



# MPI D/FW

# Newsletter



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## A NOTE FROM TIM



- “—— The impact of face-to-face interactions is immeasurable—  
business deals are struck, partnerships are formed, and careers  
are elevated through the power of in-person engagement.. ——”-

Business meetings, trade shows, incentive travel, exhibitions, conferences, and conventions are the cornerstone of professional growth, industry advancement, and economic development. These gatherings create invaluable opportunities for networking, education, and collaboration, fostering meaningful relationships that drive business forward. Beyond just transactional connections, they inspire innovation, facilitate knowledge sharing, and provide a platform for organizations and individuals to showcase their expertise, products, and services. The impact of face-to-face interactions is immeasurable—business deals are struck, partnerships are formed, and careers are elevated through the power of in-person engagement.

For me, the meetings and events industry has been more than just a career—it has been a journey of continuous learning, relationship-building, and personal fulfillment. With over 25 years in event production and technology, I’ve witnessed firsthand how transformative live experiences can be.

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Every event I've been part of has shaped my understanding of the industry, expanded my professional network, and reinforced my passion for creating high-impact experiences. As the CEO of Vario, I see every day how well-executed events bring people together, creating lasting impressions and tangible business results. From major conferences to intimate gatherings, the ability to engage, educate, and inspire an audience is what fuels progress in every sector.

MPI Dallas/Fort Worth has played a critical role in my professional journey, providing a platform for leadership, education, and collaboration with some of the best minds in the industry. As one of the largest and most engaged MPI chapters in the world, MPI DFW has been a driving force in advancing industry standards and supporting its members in achieving new heights. Serving as Chapter President has allowed me to contribute to the industry in a meaningful way while also benefiting from the wealth of resources and connections MPI offers. Through MPI DFW, I've had the privilege of building relationships with fellow event professionals, learning from industry leaders, and championing the power of live events. The community and support within MPI are unmatched, and I'm grateful for the role it has played in both my personal and professional growth.

Together, we achieve.

Tim Altbaum, CMP, CMM  
President, MPI DFW Chapter  
CEO, Vario Productions

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**30% off**  
**New and Renewing**  
**MPI memberships**

# Welcome

A warm welcome to our newest members  
(Jan - Mar 2025)

Lexie Barton  
Amber Bishop  
Robert Chapman  
Vince Collins  
Reagan Cowell  
Ashleigh Crow  
Francine Crowley  
Christine Ford  
Juliann Gaudette

Saira Humphreys  
Crawford Jones  
Nick Kopach  
Lindsey Lederer  
Monica Leibowitz  
Maricarmen  
Martinez  
Trisha Mobley  
Susan Moore

Mark Pederson  
Steven Simmons  
Alstin Spence  
Vicki Sypien  
Deborah Taylor  
Nadine Taylor  
Delanie Urbanovsky  
Ashley Van Der Stuyf



## 23rd CMM & CMP Breakfast

04.24.2025  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hotel Vin  
215 E Dallas Rd, Grapevine, TX 76051



### **SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

Registration and Networking | 8:00 AM

Doors Open | 9:00 AM

Welcome/Breakfast begins | 9:15 AM

Keynote: Melissa Majors, Speaker & Author | 9:45 AM

Recognition/Awards | 10:30 AM

Conclusion | 11:00 AM



We invite you to join us for the 23rd annual CMP & CMM Recognition Breakfast on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Hotel Vin. A special event to honor your achievements as dedicated industry professionals. Your commitment to excellence and ongoing education through earning your CMP and/or CMM designations is truly valued, and we look forward to celebrating with you.

This eagerly awaited annual event brings together industry professionals for networking, an outstanding Keynote address, and the presentation of the Colleen Rickenbacher Leadership Award. This prestigious award is given to a chapter member who holds a CMP and/or CMM designation, has a history of chapter leadership, inspires others, is known for their professionalism and integrity, and has championed industry education and the pursuit of the CMP and CMM designations.



**REGISTER NOW**

# 23rd CMM & CMP Breakfast

## Keynote Speaker: Melissa Majors

Melissa Majors is a captivating storyteller who brilliantly enlightens with talks that spark inspiration, insight, smiles, and wisdom that empower all to thrive. She is a leading advisor, coach, and advocate for human-centered leadership. Her expertise is curated from leading thriving teams across various industries, including investments, insurance, ed-tech, associations, and business consulting. Her practical experience is enhanced by her formal education, which she gained by studying strategy and innovation at Harvard University.

