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Editor’s Note

Happy New MPI Year! Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and consistent support. MPI is a team effort that takes a village to be this awesome. It is fantastic how closely all the teams work together to make MPI the success it is today.

Welcome to the new members! The opportunities this chapter has to offer are endless. There are many chances for networking, building new relationships, and learning new information. If you are interested in volunteering, I would highly recommend it! You will learn more about MPI, time management, and organization. If you have any questions about volunteering, feel free to reach out, any member will assist you!

A little over a year ago, I joined MPI and began volunteering after my first gathering. I started on the Education Committee, then transferred to the Agenda team! Everyone I have met and worked with is beyond welcoming and amazing! We are one lucky chapter.

We all would like to give a huge round of applause to all the winners of the gala! Every award was well deserved, and your hard work does not go unrecognized. Congratulations to all the nominees!

The Best Western Premier Hotel did a fantastic job hosting our group, and it was a beautiful location. The view of the Capitol - WOW!!! After that night, my camera roll was full of pictures of how pretty the Capitol looked during the day and night. The Gala Planning Committee really knocked it out of the park with their decorations and silent auction items. Can’t wait to attend next year’s gala!

I am looking forward to the upcoming events in the next few months! We have Stevens Point in October and Michigan in November for the exciting GLES. It is always great to see who the speaker team brings in to fill our time with knowledge, laughs, and takeaways for our events. Of course, it is great to see everyone as well.

Lastly, I would like to thank the education team and the Agenda team for allowing me to jump right into volunteering as a new member of MPI. Everyone on each team has been helpful and easy to work with!

Tyler Priefer
The annual business dinner was billed as “The Next Big Thing.” And the organizer wanted us to make it a can’t miss experience. Inspired by our panoramic views of the lake and state capitol, our AV team created an all-new 180° of amazing.

Cue the surround sound.

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Connect with us at MononaTerrace.com
Well, Hello again!

Holy cow, what a great night we had for the Capitol Soiree Gala. It was outstanding to see such a mix of current members and past members. Many of whom are still involved in the industry in one way or another. Such great people that many of us have learned from throughout the years. These folks, or any long-term member, can be a great resource for new members. If you have any contact with a past or present member, feel free to connect with them. I am positive that they'll be willing to help out. If you surround yourself with amazing people, you can't help but learn and grow.

The Best Western Premier Park Hotel was a wonderful host. Many thanks to their team for all that they did. The Afterglow, sponsored by Destination Madison, at the Top of the Park was beautiful. It felt like you could reach out and touch the Capitol building. (No, we didn’t actually attempt this :)

The Gala is a way to celebrate the last year and to show how far we have come in the last 12 months. Congrats to all the award winners. Check out the article in this issue for the complete list. This is also our starting block for the upcoming year and all that we would like to accomplish. As always, maintaining and increasing our membership and attendance are always on our minds. The RFP team is working diligently to complete the contracts for the 2024 year. Once all contracts are complete, we’ll publish a list. There are many moving parts to this effort, so once we have it all tied up, we’ll share it with everyone. There are many new and fresh facilities that we are working with. Shout out to the RFP team.

There is a quote that I love. “If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn’t lead anywhere.” — Frank A. Clark. This quote relates to us in this industry. Our jobs usually include many obstacles… and we love it. We choose to be in this industry and take pride in the obstacles that we are able to overcome. Working in this industry, we are usually on the ridged edge of our comfort zone. Each new event or client brings a new set of ideas and options that we bring to fruition in a seamless manner. There are people outside of our industry that think we’re crazy for what we put up with week after week, but for us it is the only way to learn and grow. It is our ability to use our experience and knowledge to lead during these challenges that set us apart from many other industries. Choosing this industry, even with the obstacles and challenges, enables us to be proud of what we are doing.

In October we will be at the Inn at SentryWorld in Stevens Point for the first time ever. The Inn opened a year ago in April. This event starts on Wednesday, October 18th with networking and fieldhouse games, and then we top off the night at the Great Northern Distillery. Our speaker, Meredith Commender, will wake us up and get us motivated. Remember that the education session on Thursday will be breakfast and a morning presentation, finishing up around noon.

