# MPI-WISCONSIN CHAPTER CONTINUENT CONTINU

MAR APR VOL 47/NUM 2 2025





"MPI-WI Chapter is the bridge to knowledge, compelling ideas, and relationships to create a voice in the meetings and events industry."

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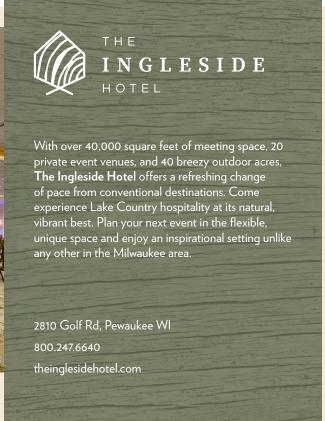
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WISCONSIN CHAPTER

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# Editor's Note

"The only constant in life is change."

Greek Philosopher Heraclitus



I've been with Zywave for about three years and three months now. And what is the one constant throughout that time? CHANGE.

Now, don't get me wrong, I am NOT opposed to change. Change stretches us. Change challenges us. Change keeps things fresh and exciting! But sometimes, too much change, or the feeling of constant change, can be unsettling, unnerving.

We've had layoffs, created new events, changed the structure and location of existing events, experimented with a virtual sales kick off, acquired companies, upskilled our department,

added a member to our team, downsized the HQs office in Milwaukee, welcomed new leadership (including a new CEO!), and so much more. As a tech company, I'm told this is sort of the "norm." But as someone who spent much of my career in higher ed, nothing about this feels normal!

How do I cope with all of this change? As a generally anxious person, I've learned a lot of ways to "level set" over the years. Some things are simple, and some take more dedication and commitment. Here are a few tips I've found helpful when navigating a lot of change:

- 1) Have a few habits that you stick to everyday. Mine include making my bed, a morning walk with my dog, and doing the NYT games to "wake up" my brain each day. While my habits are morning routines, yours could be something midday to break up the long work day or in the evening to settle and calm yourself for a good night's rest.
- 2) Surround yourself with things that bring you comfort. I have a few framed pieces of art on the window ledge, the most recent family photo we had taken professionally, and my favorite coaster from Santa Fe nearby while I am working.
- 3) Find something that centers you, so that when you get overwhelmed, you can go to that activity. I'm a puzzler...and my goal isn't to do it as quickly as possible, but rather to find a few pieces here and there, when I need a "brain break" or to pause from whatever I'm doing at the moment that's unsettling me. For you, it could be meditating, journaling, a workout, or something else. Find something that brings you peace of mind, and default to that when you start to feel like things are just too much.

I hope you find these tips valuable – because we know, the only thing that is certain in that nothing is truly certain. Let's embrace the change this season!

Maria

# LET'S CREATE YOUR VISION

We know just the place. Our world-class meeting and event center in the heart of Madison, Wisconsin, is home to 250,000 square feet of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed space - and every inch of it is customizable right down to the last detail. From award-winning catering to custom AV and staging setups, walkable restaurants and nightlife to breathtaking views, if you can imagine it, we can help orchestrate your incredible.





MONONA TERRACE









# President's Message



Liz Unruh
MPI - WI President



Your MPI family is committed to creating spaces where our members can learn from each other, share best practices, and inspire new ideas.

As I sit here and struggle with what to write (who ever would have guessed that I would be at a loss for words), it encourages me to think about the past and the upcoming future. How many of you have feel stuck? I think it's the time of year where we are between winter and spring. We have been so lucky with our "winter" weather this year. We have not had a lot of snow (sorry snowmobilers) and the temperature this winter has not been bitter cold.

Our January and February event were filled with great networking, knowledge sharing, and a ton of fun. I hope you got a chance to join us for one or both of them. Our January event was at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley, and we were able to attend the Lion King hosted by The Fox Cities CVB. In February, our event was held at the Delafield Hotel. On Wednesday night, we were able to attend a trivia night at the Red Circle Inn, one of the oldest supper clubs and famous for their old-fashioneds. I've been told the old-fashioned and fish fry are a Wisconsin 'thing'.