Melissa authored two books — *Help Them Thrive: Leadership Coaching for Humans Leading Humans* and *The 7 Simple Habits of Inclusive Leaders*. Melissa is featured in publications such as *Forbes Magazine* and is loved by audiences at Google, the National Association of Realtors, 7-Eleven, RTX (formerly Raytheon), Catalyst, Lantheus, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and many more. She is endearing, authentic, and fun! Prepare to be glued to Melissa when she takes the stage. You'll be immersed in an endearing and authentic experience filled with mesmerizing stories that blend psychology, neuroscience, common sense, and wisdom that will inspire and prepare you to thrive.

Melissa is originally from Columbus, Ohio, so naturally, she's a die-hard Ohio State Buckeye fan. She now lives with her husband, Terrance, in Cedar Hill, Texas. They have two children, Terrance and Luke, and her "Chief Wellness Officer," a sheep-a-doodle named Ziggy.



## Topic: Thriving Connections: Meaningful Networking and Better Relationships

Let's be honest—our "peopling" skills are a little rusty. After years of Zoom calls and sweatpants, the idea of walking into a room full of strangers and networking might sound about as appealing as a dentist appointment. We default to small talk, stick with the people we already know, and collect business cards we'll never look at again.

But what if networking could actually be fun, natural, and, dare we say... effective? Break out of your clique (without the awkwardness) and connect beyond your usual circle. Use smarter tools to swap contact info effortlessly—because it's 2025, and we can do better than business cards. Have deeper, more meaningful conversations—even with people you already know.

Practice real networking in real time—this isn't just a lecture; it's a networking event within a networking event. This isn't about stale icebreakers or collecting the most LinkedIn connections—it's about learning how to build real relationships that move your career forward.

If networking has ever felt forced, exhausting, or just plain awkward, this session is for you. Show up, shake off the rust, and leave with connections that matter. Your future self (and your career) will thank you.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

[CLICK TO VISIT OUR EVENT PAGE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFO](#)

SAVE  
*the*  
DATE  
—

**APRIL 24, 2025**

**CMP/CMM BREAKFAST**

**REGISTER HERE**

**MAY 22, 2025**

**MEMBERSHIP MIXER &  
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**

**EVENT**

**JUNE 26, 2025**

**AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE GALA**

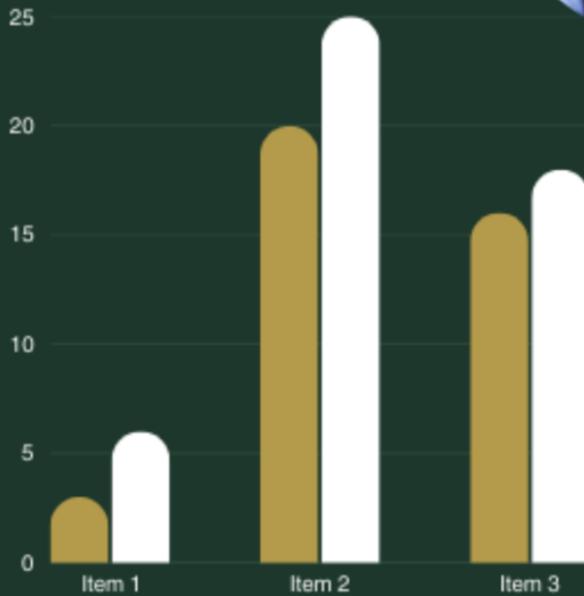
# January Chapter Experience with Michael Dominguez



**Connecting the Dots: Making sense of the issues  
that will influence our meetings industry.**

January 23, 2025

Astoria Event Venue  
3216 Royal Row  
Irving, TX 75062



# MPI D/FW JANUARY CHAPTER EXPERIENCE

We appreciate our sponsors for our Chapter Experience at the Unique and Versatile Astoria Event Venue, Irving, TX on January 23, 2025.



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PIANO



Sip  
DALLAS

MPI D/FW JANUARY CHAPTER EXPERIENCE









# UPCOMING EVENTS

CLICK TO VISIT OUR EVENT PAGE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFO



**AUGUST 21, 2025**  
**EMERGING LEADERS + YOUNG**  
**LEADERS' INITIATIVE**  
**(MORE DETAILS TO COME)**

**MENTOR/MENTEE**  
**NOVEMBER – APRIL**  
**(APPLICATION PROCESS WILL START IN AUGUST)**

*\*Dates subject to change*

HOUSE OF BLUES

# ROCK YOUR BRAND

FEBRUARY 20

6PM - 8PM



MPI

DALLAS/  
FORT WORTH  
CHAPTER



Together We Achieve



# ROCK YOU BRAND EVENT 2025 | SPONSORS

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We had a wonderful time, networking, learning, and rocking our brand at our February 20 event held at the fun and chic Foundation Room Dallas at the House of Blues. Thank you to all of our amazing sponsors for your help in hosting another memorable event! Please think of them while planning your events:







# Member Care Corner



## MAXIMIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP GROUP JANUARY 2025 AT OUR CHAPTER EXPERIENCE

We had a great group of 20 people attending our January “Maximize Your Membership” seminar in January! Our MPI D/FW Past President Stephanie Evans, and VP of Membership Cheryl Batzing co-led the seminar. We had a great mix of current members, and possible new members checking out - all looking for ways to add value to their current employers through opportunities that could be gained through an MPI membership. Check out the picture of our great 20 attendees!