Once again, thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president during this term. I am excited to have this opportunity to learn and grow myself. ept
Lake Lawn Resort’s timeless charm and breathtaking surroundings create an unforgettable backdrop for corporate gatherings. Whether it’s a retreat, team-building workshop, or annual conference, the resort offers a range of versatile venues with over 32,000 square feet of space to cater to the needs of companies of all sizes. Attendees can relax in one of our 271 guest rooms and enjoy leisure activities such as a late season round of golf at Majestic Oaks, fall color boat tours on a private charter, spa services at the award-winning Calladora Spa, shopping and indulging in one of our many dining destinations including our signature 1878 on the Lake.
7 Ways to Support Diversity and Inclusion at Events

*Sponsored by pc/nametag®*

Planners are always looking for ways to make their meetings and events better places to be. Help attendees feel welcome with the following seven strategies for hosting inclusive events that make an impact.

1. **Choose an accessible venue.**
   Ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms are all examples of facility features that can make attendees more comfortable. Choose locations that are conveniently located and well-connected to public transportation, making it easier for attendees from different areas to reach the event.

2. **Discuss DE&I goals with vendors and suppliers.**
   The organizations you work with should help you reach your goals and objectives. Start by implementing badges that are easy to read from afar, accommodating dietary needs and restrictions, adding mocktail options to happy hour, and using gender-inclusive language when addressing the crowd.

3. **Incorporate diverse programming.**
   Seek out speakers, panelists, and exhibitors from various backgrounds who can share unique perspectives and experiences with your audience. Including a wide range of voices, genders, ethnicities, and cultures will enrich discussions and empower attendees to see themselves reflected in the event’s content.

4. **Cultivate an inclusive atmosphere.**
   Require attendees to agree to a non-discrimination policy and anti-harassment policy upon registering for the event. This holds everyone accountable for upholding a safe environment.

5. **Facilitate meaningful interactions.**
   Kick off your event with icebreaker activities or networking sessions that encourage people to connect beyond their familiar circles. Group discussions, workshops, or brainstorming sessions are surefire ways to create a sense of community.

6. **Help attendees visually display pronouns.**
   Part of being an ally is not making assumptions about a person’s identity or pronouns based on their appearance or name. One way to show your allyship is to provide pronoun badge ribbons at registration for attendees to stick to their badges, if they choose.

7. **Understand your audience and their needs.**
   The foundation of any inclusive event is understanding the diversity of the people who plan to attend. Consider factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, and language preferences of attendees. This information will help you tailor the experience to the needs of your audience.

Designing events with diversity in mind is not just a trend; it is a necessary approach to celebrating the uniqueness of every person in attendance.

Visit tag/talk, an educational blog for planners, at blog.pcnametag.com to find more weekly tips, free resources, and expert advice to help you become a more informed professional.
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Get ready for an incredible experience at the upcoming Great Lakes Education Summit! This year, we’re gathering in the picturesque Grand Rapids, Michigan, and let me tell you, our speaker lineup is nothing short of fantastic!

Brace yourself for Robin Shear’s captivating presentation on overflowing your joy bucket with real connection. You’ll know how to have more joy in your life after this fun and heartfelt presentation about cultivating relationships. Because connection can be a rich source of joy even when we are down and out, you’ll be inspired by stories of times that real connection was shared despite the odds, differences, and lack of resources. You’ll want to reach out to the people in your path, finding unity and joy that’s contagious.

Join Princess Castleberry - Pro Speaker and CEO at Beyond Well, as she emcees our event and provides an engaging breakout session that equips meeting planners with foundational risk management practices. Gain practical techniques to identify, assess, and mitigate risks that can impact your event. Discover strategies to minimize financial risks, protect your reputation, and maximize attendee safety and satisfaction.

But wait, there’s more! Are you looking to amplify your brand and connect with a powerhouse trio of chapters from Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin? Become a Strategic Partner for this year’s event and get ready to harness the combined buying power of over $242.8 million! By joining us as a 2023 GLES Partner, you’ll not only gain exposure and networking opportunities but also contribute to the educational enrichment of all GLES attendees.

Hosted at the Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport, the 2023 Great Lakes Education Summit will help kick-start a new season of relationships and business throughout the Midwest. Join us as we CONNECT, ENGAGE, and INSPIRE.
When our five-star meeting spaces match our unparalleled service, your meeting is sure to be a success. From finding you the perfect accommodations to making sure your event runs smoothly and giving your team a chance to unwind when things wrap up, we’ll make sure it all comes together at the Wilderness.