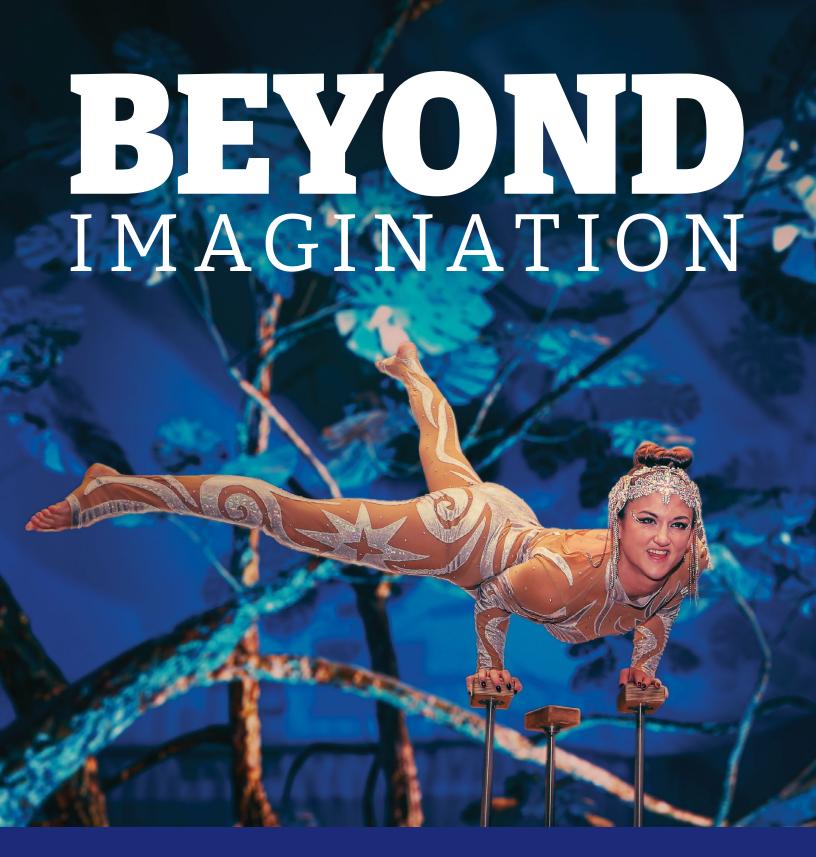
There seems to be so many more hybrid events out there. I have also noticed that people tend to do a lot more Zoom meetings than in person meetings. I prefer to meet in person, because you get to make a better personal connection. How many of us on Zoom calls only slightly pay attention? I know I'm guilty of it. I tend to be checking emails as they come in if I'm on a Zoom call. However, when I engage with someone in person, they will have my undivided attention!

Your MPI family is committed to creating spaces where our members can learn from each other, share best practices, and inspire new ideas. In a world that is becoming increasingly digital, the importance of human connection has never been clearer. Our events are not just about exchanging information—they are about building relationships that will last a lifetime.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Spectacular and Spring Education Day. The stakes are high so make sure to attend. When you are there make sure to say hello. See you when it's warmer, I hope.

Liz Unruh

Liz Mruh



You dream it; we make it happen. Our team is here to support meeting planners in creating customizable, one-of-a-kind events your guests will be talking about for years. That's beyond conventional.



#### FEBRUARY RECAP





**ON FEBRUARY 26 AND 27TH**, our members enjoyed an incredible two-day experience filled with education, networking, and a touch of Wisconsin tradition with our member partners in Delafield.

Wednesday night, we were warmly welcomed to the historic **Red Circle Inn** for a **Supper Club-themed evening.** The atmosphere was nostalgic, the food and presentation were outstanding, and the night was capped off with a round of **Supper Club Trivia** that brought laughter and friendly competition to the room.

Guests who stayed at the **Delafield Hotel** were blown away by the accommodations. With its **spacious rooms and charming character**, the hotel offered a boutique experience that made for a comfortable and memorable stay.

Thursday's luncheon took place at **ID**, the hotel's onsite restaurant, where the food was nothing short of phenomenal. During lunch, we heard from our **community outreach partner**, **the Women's Center of Waukesha**, who expressed heartfelt gratitude for the generous donations provided by our members.



Following lunch, we had the privilege of hearing from **Derek Mosley**, who delivered a compelling session on **Unconscious Bias**. His insights shed light on the not-so-subtle ways bias influences our daily interactions, decision-making, and even the words we choose.

In an industry built on **inclusivity and hospitality,** understanding unconscious bias is crucial. Whether it's in **site selection, speaker lineups, marketing, or guest experiences,** small, unconscious choices can shape the way people feel at an event. Derek's message was a reminder that as event professionals, we have the power—and responsibility—to create welcoming, diverse, and intentional spaces for all attendees.





