

2018 Annual Meeting



The overall theme of the 2018 Annual Meeting was “Fusing Power and People.” Through energizing presentations, integrated communication and enhanced networking, fusion definitely occurred. **Click above to watch the photo slideshow from the event!**

May 16, 2018 started off with the 3rd Annual Dine Around. 22 lucky registrants toured the Old Market area to hit up some hot spots of downtown Omaha. Some visiting guests from Iowa hitched a ride on the [Windstar Lines](#) bus from the host hotel [Hilton Garden Inn Council Bluffs/Omaha East](#). First stop was [Bricks & Mortar Bar and Bistro](#) who hosted the opening reception with incredible cocktails and appetizers. [Go Cedar Rapids](#) kindly sponsored the reception and provided some Cedar Ridge whisky for a signature Old Fashioned cocktail. Then, we made our way to [Jams](#) for a VIP private party in Loft 204 above the restaurant. Dinner was phenomenal and kindly sponsored by [Conference Technologies, Inc.](#) Lastly, we made the short walk to [Chocolat Abeille](#) for some gourmet handcrafted chocolates! Great fun and conversations were had to kick off the 2-day event.

Approximately 46 turned out for the Annual Meeting held the next day, May 17, 2018, hosted at the [Thompson Alumni Center at University of Nebraska at Omaha](#). Thank you to [Conference Technologies, Inc.](#) for sponsoring all audio-visual equipment for the day. Also thank you [Caesars Entertainment](#), [Travel Dubuque](#) and [Council Bluffs CVB](#) for sponsoring the break items & lunch throughout the day.

We kicked off the day with Powerhour Panel Time, moderated by Katie Muck. Guest panelists included Adam Curl of [Conference Technologies, Inc](#) to discuss audio visual trends, Sam Canova of [Meeting Sites Resource](#) to discuss contracting and Rachael White of [Mid-America Center](#) to discuss all things food and beverage. Thank you to our panelists, moderator and sponsor [Manhattan Kansas CVB](#) for an incredible and enlightening Power Hour!

The first speaker following the panel discussion was #herospeaker [Kevin Brown](#), bringing with him The Hero Effect™- Being your best when it matters the most. He was so entertaining, passionate and delivered such a powerful message to our audience. Thank you [Midwest Speakers Bureau](#) for presenting this speaker session.

We save one of the best for last just to talk about first...impressions. [Kate Patay](#) joined us following a taxing journey from Frankfurt, Germany where she was speaking at IMEX 2018. She shed some light on some positive and negative impacts of our impressions and conduct can have in all situations.

Thank you to our 8 Exhibitors ([CLE Productions](#), [Council Bluffs CVB](#), [Conference Technologies, Inc.](#), [Catch Des Moines](#), [Great Wolf Lodge](#), [The District Association at Prairie Trail](#), and [Waterloo CVB](#). Special shout out to our 2019 Annual Meeting host venue, [The Graduate Iowa City](#)! Also, thank you to all the organizations who donated to silent auction items. With a total of 20 packaged up for grabs, MPI Heartland Chapter was able to raise \$1,405 from raffle tickets for these exclusive items! Thanks to everyone who participated and made contributions to our chapter.

Shouts out to the Annual Meeting Volunteer Committee for all their time, dedication and hard work to put on a great Annual Meeting and Dine Around! Linda Phipps, Mary Cason, Mattie Scheeter, Gina Swackhammer, Joan Kranovich, Michelle Dekker, Josee Beier, Adam Curl, Brenda Ram and Angie Kistaitis... round of applause for you all! If you are interested in getting involved in the planning of 2019 Annual meeting or in any other facet with the MPI Heartland Chapter, please let us know!
heartlandadmin@cox.net.

Lastly, thank you to our annual chapter Sponsors! Without your support MPI Heartland Chapter would never be able to provide all the great education opportunities, or networking possibilities as we are so lucky to do! If you are interested in sponsoring opportunities for next year, please contact [Adam Curl](#) (Director of Finance) about what is still available!

See you all in Iowa City, IA, for 2019 Annual Meeting!