**FIVE-STAR SPACES**

With facilities to accommodate groups of 12 to 1,200, we have the spaces you need for groups large and small. And if you need technology, AV equipment, catering, or special accommodations for your event, our staff can help arrange the right room and set up for your needs.

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The Wilderness Territory consists of 1,155 rooms spread over 600 wooded acres in Wisconsin Dells. So there’s room for everyone – and their families – to rest their heads after a successful meeting. Attendees can enjoy lodging options from two-bedroom villas, luxurious lake view condos, and three- to five-bedroom cabins in addition to comfortable hotel rooms surrounding the resort’s eight waterparks.

**HOPE YOU’RE HUNGRY**

You’ll find seven on-site dining options to choose from ranging from upscale four-star dining to casual sports bars and everything in between.

**MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE**

Looking to take your meeting out of the boardroom, or maybe you’re planning a team bonding retreat? Bring your group to Wild Rock Golf Club, the resort’s championship golf course designed by the same course architects as the site of the 2017 U.S. Open. And if you’re looking at clearing your heads, you can unwind at the secluded Sundara Inn & Spa – one of America’s Top 10 destination spas.

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**GET MORE INFORMATION OR START PLANNING YOUR MEETING.**

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Start planning for your next meeting or event in the Fox Cities. With a wide variety of spaces and places, we have the perfect venue to inspire any group to get down to business.

Ask about our incentives starting at $500 for events booked and held in the Fox Cities.

Contact Alison Hutchinson at ahutchinson@foxcities.org to plan your original event.
OCT EVENT PREVIEW

Join us for October’s networking event at SentryWorld in Stevens Point – a premier golf and event destination in central Wisconsin!

Arrive Wednesday, October 18, for a relaxing evening of activities in SentryWorld’s 50,000-square-foot Fieldhouse – their largest and most versatile event space! You’ll have the opportunity to network with peers, play a game of pickleball or cornhole, and enjoy a delicious spread handpicked by SentryWorld’s talented chefs.

Thursday, October 19, will feature a morning education program with a frequent and sought after presenter at MPI, NACE, and ILEA programs, Meredith Commender, CSEP. Meredith will share her experiences and expertise in her program Improving Your Event Industry Relationships, Cultural Awareness, and Event Day Logistics. In this wide-ranging session, we’ll analyze many ways you can strengthen and enhance your role, processes, and knowledge in your area of the meetings and events industry.

Following the education program, experience the best SentryWorld has to offer by touring the boutique hotel, championship golf course – recent host to the 43rd U.S. Senior Open – and multiple unique banquet spaces to meet all your event needs. Bonus: Participate in a course and facility tour and you’ll receive free swag! ▶
FOOD FOR THOUGHT: CHEF STARKEY

Growing up in Cincinnati, Ohio, Chef Starkey always knew he wanted to be a chef. His passion took him first to the University of Cincinnati to obtain his Associate degree in Hotel/Motel management and then on to attend and graduate from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park New York, with an Associate’s degree in Culinary Arts.

Upon graduation, Starkey worked in Hawaii gaining training at the Westin Hotel, Maui, and then at the Plantation Inn, Gerard’s Restaurant. He was part of a team at Gerard’s earning the restaurant many accolades including best restaurant in Hawaii. Working under the direction of the owner Gerard, a French-born native raised and trained in France, using the freshest seafood available as well as locally raised products on a daily basis, Starkey’s interest in becoming a Chef only intensified.

In 1994, Starkey earned his first Executive Chef position at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and returned to his home of Ohio where he worked for two years. Starkey took a two-year corporate Chef position at Bergro Restaurant Systems in Columbus and then joined the private club sector when he took the position of Executive Chef and Co F&B Manager position at the prestigious Hyde Park Golf and Country Club in Cincinnati. In 2019 Starkey became the Executive Chef for Birchwood Farms Golf and Country Club in Harbor Springs Michigan. Since 2004 Starkey has also owned his own private catering company overseeing all events, from intimate parties of two to elaborate weddings of 350 people. In 2021, Starkey took the executive Chefs position at Wausau Country Club, then was recruited in 2022 to Sentry World as their Executive Chef where he works today. When not in the kitchen cooking, he enjoys time with his wife and two children, coaching youth sports, and keeping fit and active at his local gym.