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## MPI WISCONSIN

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

# CELEBRATE!

# Congratulations to those members celebrating a milestone anniversary in March/April!

#### **25 YEARS**

MAE IBE - 3/8/2000 Meetings & Incentives Worldwide

#### **20 YEARS**

WANDA GILLES - 3/22/2005 Baker Tilly

#### **15 YEARS**

JENNIFER MELL - 4/15/2010 Your Event Solutions

#### **10 YEARS**

**JEANNE DEIMUND** - 3/20/2015 Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials

#### **5 YEARS**

NICHOLE AUGUSTYNOWICZ -4/16/2020 Promega Corp

#### 1 YEAR

#### **BECKY KOCH**

Impact Association Management

#### **SHANDI WHITE**

**Great Wolf Resorts** 

#### **KRIS ROCKOUSKI**

The Rees Group

#### **MANDY SCAMARDO**

Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center

#### **PATRICE NAULT**

Plum Moving Media

#### **JEANNE GARCIA**

The Ingleside Hotel

#### **SHARON MOSER**

Olgetree Deakins

#### **EMILY ANN JANIS**

Sentry Insurance

#### **KEITH KIRSTEN**

Doubletree by Hilton Appleton

#### **LINDSEY KASCHNER**

Promega Corp

#### **MIRANDA KELLER**

Robert W Baird



#### **ANN BRIA**

Journey House

#### **MEGAN HERFEL**

PC/Nametag

#### **PAIGE MAZANET**

**FPC** Live

#### JESSICA O'DELL

PC/Nametag

#### **LORI RADEAN**

Geronimo Hospitality Group

#### **CARLEY RUDD**

Sentry Insurance

#### ANDREA SCHMITZ

Sargento Foods

#### **AGNES TAMAS**

Staybridge Suites Wisconsin Dells



# SPRING SPECTACULAR + EDUCATION DAY

WHEN: April 16-17, 2025

WHERE: Baird Center & Hyatt Regency Milwaukee
REGISTRATION: Meeting Professionals International WI Chapter - MPI Wisconsin Education Day & Pre-Con

**BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW:** Hyatt Regency Milwaukee

(Skywalk to Baird Center)

333 W Kilbourn Ave, Milwaukee, WI

**ROOM RATE:** \$129

ROOM BLOCK CUT-OFF: April 9, 2025





# SPRING SPECTACULAR WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> 2025

RAISING THE STAKES starts on Wednesday evening at our Casino Night! Vegas has nothing on Wisconsin as we gather at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee. Vegas on Wheels and Hyatt Regency Milwaukee will show everyone a high roller experience! Each attendee will start with \$250 in chips to play at your favorite table games including BlackJack, Roulette, Hold 'Em, and Craps. The friendly dealers with Vegas on Wheels make this a fun and no risk time to show your skill or learn an intimidating game with high returns... like Craps!

#### Come as you are or dressed as a 1920s speakeasy patron!

Spring Spectacular is a separate \$45 registration. It will include \$250 in Casino Cash, appetizers, and a chance to win great gift baskets! Want to increase your odds? Purchase additional chips for \$25 in registration.

**Be an Official Casino Night Sponsor for \$250** - You wont find this deal in Vegas! Game sponsors will be provided with signage by their game and an opportunity to be a "celebrity" dealer. Sponsors can interact as a host at their game or join in the fun as a VIP High Roller.

### Join us for a 1920s Casino Themed **Spring Education Day!**

Free Registration for MPI–Wisconsin Member Planners

Thursday will feature a full day of in-person education with some of the top minds in the Meetings and Events Industry.

#### MORNING KEYNOTE

Personal Branding for People Who Aren't Kardashians — Leanne Calderwood

#### **AM BREAKOUTS**

- State of the Industry in Wisconsin Bill Elliott, **CAE President & CEO Wisconsin Hotel Lodging** Association
- Food Trends and Sustainability Levy **Restaurants**

#### **PM BREAKOUTS**

- I'm Just Following Up (And Other Things We Say That Compromise Our Value) — Leanne **Calderwood**
- Ethical Approaches to Solving Problems Elizabeth Schlicht, Association Acumen

