



Thank You MPI New England

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Kristy Burns, CMP

Director of Member Events at Harvard Club of Boston President, MPI New England

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Today is my last official day as President of MPI New England. As I sit and reflect on the past 12 months, I realize that they have been some of the most challenging yet fulfilling months of my professional career. Last year at this time being inducted as President was such a highlight and the fact that this special evening was hosted at the Harvard Club of Boston where I was surrounded by not only my MPI family but also my Harvard Club family and my ever-supportive husband.

I will admit I was scared, it was a bit of a daunting role that I wasn't quite sure I was prepared for. But July 1st hit and it was time to step up. I am beyond grateful to the other industry leaders who served on our 2019-2020 Board of Directors and helped me in leading this chapter. We had 9 first time board members all of whom were committed to their roles and this chapter and I will be forever in their debt for all the hard work they put in this year.

The first $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year was going well. We were beating our budget projections, attendance at our events was up and I believe that engagement was at an all-time high. Then March 2020 arrived and it hit MPI New England just as hard as it hit our industry as a whole. Boston was hit by COVID-19 and it all began at a hotel in our city, which was heartbreaking because we all know it could have been anywhere but unfortunately that is what was all over the news. I remember watching the news and seeing information about cases from another industry event, and all I could think was "I'm so glad it wasn't MPI". This led to the postponement of our March Membership Event, which was so difficult for all those who had spent months planning and organizing a special evening that was solely to celebrate our members and this was just the beginning of these challenging choices.

One of the highlights of the MPI New England year has been our partnership with PCMA New England on our annual GMID event hosted at the BCEC. When the BCEC was turned into Boston Hope we knew there was little chance of this event taking place and again needed to postpone, which ultimately has turned into a cancellation. A dedicated com



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from both chapters had been working tirelessly to put on an unforgettable event that none of us will ever experience, that is where the real disappointment is.

And along with event cancellations came the massive job losses throughout our community, it has been absolutely devastating. Those who are still working feel guilt that they are employed yet their friends and colleagues are not. I never want to ask someone “are you still working” for fear of what the answer might be. But that is where the real community of MPI New England comes in.

As a board, we made the decision immediately to continue to host virtual programs and offer these on a complimentary basis to all of our chapter members as a way to continue engagement even in this new normal. Our committees jumped into action and were able to host our first virtual event at the beginning of April and we haven’t stopped since then!

The incoming Board of Directors as guided by Ainsley Onstott is prepared for this next year. A virtual board retreat took place and your leaders have a plan in place that will allow MPI New England to flourish in this ever-challenging time.

So, one last time, I will ask you to #joinme in becoming an active member of our chapter, our community, our family. We will be here for you and welcome you. Thank you for providing me this opportunity to grow and learn over the past 12 months.

Kristy Burns

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As my term as President of [MPI New England Chapter](#) comes to end I wanted to make sure that I thanked all those who made it possible!

I am very proud of [Ainsley C. Onstott, CMP, DMCP](#), and I know she will do an amazing job leading us in 2020-2021.

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