NEW ORLEANS STYLE GUMBO

ROUX
1 cup of flour
2/3 cup of clarified butter

GUMBO
1 bunch of celery diced
1 green pepper diced
1 large sweet onion
1 bunch of green onions
1 bunch flat parsley
2-3 cloves of garlic
1-2 tablespoons of Paul Prudhomme Cajun seasoning
6-8 cups of chicken broth
12-16 oz of Andouille sausage, sliced into rounds
Meat from a roasted chicken, dark and white
2 cups of Shrimp, or crawfish
Cooked white rice

ROUX – In a cast iron skillet combine the butter and heat, then slowly add your flour and cook slowly until roux becomes dark as chocolate, and the consistency is like cookie dough. Set to the side.

BASE
Brown your andouille sausage in a stock pot browning till it begins to caramelize. Add all of the vegetables, and cook until vegetables begin to soften. Add your chicken broth, then your parsley and garlic. Slowly add your roux, then the pulled chicken meat, and the shrimp and slowly simmer. Add your Cajun spices and finish simmering for another 30 minutes at a slow simmer. Adjust with salt and pepper to taste.

Ladle onto your rice in an appropriate dish, and enjoy.
In the late Tony Hsieh’s book about his career as CEO of Zappos, he famously stated that he was not at all passionate about shoes - a surprising statement from the CEO of a billion-dollar shoe company.

However, what he said next has always stuck with me: “Zappos is a customer service company that just happens to sell shoes.”

Indeed, there was nothing remarkable about the shoes that Zappos sold; they were the same shoes any other footwear company was selling. It was customer service that set Zappos apart from other competitors and the true area in which they excelled.

This quote really made me think about my own business. I love producing and designing events and watching them come to life, but I have never felt particularly passionate about event production or design. I am, however, incredibly passionate about working with my clients and taking great care of my vendor colleagues, and these areas are the main focus of my career. I love to see clients and vendors develop trust in me and have complete confidence on the day of their event that I will exceed expectations. I love being told by clients and vendors that I was amazing to work with and have them refer me to other people they know in need of an event planner. I have concluded that I am a customer service company that just happens to plan events, and I have found that other event industry companies who have this same philosophy have the best and most sustainable businesses.

When focusing on your event business, how much time do you spend on developing your customer service strategies? What things are you doing and improving to make processes easier for your clients to understand and manage? Are you implementing new and helpful technology measures that make sense for your business and your clients, or are you doing things the way you have always done them? How are you providing guidance and feedback to your clients? These are questions you should be asking yourself frequently with your business. Although taking care of yourself as a business owner, being financially astute, and managing your employees are incredibly important things to focus on, ignoring customer needs and changes and putting them in a position where they feel unsupported and unheard leads them to look elsewhere for better service. On the other hand, establishing those client bonds through trust, thorough communication, deadline adherence, and under-promising and overdelivering leads to the five-star reviews and referrals we all want and need.

Additionally, we must never forget that planners and vendor partners are customers of each other as well and should be treated as such. Are you a vendor who is constantly slow to respond causing the planner who referred you to have to reach out to you again and again? Are you a planner who throws vendors under the bus in order to appease your clients? We have to always remember that we function as a team in this industry, and all of us have to support each other and do our parts to make each event a success. So many of my referrals come from vendors I work with, and that has been the result of treating my vendors like customers by understanding their needs, supporting their work, maintaining good lines of communication, and respecting their time. My relationships with my vendor partners are as important, if not more important, than the ones with my clients, as these are the people I will work with year after year.

By focusing more of our efforts on customer service, we will see our businesses grow, thrive, and evolve over time as our customers’ needs change as well. This approach also allows us to look to examples in the business world, such as Zappos, for inspiration and guidance rather than focusing so narrowly on event industry mentorships. This bigger picture approach to what we do leads us to grow bigger ourselves and achieve more than we ever envisioned possible.
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At the end of each MPI year, the Chapter takes a night to celebrate the accomplishments of our members, volunteers, Board of Directors, sponsors, and administrators. The event is all about recognition, networking, celebrating, and having fun! This year’s Awards Gala was no exception!