#### **CLOSING SPEAKER SHOWCASE**

- NSA WI is excited to partner with MPI Wisconsin to present a dynamic Speaker Showcase at the Spring Education Event, hosted by Roger Wolkoff
- Featuring 7 expert speakers delivering 10-minute micro-keynotes
  - Master the Mayhem: Event Stress Survival Guide — Eliz Greene
  - o Give'em C.R.A.P. to Secure Client and *Attendee Loyalty* — **Jeff Kortes**
  - o The ABCs of Choice: Reprogram Your Brain for Better Decisions — Paula Houlihan
  - Focus on the 5th Question to Improve Networking and Develop Deeper Connections - Gina Glover
  - The Text That Changed Everything **Deborah Biddle**
  - Letting Go of Controls: Finding Balance in the **Events Industry** — **Kathie Rotz**
  - Fingerprints of Leadership: Leaving a Lasting Impact in the Events Industry — Patty Hendrickson

#### **SPEAKER INFORMATION**



#### **MORNING KEYNOTE**

#### **LEANNE CALDERWOOD** Personal Branding for People Who Aren't Kardashians

- Discover the 5 most common myths about personal branding and the truths that we should be embracing instead!
- Learn the 5 reasons why we should all build our brands, and how they can work alongside our organization's brand, mission and values
- Discover 5 ways you can grow your brand, without social media

#### **AM BREAKOUT**

**BILL ELLIOTT, CAE** State of the Industry in Wisconsin



#### **PM BREAKOUT**

#### **LEANNE CALDERWOOD**

# I'm Just Following Up (And Other Things We Say That Compromise Our Value)

- Learn how simple words can diminish or elevate your position and how they feed into an unconscious power dynamic
- Explore how identities and labels can change how you view your God-given talents and stengths
- Create a plan that helps you correct your language in the act and move confidently into business relationships



# **ELIZABETH SCHLICHT, ASSOCIATION ACUMEN Ethical Approaches to Solving Problems**

- Learn how to assess and traverse situations involving conflicts between personal values, organizational values or where our personal and organizational values collide
- Learn how to empower your team members to approach situations with confidence
- Dig into real-life dilemmas to practice these assessment skills and exercise our ethical muscles to approach these circumstances with confidence

#### **CLOSING SPEAKER SHOWCASE**

## ELIZ GREENE: MASTER THE MAYHEM: EVENT STRESS SURVIVAL GUIDE

- Learn about her 5-step strategy to help event professionals manage baseline stress, recognize early warning signs, interrupt stress reactions, focus on solutions & actively recover
- o https://elizgreene.com/

# JEFF KORTES: GIVE'EM C.R.A.P. TO SECURE CLIENT AND ATTENDEE LOYALTY

- C.R.A.P (Caring, Respect, Appreciation, and Praise) the key to building lasting connections with clients, vendors, attendees
- Learn how to create impactful, memorable experiences that keep clients coming back
- o http://www.jeffkortes.com

## PAULA HOULIHAN: THE ABCS OF CHOICES: REPROGRAM YOUR BRAIN FOR BETTER DECISIONS

- Explore The ABCs of choice the three key parts of the brain that drive decision making and learn a simple four-step process to take back control
- Learn how to make better choices, reduce stress and navigate events with greater confidence and clarity
- o <a href="https://paulahoulihan.com">https://paulahoulihan.com</a>

# GINA GLOVER: FOCUS ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> QUESTION TO IMPROVE NETWORKING AND DEVELOP DEEPER CONNECTIONS

- Learn how to move beyond the small talk and create meaningful connections that drive results
- Learn how to break through common networking barriers and foster conversations that lead to real relationships
- www.ginaconnects.com

# DEBORAH BIDDLE: THE TEXT THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

- Hear about real-life experiences and eye-opening insights that redefine what belonging truly means
- Understand how to move beyond surface-level diversity efforts and embrace inclusion as a commitment to fostering meaningful, transformative connections at every event
- o <u>www.ppl-co.com</u>

# KATHIE ROTZ: LETTING GO OF CONTROLS: FINDING BALANCE IN THE EVENTS INDUSTRY

- Explore the illusion of control and how shifting your mindset can lead to greater resilience, preparing you for any challenge and success
- Walk away with fresh insights on navigating uncertainty, regaining balance, and taking intentional action in highpressure situations
- o www.unityconsultingllc.com

# PATTY HENDRICKSON: FINGERPRINTS OF LEADERSHIP: LEAVING A LASTING IMPACT IN THE EVENTS INDUSTRY

- Explore the shift from self-leadership to peer leadership, helping attendees strengthen their impact on people and organizations
- Uncover the success patterns of top influencers, refine their leadership approach and learn how to foster mentorship and collaboration in high pressure event environments
- https://pattyhendrickson.com/

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#### **ASHLEY WOLFE**

Director of Events Hyatt Regency Milwaukee

"

My big break came when an Event
Planning Manager position opened
up after just eight months in
concierge. With little experience but
a lot of enthusiasm, I landed the role
after several rounds of interviews.

