fellow members.



**Changes, Changes, Changes....** help us keep up with your new position, new career, contact information by updating your profile here and letting us know about your new position.

Kelly Moore, HMCC, is now the new Director of Sales and Marketing at the LeMeridien Dallas by the Galleria. Congrats on your new position.

personal email saying how nice it was to meet them and recount something you discussed with them to make that personal connection. At the next event, look for them to say hello. And most importantly, don't sit with the same people every time. Did you join MPI to meet seven people or hundreds of people? Finally, look around the room. Do you see someone that looks a little lost or overwhelmed? Introduce yourself and ask them to join your table. That small gesture of inclusion goes a long way.

Another way to become engaged at the chapter level is to VOLUNTEER. There are numerous committees and they all need you! It takes very little time to be a part of a committee and the return on your time investment will pay off immensely. Not only do you meet wonderful people, your contribution will have a lasting impact on the chapter. Visit [www.mpidfw.com/engage/volunteer/](http://www.mpidfw.com/engage/volunteer/) to see the opportunities available to every member.

Committee work not your thing? Join the Mentor Program. What better way to insure high industry standards than to have our experienced senior members pass their invaluable knowledge to those that are new to the industry. If you are a new member, becoming a mentee puts you on the fast track to knowledge and connections others have worked a lifetime to achieve. Visit [www.mpidfw.com/mentor-playbook/](http://www.mpidfw.com/mentor-playbook/) for more information on this amazing program.

It doesn't take hours every week to get more out of your MPI membership. Just plan your approach and plug in. You will grow your business contacts and make great friends in the process. Before you know it, you will be a small group hugger!

Click [here](#) to update your profile.

Click [here](#) to send us a member on the move notice to publish in our newsletter!



Welcome to our new members this month: Julie Bretz, Michelle Fugere, Kelsey Havins, Troy Hernandez, DeWayne Jackson. Please say Hello and welcome next time you see them at a Chapter meeting or event.

## Chapter Member Promotion:

MPI Members are eligible to receive scholarships and grants for professional development, conference attendance, or academic advancement. For more information go to [www.mpiweb.org/join](http://www.mpiweb.org/join) and use code MPISMAUG to save 10% before August 30th.

## CSR Corner



Remember the joy of getting a new set of school supplies?

At Community Partners of Dallas, our kids are not approaching the start of school with the same excitement and support. Many will go back to school wishing for a new backpack or new uniforms.

**They just want to fit in.**

This year we will provide backpacks filled with age appropriate school supplies and new uniforms to more than 3,500 abused and neglected children.

**You can make a difference.**

Our CSR project for this quarter - Community Partners of Dallas. Their mission is to ensure safety, restore dignity, and inspire hope for the abused and neglected children served by Dallas Child Protective Services.

September – Continue to collect School Supplies at Gilley's  
Suggested items: Back Packs, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, highlighters, markers, folders, pencil pouches, red pens, scissors, construction paper & manilla paper 9x12

Corinne Karp, Corporate Relations Director  
4045 Gilley Street, Dallas, Texas 75204

## **CMP Task Force** **and Study Group Update**

Plans are underway for the fall MPI D/FW Chapter CMP Study Group sessions. Study group sessions are a great opportunity to help you study for the exam, leverage learning tools and techniques, network with industry professionals, and prepare you for exam day. If you are interested in attending or to be a facilitator, please email Charlene Edwards, CMP, CMP, Study Group Chair, at [cedemby@gmail.com](mailto:cedemby@gmail.com).

## Save the Date!

**SALES BLITZ is coming!!**  
**Sales blitz will be held during the dates of November 7-9. Be on the lookout for more details. Reach out to our VP of Membership at [vpmembership@mpidfw.org](mailto:vpmembership@mpidfw.org) with any questions or if you are interested in signing up to participate.**



**August**

No events

**September**

28 - Chapter Experience  
Gilley's Dallas

**October**

26 - Chapter Experience  
Nightmare on Meet Street  
One panel. Four professionals. Eight times the fun.  
Renaissance Dallas at Plano Legacy West

**November**

Chapter Experience TBD

**December**

14 - Chapter Experience  
The Statler - Dallas

**January**

25 - Chapter Experience TBD



**DALLAS/  
FORT WORTH  
CHAPTER**



Venues - Are you interested in hosting a chapter event or have an idea of a place we should check out as a new venue? We would love to send out an RFP for the chapter. Email our Education and Events

committee at [cori@conferencesdesigned.com](mailto:cori@conferencesdesigned.com) today! Opportunities are available and needed for monthly events and board meetings for 2018.



We want to again thank our July Chapter Experience sponsors for helping to make our event special. Royal Oaks Country Club, our host venue, Visit South Walton, J Woods Photographic, and PSAV.

We appreciate your tremendous support!

**WE DID IT!**

#mpi #mpidfw #allinmpidfw

Thanks to our  
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DALLAS/FORT WORTH  
CHAPTER  
 MPI

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