The evening began with the Past President’s Reception, hosted by the outgoing President, Rebecca Staats. This reception is a special time for all past presidents to gather, reminisce, and celebrate their accomplishments from the time they each led our chapter.

All other attendees were welcome to a cocktail reception before dinner, where they could enjoy the signature drink – the Capitol Champagne Cocktail – while perusing a wide-variety of silent auction items. The bidding this year was fierce as usual, especially for that American Club package! Attendees also enjoyed taking photos in front of the step and repeat banner with friends and colleagues they hadn’t seen in awhile.

Once everyone was seated for dinner, we received a warm welcome from our emcees, Julie Peterman, CMP and Susan Grigsby. Following the welcome, we enjoyed a delicious meal which included a roasted pear and arugula salad, a perfectly-seared filet, crab cake, roasted asparagus, and mashed potatoes. A variety of desserts were served as well – people enjoyed trading tiramisu, crème brulee, and cheesecake amongst themselves!
After dessert, the emcees returned to the stage to kick things off. First things first was a BIG thank you to our host venue, the Park Hotel, with remarks by General Manager Jason Salus. Then, all chapter volunteers were recognized on screen, with a special shout out to the Gala Team. Following that, the in-kind donation sponsors were recognized as well (see page 22).

Lastly, Jen Mell, CMP, took the stage to tell everyone about our next chapter event, which will be held in September at the Best Western.

The formal program then began with a reflection on the past year by outgoing President Rebecca Staats. This was Rebecca’s opportunity to share what she was most proud of from the past year, which included a significant increase in our membership numbers. After several “pandemic years” with declining membership, this was something for Rebecca to be especially proud of! During her remarks, Rebecca also gave out the President’s Award, recognized the Board of Directors who served under her, presented a special thank you gift to our administrators of 20 years, Christopher and Heather Dyer from MDS.

Rebecca officially passed the gavel to our incoming President, Reggie Driscoll, CMP, who took the stage to remark on what he’s looking forward to as he enters into his presidency year. He also gave Rebecca a couple of gifts as a thank you for her guidance and leadership over the past year. At the end of his remarks, Reggie invited the incoming Board of Directors to the stage for recognition as well.

Next up was a very special presentation of the Hall of Fame Award by Kathy Reading and Sherry Wolff. These ladies had so many wonderful things to say about the newest inductee into the MPI-WI Hall of Fame, Tamara P. Jesswein, CMP, bringing both laughter and tears to those in the audience. Tamara took the stage to accept the award and left us all with her wise words of “If volunteering is beneath you, leadership is beyond you.” This is a phrase that she fully embodies herself, having said “yes” to just about everything she was asked to do for our chapter over the many years she has been a part of our chapter!

Our emcees returned to the stage to present the rest of the awards (see page 22) and close out the formal program of the night. Attendees were reminded to pick up their auction items if they won, and were invited to the After Glow at the Top of the Park, where Celebrations Entertainment provided dance tunes and a 360 degree photo booth. The drinks continued flowing, attendees busted out their best moves on the dance floor, and the party continued ‘til midnight!
MPI-WISCONSIN GALA RECAP
MPI-WISCONSIN GALA RECAP

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2022 - 2023 AWARD WINNERS

PRESIDENT’S AWARD
Lindsey Hess, CMP

HALL OF FAME AWARD
Tamara P. Jesswein, CMP

TEAM OF THE YEAR
Spring Spectacular Team

RIISING STAR
Amanda Wilkins, CMP

SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR
Darcie Holte

INDUSTRY ADVOCATE
Reggie Driscoll, CMP

PLANNER OF THE YEAR
Carrie Jensen, CMP

MPI-WISCONSIN GALA RECAP
When it comes to what you need for a convention, we’ve got the numbers you’re looking for like 5,600 meetings a year, 500,000 square feet of meeting space and 8,000 guest rooms. But more importantly, we have what you want. Shopping, golf, waterparks, restaurants, family fun and so much more – all in 19+ square miles. Because we’re in the business of having fun.

