



Time Flies When You are Having Fun!

Hard to believe we are almost halfway through this calendar year, 2026. I have enjoyed my time leading this chapter so far, and I am looking forward to some great events during the second half of the year. The Heartland Chapter Board of Directors held our mid-year retreat at The Meridian in West Des Moines on

Thursday, May 21st. I was so proud to witness the collaboration and energy as we came together for team-building activities along with a robust agenda. Everyone in the room and those who joined virtually were engaged and brought their expertise to the table, helping us get organized, and prepare for a great final 6 months.

The Heartland Chapter had a tremendous showing at MPI's WEC annual conference, June 2-4 in San Antonio. For those of you who have not checked it out yet, here is a link to some great pictures of our group that were there: [2026 WEC!](#)

As we enter our chapter lull between education events-- our next education event is Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Arbor Day Lodge in Nebraska City, "The Power of Questions." However, please save the date/keep your eyes peeled on our socials for two exciting upcoming social events. The first happened Wednesday, June 24 at ITA Group HQ in Des Moines. Next the Omaha social event is scheduled on Wednesday evening July 29 (5-7pm) at a Jay's Games & Beer Garden. Finally, the countdown is on for our annual chapter/education/Heartland Connection event in Dubuque, IA, November 2-4!

Thank you for being an active member of the Heartland Chapter of MPI. I encourage you to make the most of your Summer. Summer is a time to recharge, stay cool by spending time with family & friends at the pool or a BBQ. Tell a friend/colleague about your experience with MPI, see if you can find a new member to join our chapter by year end. I look forward to seeing you soon at another Heartland Chapter event.

Yours in Hospitality,

Cory Carlson

President

MPI Heartland Chapter





A Look at WEC!

Heartland Chapter members joined industry peers from around the world at MPI's World Education Congress (WEC) in San Antonio. From inspiring keynote presentations to innovative educational sessions and meaningful networking opportunities, WEC provided attendees with new insights, fresh inspiration, and valuable connections that will continue to strengthen our chapter and the meetings industry as a whole.



Q2 ANNIVERSARIES

1 YEAR BECKIE ALBEE MACKENZIE AMOS DYLAN DOES COURTNEY GOBLE RAYLIE HENDERSON SUSAN PALLUCCA	3 YEARS MADISON ARROWSMITH LINDSEY HOLMES RACHEL JACOBSON	8 YEARS JOLENE DAVIS 9 YEARS SONJA HARRIS 10 YEARS KELSEY PACKER	18 YEARS LYNETTE WINELAND 22 YEARS BRENDA RAM 23 YEARS RENEE BLACK
2 YEARS JESSICA ERICKSON KAMI JACK SHELLY MCELROW KATIE PATTON HANNAH SLOAN	4 YEARS BETSY STANNARD 5 YEARS MISSY BERG 7 YEARS JESSICA BAUER BRIDGET OTTEN	12 YEARS JESSICA VAN SLOTEN 16 YEARS JULIE KRONLANGE	27 YEARS! TAMI REIER  HEARTLAND CHAPTER

Q2 New Members

ELLYS BARKLEY

BRANDON BORGUS

AMY BROTMAN-PUTTY

ABBY CANTRELL

AUTUMN DAVIS

MICHELLE KING

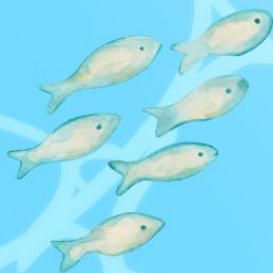
HOLLY MUGGENBERG

JAMIE NIEMAN

MEGAN PTACEK

NICOLE SCHROEDER

VICTORIA WEHRMAN



MPI

**HEARTLAND
CHAPTER**



OMAHA SUMMER SOCIAL – Wednesday, July 29 | 5–7 PM

Jay's Games & Beer Garden – 3724 Farnam St. | Omaha, NE

Join your fellow MPI Heartland Members for a fun summer evening of networking and connection at the Omaha Summer Social!

Enjoy your favorite drink on the outdoor patio, catch up with industry peers, and challenge friends to play a game inside at one of Omaha's favorite social spots.

We look forward to bringing everyone together for a relaxed evening of summer fun and great conversation!





NEW YEAR. NEW CONNECTIONS.

New Opportunities.

MPI Heartland is excited to offer a new year of sponsorship opportunities designed to connect you with a highly engaged community of meeting and event professionals.



**PLATINUM
SPONSOR**

1 AVAILABLE



**DIAMOND
SPONSORS**

1 AVAILABLE



**GOLD
SPONSORS**

1 AVAILABLE



**SILVER
SPONSORS**

UNLIMITED



With top-tier packages already being claimed, opportunities at the **Platinum, Diamond, and Gold** levels are becoming limited.

WHY SPONSOR MPI HEARTLAND?

Sponsorship offers a powerful way to:



Build visibility with industry decision-makers



Engage directly with planners and suppliers



Showcase your brand through chapter events and communications



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Looking to get involved sooner? A limited number of **2026** sponsorships may still be available—reach out to explore current openings and last-minute opportunities.



DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO CONNECT, ENGAGE, AND GROW WITH MPI HEARTLAND.
Contact us today to secure your sponsorship!

Michelle Russell & Shelly McElroy

Co-Directors of Sponsorship, MPI Heartland

mrussell@alhi.com

shelly.mcelroy@hilton.com

Thank you to our 2026 Annual Sponsors



Thank you to our Annual Partners!



When a [New Member](#) uses an existing member's number as a referral during their registration:

The new member has the \$50 application fee waived.

The referring member gets \$25 off of a future membership renewal & gets \$50 cash!

With hundreds of hours of free education for MPI members, the [MPI Academy](#) is your one-stop shop for meeting planning and event industry skills training, CE credits and certificate courses.