# Seeking **Ambassadors** for our 25 new MPI D/FW members so far this year!

At MPI, fostering a sense of belonging is at the heart of everything we do. Our Member Ambassador Program is designed to help new members navigate and thrive in our dynamic learning and networking environment during the initial first 3 months of membership!

As an ambassador, you'll play a key role in welcoming and guiding new faces, ensuring they feel right at home. Ready to make an impact? Sign up today!

[JOIN US NOW](#)





## **Building Stronger Connections: How CSR and Mentoring Programs Support Our Meetings Industry and Benefit Members**

As we continue to navigate an ever-evolving meetings industry, it's important to remember the value of community, mentorship, and corporate social responsibility (CSR). These elements not only support the growth of our industry but also provide invaluable opportunities for members to enhance their careers, build meaningful relationships, and make a positive impact. At MPI Dallas/Fort Worth, we are excited to highlight key initiatives—our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, the Mentor/Mentee Program, the Emerging Leaders Program, and the Young Leaders Initiative—that offer significant benefits to our members and the industry at large.

### **Giving Back Through CSR**

At MPI Dallas/Fort Worth, we understand the power of community, and our CSR initiatives are a testament to this. This year, the Leadership Committee is focused on continuing to support local charities and initiatives that align with our industry's values, including providing aid to those in need and fostering a sense of social responsibility among our members.

Through partnerships with local organizations, we aim to make a positive difference by engaging in activities like volunteering and fundraising. Our chapter's efforts, detailed on our CSR page, empower members to take part in initiatives that not only support our local community but also align with the goals of sustainability and ethical business practices within the meetings industry.

As we work together to give back, our members gain opportunities for personal and professional growth, while also enhancing their own social responsibility profiles. Whether you're new to CSR or have been involved for years, there's no better time to get engaged and help us make a real difference!





### The Power of Mentorship

In addition to our CSR efforts, the Mentor/Mentee Program is another way we foster growth within our community. This program is designed to pair experienced members (mentors) with individuals at any stage of their careers (mentees) to guide them through professional development and career challenges.

This six-month program, which runs from November to April, is one of the most impactful ways to build deeper connections and share knowledge within our industry. The program's benefits extend far beyond just skill-building—it also creates a network of trusted relationships that can support both personal and professional growth. Participants will enjoy an in-person meet-and-greet, a virtual check-in at the midpoint, and a final celebration to celebrate the completion of their journey.

Our Leadership Committee's emphasis on mentorship this year aims to strengthen both individual careers and the future of the meetings industry by fostering a culture of support and learning. Whether you are looking for a mentor or are interested in sharing your expertise with others, the program offers a chance to connect, grow, and thrive.

### Emerging Leaders Program: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders

Another powerful program designed to equip members with essential leadership skills is the **Emerging Leaders Program**. This dynamic networking and educational initiative is aimed at helping members enhance their leadership abilities, both within their workplaces and the communities they serve.

Typically held in **July or August**, the program is a key educational offering for the chapter and is ideal for emerging leaders—whether you're a newcomer or someone with some experience—who want to stay ahead in an increasingly complex and fast-changing world. Through this event, participants will gain valuable insights and tools that will help them grow as leaders, sharpen their decision-making skills, and expand their network of peers.

The **Emerging Leaders Program** is another opportunity for members to invest in their professional development while gaining critical knowledge to succeed in the meetings industry. If you're looking to build your leadership skills and make a lasting impact, this is the event for you!





### **Engaging the Next Generation: Young Leaders Initiative**

2025 marks the launch of our Young Leaders Initiative, an exciting program designed to engage younger members and cultivate the next generation of leaders in the meetings industry. Targeted at those early in their careers or those aspiring to take on leadership roles, this initiative focuses on providing valuable educational and networking opportunities.

The Young Leaders Initiative will host at least one event annually, starting in the spring of 2025, aimed at empowering young professionals and providing them with the tools they need to succeed. By helping them build leadership skills, this initiative will play a key role in shaping the future of the meetings industry.