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2023 MPI Wisconsin Summer Social

The 2023 MPI Wisconsin Summer Social was a family affair on the farm. On July 20th, Christopher and Heather Dyer were our hosts at their home and new office just east of Madison. Over 60 members and their families brought a dish to pass and enjoyed the beautiful evening, with musician Julius Bindrum creating the cool summer vibe. Embassy Suites Brookfield member Heather Harmeyer and her family attended, including her husband Mason DeWitt, who works for MobCraft Beer. Mason brought the MobCraft Beer tent and provided samples of their latest brews. Cottage Grove based Doundrins Distilling was also on hand with flavored vodkas and liquors perfect for a summer cocktail. “It was great to see so many new faces at the social” said VP of Membership Beth Schnabel, CMP. “It was so nice connecting with everyone and meeting family members. Everyone had a great time, and it’s possible the kids had an even better time in the pool. My kids didn’t want to leave.” The social was held in the 100 year old barn, which was renovated into the offices of our chapter administrators, MDS Association Management.

In Search of Volunteers and Donations for Bidding for Good

Items donated will go on the MPI-WI Bidding for Good website. We will use our auction website, bidder email system, and refer-a-friend features to promote our event and expand our outreach beyond our community. We will also activate social media buttons on our auction site so our supporters can help spread the word. Our auction is poised for this November, and we will encourage everyone to talk up the site as a way to purchase some unique Christmas gifts... all donated by you! What fabulous exposure for you!

If you would like to join the Bidding for Good Team or you would like to donate an item, please email admin@mpiwi.org.
10 REASONS TO MEET IN
FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN

• Walkable downtown
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CHECK OUT WHAT’S HAPPENING IN FOND DU LAC!
### ANNIVERSARIES

**CELEBRATE!**

Congratulations to those members celebrating a milestone anniversary in September/October!

*Congratulations!*

- **20 YEAR**
  - DANA ECKER

- **10 YEAR**
  - SHERRY WOLFF

- **5 YEAR**
  - FARRAH SLINGER
  - TABITHA SCHROCK

### NEW MEMBERS

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

- **BRANDON FLITTER**
  - HOTEL NORTHLAND, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION

- **CARRIE MANTEY**
  - NEI-TURNER MEDIA GROUP

- **CHRISTY MARQUARDT**

### SAVE THE DATE

**Event:** MPI Great Lakes Education Summit

**Date:** November 12-14, 2023

**Location:** Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel

**Who:** MPI Chapters - Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana

Don’t miss your chance to get top notch education, networking, and idea sharing with our tri-state colleagues at MPI Great Lakes Education Summit! Registration coming soon.

Sponsorship opportunities please contact tamara.jesswein@hidglobal.com

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[Image of Grand Rapids cityscape]

**GLES PREVIEW**

2023 GREAT LAKES EDUCATION SUMMIT

SHERATON GRAND RAPIDS AIRPORT HOTEL
Welcome back.

We invite you back to discover the exceptional facilities at the Red Circle Inn, perfectly suited for your business needs. Our appointed banquet and meeting rooms have been designed to accommodate and inspire gatherings ranging from 10 to 240 attendees. Whether you are organizing a team-building session, a business meeting, a department dinner, a holiday party, or any other corporate event, let Red Circle Inn provide a historic setting for your next occasion.

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Contact Kim Ash to plan your meeting at Red Circle Inn

(262) 303-5321  •  kim.ash@geronimohospitalitygroup.com
DANNIEL KACZOROSKI

Being an Events Supervisor for Generac Power Systems means Danniel Kaczoroski and her team plan, organize, and execute over 60 events, including the Generac Annual Conference, in addition to participating in over 100 tradeshows each year. Even though her day job keeps her busy, Danniel loves supporting MPI by helping acquire gala auction items and selling raffle tickets at monthly meetings. Danniel went to great lengths for this year’s unique gala centerpieces, calling in a favor to her friend in New Jersey who owns a 3D printer and traveling to the East Coast to pick them up!

“I absolutely adore volunteering for MPI! It’s such a joy to work alongside others who share my passion and occasional headaches (haha) for event planning. MPI holds a very special place in my heart and my career. I’ve had the pleasure of meeting some truly wonderful people who inspire me to think outside the box and strive for greatness in this industry.”