#### Event Planning Expert | Mom of Two | Disney Enthusiast | Hospitality Passionate

My journey into the world of event planning began at the ripe age of 17, working as a racing sausage for the Milwaukee Brewers. At that point, I was finishing up high school and certain I'd land a career in sports marketing. But life had other plans. As I worked my way through college, I juggled several part-time jobs, including a concierge role at Marriott Hotels. What started as a simple 9-5 job to pay the bills quickly revealed my true passion: hospitality.

I dove deep into the field, shadowing my boss, an Event Planning Manager, and soaking up everything I could. My big break came when an Event Planning Manager position opened up after just eight months in concierge. With little experience but a lot of enthusiasm, I landed the role after several rounds of interviews.

From there, my career soared. I spent five rewarding years with Marriott before making the leap to Hyatt Regency Milwaukee as the Convention Services Manager. Over time, I grew into the Senior Event Planning Manager role and later the Director of Events. With eight years at the Hyatt under my belt, I've built a reputation for creating exceptional and magical events.

As a wife and mom of two, I've mastered the art of juggling multiple tasks at once, all while staying on my toes and keeping everything running smoothly. My love for crafting unforgettable experiences is matched only by my passion for bringing people together—and that's what drives me every day. Whether I'm managing events or managing life, I always bring my A-game.







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# Executive Chef Ryne Harwick

Levy Restaurants
Executive Chef at Baird Center

Classically trained with over 20 years of hospitality and culinary experience alongside a passion for farming and agriculture, I strive to highlight Wisconsin, its growing seasons and our relationships with locally and regionally sourced products to give our guests an authentic Wisconsin dining experience. By sourcing high quality Wisconsin products we are able to give each guest a true Wisconsin welcome and showcase all of the wonderful ingredients the state has to offer. Working with local creameries, farmers, and producers alike allows us to be more focused on sustainability which is one of the most important tasks a chef is given.

I'm a Midwest native and have called Wisconsin home for the last 25 years. I come from a family that grew up in kitchens. My mothers' parents were bakery owners and that's where my parents worked together before getting married. I am a classically trained chef with



over 20 years of fine dining, resort, and private club dining experience.

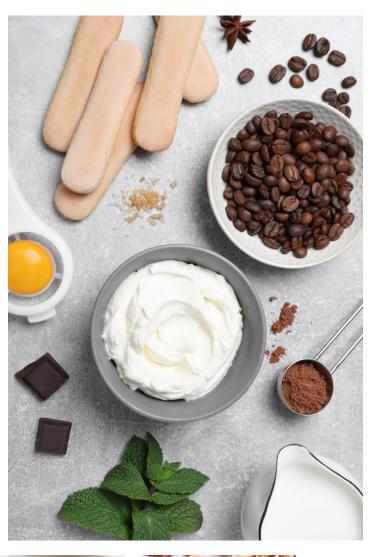
I fell in love with kitchens at a young age; as soon as I walked into a professional kitchen I knew I'd never leave.

I've had the privilege to work under and have the tutelage of some extremely talented chefs and I have always been inspired by watching them work and create experiences with their hands and always look forward to being able to do the same with my guests. I want my guests to experience what Wisconsin has to offer. I love working with local vendors, farms, creameries, and businesses to showcase the growing seasons, meats, cheeses and other ingredients our community does so well. As a chef I always try to lessen our carbon footprint by working to utilize as much product from Wisconsin as I can. I personally live on a farm and grow as much as I possibly can.

#### **TIRAMISU**

Egg yolk - 10 ea
Egg white - 5 ea
Heavy whipping cream - 400ml
Mascarpone cheese - 2.5lb
Sugar - 2 Cups
Vanilla bean paste - 2T
Frangelico - 3oz
Kahlua - 3oz
Espresso - 2 Cups
Boudoir cookies - 60 ea

Combine egg yolks, vanilla and sugar and whip until the mix becomes pale yellow and fluffy for about 5 minutes on high speed. Whip egg whites to stiff peaks and reserve in the refrigerator. Whip cream until soft peaks form and reserve in the refrigerator. Gently fold mascarpone into egg yolks and sugar mixture. Once fully incorporated add egg whites in 1/3 increments and gently fold together each addition until fully incorporated. Gently fold in whipped cream 1/3 at a time until fully incorporated.