The Leadership Committee's focus on young leadership is a critical investment in our industry's long-term success, and members who participate will be better equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of meetings and events. If you're looking to take your career to the next level and want to connect with like-minded professionals, the Young Leaders Initiative is the perfect opportunity to get involved.

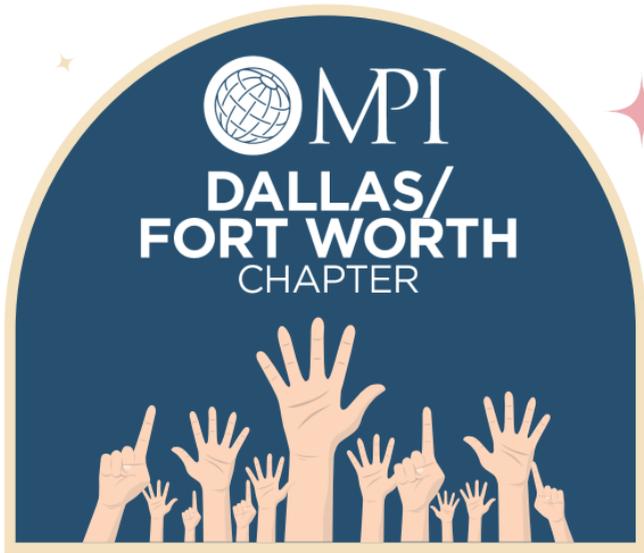
### **How You Can Benefit**

These programs—CSR, the Mentor/Mentee Program, the Emerging Leaders Program, and the Young Leaders Initiative—are all designed to provide tremendous value to our members. By participating in these initiatives, you can expand your network, gain valuable insights, and contribute to a meaningful cause. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out, the opportunities for growth and connection are endless.

Get involved today and take advantage of these incredible resources to enhance your career and make a lasting impact in the meetings industry!

If you're ready to get involved or want more information on any of these programs, please visit our chapter's website or reach out to the Leadership Committee. We look forward to your participation in shaping the future of MPI Dallas/Fort Worth and the meetings industry as a whole.





## **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & MEMBER MIXER**

This FREE mixer offers a unique opportunity for members and visitors to connect, network, and learn more about the benefits of joining MPI in a relaxed atmosphere. Don't miss this chance to be part of a welcoming community that values collaboration, growth, and making a difference. Come for the networking, stay for the celebration of our incredible volunteers! Whether you're a member or not, everyone is welcome. Enjoy a fun, relaxed atmosphere, meet industry leaders, and learn how you can get involved.

**5:30 - 7:30PM**

**22  
MAY**

**GROUP DYNAMIX**

**1100 VENTURE CT. #120  
CARROLLTON, TX 75006**

**COMPLIMENTARY  
EVENT FOR ALL!**



**REGISTER NOW**

# CHAPTER CSR

January – December 2025

**PACT: Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT)**



**PACT** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering sustainable change through climate action and social equity. Their mission is to empower communities and create lasting environmental impact by driving innovative solutions to address pressing global challenges. PACT focuses on tackling climate change, protecting natural resources, and promoting social justice, particularly in underserved communities. Through collaboration and grassroots initiatives, PACT strives to build a more equitable and sustainable future for all. Learn more about their efforts and get involved at PACT's website.

**PACT's Vision:** To build a world in which no child is bought, sold, or used for sex.

**PACT's Mission:** We protect every child's right to grow up free from child sexual exploitation and trafficking through education, legislative advocacy and partnership.

To learn more about this PACT, please visit their website where you will find resources and Free Online Training!

They are also always accepting DONATIONS to help keep their organization running smoothly. If you do choose to donate, please add a comment sharing how you learned about them through the MPI DFW Chapter.

Thank you for your support!

For more information or to get involved, contact the VP of Leadership - [vpleadership@mpidfw.org](mailto:vpleadership@mpidfw.org).



# RALLY YOUR EVENT CAREER

REGISTER TODAY AT [MPI.ORG/WEC](https://MPI.ORG/WEC)

# MPI D/FW EDUCATION DAY 2025

Thursday, March 20, 2025



[Check out the full event photo gallery, courtesy of:](#)



# MPI D/FW EDUCATION DAY 2025

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# MPI D/FW EDUCATION DAY 2025

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# VOLUNTEER

Build relationships. Get the most out of your membership. Give back.  
Make it happen.

*What does volunteering entail?*

What does volunteering entail? It can mean anything you want it to mean. 1 hour a week, 1 hour a month, chairing a committee, just being on a committee, sending a few emails, making a few phone calls.

**[Click here to learn more!](#)**



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