SAMANTHA GARCIA

Samantha Garcia, Complex Sales Director for Hotel Monona and Sheraton Madison Hotel, is responsible for soliciting past and new business for her properties. Entertaining and maintaining relationships is her specialty as she works to exceed revenue goals for room nights, F&B, and rental. Samantha says, “I love volunteering for MPI because I get to provide support and services to the organization by offering my time, skills, and expertise. In addition to accomplishing all of that, I get to develop meaningful relationships with colleagues in my industry.”

As a member of the gala team, Samantha created the shimmery gold signature cocktail to bring a bit of glamour to the evening and complement the theme. Sweet, fruity, and floral notes swirling with gold luster, this year’s signature cocktail was a party all on its own. If you sipped on the Capitol Champagne Cocktail at the Capitol Soirée, raise a glass and say “cheers” to Samantha!

MARIA PEOT, CMP

As the Senior Event Coordinator with Zywave, Maria Peot manages and executes internal and client events, as well as supporting thought leadership events. In addition, she manages the internal relationships between the events team and the finance and legal departments. By streamlining processes with these departments, she has freed up her teammates to be able to focus more on executing nearly 100 events each year!

As a long time MPI-WI member and former Board Member, Maria has generously stepped up and donated her talent countless times over the years. She has always enjoyed writing and editing, so her MPI-volunteer roots began with the Agenda magazine. Most recently, she joined the gala team, where her writing skills were put to use, writing/editing the script. Taking on this task is no small feat, but Maria has a great sense of humor, “I think the most fun part about writing the script was the last-minute nature of it...Yep, I said it! I guess ‘works well under pressure’ should go on my resume!”

A committed volunteer, Maria said, “Since I no longer serve on the Board of Directors, I love volunteering for the Chapter in new and different ways. I am looking forward to the coming year and supporting another fearless leader, Beth Schnabel, with her membership efforts!”
From the board room to the bier garten, make a weekend of it in Middleton.

meetinmiddleton.com

Hilton Garden Inn
Madison West/Middleton

Madison Marriott West-Middleton
Kathy Reading
Director: Awards, Scholarships, and Recruitment
Employer: The Scan Group, Inc.

Tell us about the company you work for and/or your position: I’ve been with this company for more than 25 years. We serve the meetings and events industry with print, signage, displays, promotional items, kitting, fulfillment, and custom registration solutions.

How long have you been in the meetings industry? 25-ish?

Tell us a few things about your role on our Chapter Board: I’m excited to serve and honor our membership, especially through our annual awards recognition, which we just celebrated at our Gala.

What drew you to serve on our Chapter Board? I’m returning to the board after a brief hiatus. I’m recharged and ready!

What do you enjoy about your board service, and what are you learning? There is always much to learn from people who are passionate about our industry and serving.

What are your hobbies and interests? Many and varied.

Tell us about your family: I’m super-happily married to Bob Harley, and super-happy to be aunt to many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and a couple of great-greats.

Favorite song/band/artist/movie/book: Many and varied

Person you admire and why: Many and varied

Tell us your words to live by or share a favorite quote: What if...
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NOTE: if you have any news to share in this column, please contact Kortnee Carroll, Director - Publications & Community Outreach, kocarroll@kalahariresorts.com.

1

Danielle Campbell welcomed her beautiful baby boy on July 27th. Congratulations, Danielle and family!

WHERC CITIES MEET...
AND PEOPLE DO, TOO.

2

Cheryl Oswald, CMM, CMP, CEM stated a new role as Corporate Events Manager with CNH Industrial. Congratulations, Cheryl!

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CERTIFICATE COURSES: https://www.mpi.org/education

SAVE THE DATE

2023-2024 CHAPTER EVENTS

OCTOBER 19, 2023
OCTOBER EDUCATION
Sentry World, Stevens Point

NOVEMBER 12 - 14, 2023
Great Lakes Education Summit (GLES)
Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel, Michigan

JANUARY 25, 2024
JANUARY EDUCATION
The Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake

FEBRUARY 15, 2024
FEBRUARY EDUCATION
Bridgewood Resort & Hotel, Neenah

MARCH 7, 2024
MARCH EDUCATION
Monona Terrace, Madison

APRIL 21, 2024
SPRING EDUCATION
Kalahari Resorts, WI Dells