Featuring online and in-person classes and webinars, it's the perfect

resource for the job you have - or the job you want.



We're always looking for ways to provide the support and resources you need to advance your career.

With the new [MPI Career Center](#) you can move forward stronger than ever with a more intuitive job search, salary and job growth insights, resume evaluations and real-time alerts when jobs become available.

A special offer for our members! The Kansas City, Chicago Area, Indiana, St. Louis, Heartland (Nebraska/Iowa) and Oklahoma Chapters of MPI are partnering on a promotion to offer [Affiliate Memberships](#) at our chapters for a discount!

This gives you access to each chapters' education events, social events, and member databases and more!



CLE PRODUCTIONS

Memorable events. Lasting impressions.

At CLE, our team of talented experts take a total project approach to assist you at every stage of your event. We will manage the technical details while striving to become an integral and trusted member of your team. Our process is simple and our results are unforgettable.



cleproductions.com



MEETINGS
CONVENTIONS
SOCIAL EVENTS
CORPORATE PARTIES
TRADE SHOWS
EXHIBITS
MARKETING EVENTS
RENTAL
STAGING
AUDIO
VIDEO
LIGHTING
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS
LOGISTICS

515 277 4190



Save the Date: September Chapter Meeting

Mark your calendars for our September Chapter Meeting on September 15, 2026, at Lied Lodge at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

This year's program, "Cultivating Curiosity: The Power of Questions," will challenge attendees to think differently about the role curiosity plays in leadership, communication, and professional growth. Through engaging discussion and practical insights, participants will discover how thoughtful questions can drive innovation, foster stronger relationships, and create new opportunities for success.

SAVE THE DATE

MPI HEARTLAND CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING!

The Key Hotel by Hilton,
Dubuque, IA

Heartland Connection
November 2 | 4pm

Annual Meeting
November 3 | 8am - 3pm

If You Build It, They Will Meet

Designing Meetings that Matter, Inspire Attendance & Impact

Join the MPI Heartland Chapter in Dubuque for its 2026 Annual Meeting experience, beginning with the Heartland Connection networking event at the Field of Dreams Movie Site on Monday, November 2 at 4:00 p.m., followed by the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 3 from 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Inspired by the iconic destination and its legacy of connection and storytelling, this year's theme explores how planners can design meetings that foster authentic engagement, inspire attendance, and create lasting impact.

Through interactive education sessions, collaborative discussions, experiential networking, and baseball-inspired activations, attendees will gain fresh ideas for creating meetings people genuinely want to attend. From neuroscience in event design to crowd-sourced industry conversations and high-energy engagement strategies, the program is intentionally designed to model the very concepts it aims to inspire.

Registration Will Open in August!

Book your hotel room for the Annual Meeting now!

Hilton Garden Inn Dubuque

Key Hotel Dubuque



**FROM CONFERENCES
TO STADIUMS**

CTI ELEVATES YOUR EVENT



SCAN HERE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION



**the smart
choice**

START PLANNING



meet in
iowa city



**WELCOME TO
KEARNEY!**

Here you will find a wide variety
of restaurants, unique shopping,
cultural attractions, colorful murals
and loads of entertainment!



EVENTS CALENDAR
THINGS TO DO
RESTAURANTS
HOTELS
& MORE

VISITKEARNEY.ORG

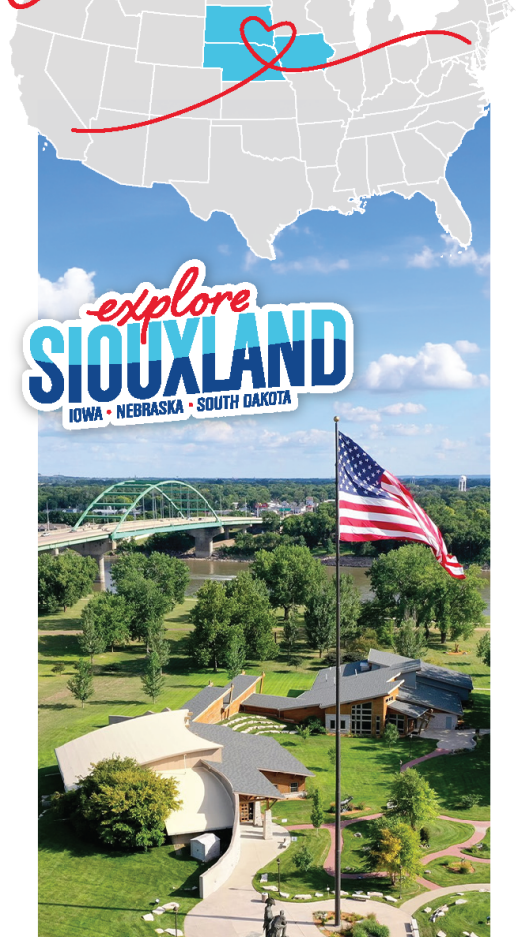


**Visit
KEARNEY**

STOP BY THE
KEARNEY WELCOME CENTER
220 11TH AVE

**THREE STATES.
ONE DESTINATION.**

Endless Possibilities



DISCOVER...

Event support
that goes
above and
beyond.



MEET IN *Ames*_{IA}

DiscoverAmes.com/Plan

**WELCOME TO THE
CAPITAL OF *Nice***

WHERE IT'S
REALLY NICE TO
MEET YOU.

MEET IN
THE
MIDDLE

CATCH—
DES MOINES
ONLY THE Ss ARE SILENT



Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn

Sincerely,

MPI Heartland mpiheartland@morgandata.com

If you no longer want to receive emails from MPI Heartland, please [Opt-Out](#).

powered by
cvent