Mix together espresso and liquors. Dredge cookie in espresso mix just to soak, but not to drench. Lay cookies down on bottom of pan and add half mascarpone mix, repeat with second half of cookies and add final layer of mascarpone. Allow to set in refrigerator overnight. Top with cocoa powder if desired.



JENNA SCHAEFER
Standard Process

#### What drew you to becoming a planner?

Creating Memorable Experiences – I love bringing people together and crafting events that leave a lasting impact. Seeing attendees enjoy and appreciate the experience makes all the hard work worth it.

I've always been passionate about organization, creativity, and bringing ideas to life. The energy of planning and executing events, combined with the opportunity to make a meaningful impact, is what drew me to this field. It's rewarding to turn a vision into reality and see the joy it brings to others.

What is your business philosophy or approach to working with suppliers? Collaboration and creating strong relationships are at the core of my approach to working with suppliers. I believe that when suppliers feel valued as true partners,

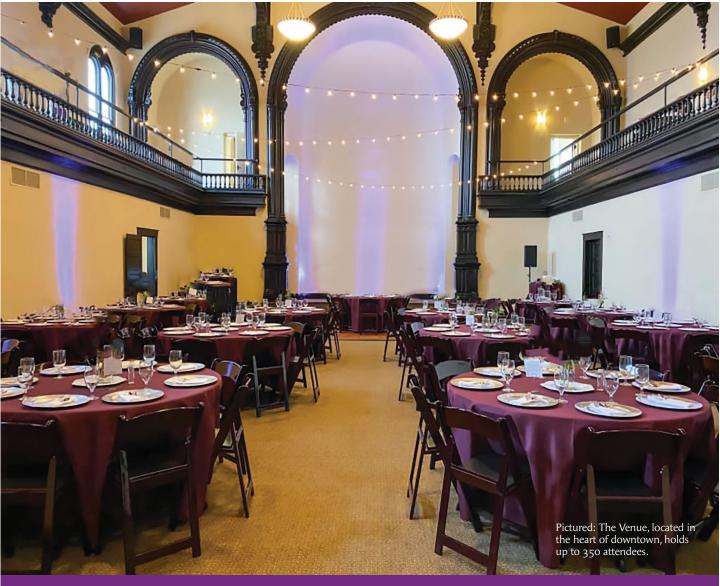
we all succeed in delivering seamless, high-quality events.

# What's something you're passionate about outside of work? -or- What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Outside of work, I'm most passionate about spending quality time with my kids and family. Whether it's planning fun outings, cheering them on at their activities, or just enjoying a movie night at home, I love being present for those little moments that matter. Family time helps me recharge and reminds me why I do what I do. Seeing my kids grow, learn, and explore the world is the most rewarding experience, and I cherish every opportunity to make memories with them.

#### What would your walk-up song be?

Definitely Run The World (Girls) by Beyonce!!!



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Wisconsin's Great Outside











# Supplic



**Greta McCue**Hyatt Regency Milwaukee

#### What are three unique things that set your company apart?

- The Hyatt Regency Milwaukee team prides ourselves on being unapologetically, authentically, Milwaukee proud. We embrace what we're known for and make that shine, in everything from our sales proposals to our banquet menus.
- I really think that my property has the best layout of any convention hotel I've ever visited so many rooms and so much space, but all so conveniently laid out in a classic atrium style.
- Hyatt has been named the best rewards program in the industry both transient travelers and meeting planners say Hyatt points are the most valuable due to reasonable redemption rates and top-tier elite status perks.

Continued on page 23

Continued from page 22

# What is your business philosophy or approach to working with clients?

Be open, honest, and kind. We can always work together to come up with an agreement that will be a win-win for everyone!

#### What would your walk-up song be?

The Power of Love by Huey Lewis and the News (a nod to my love for Back to the Future)

# What unique solutions or services do you offer to meeting and event planners?

Hyatt has an incredible event philosophy called Together by Hyatt, which helps us create experiences and deliver more connected meetings and events - with you, our customer, at the center of it all. Through our four pillars, we empower meeting planners to *Be More Here*, and feel supported every step of the way.

**More Cared For.** I can't wait to introduce you to our amazing team of experts throughout the hotel, our best-in-class World of Hyatt rewards program, and more.

**More Efficient.** Every one of my clients has the opportunity to utilize our tech-savvy planning tools, including collaborative diagramming, our event concierge app, group billing, and more.

**More Impactful.** I'm proud to share that you'll be enjoying food that's as thoughtfully sourced as it is carefully served, from responsible and diverse suppliers - and would love to share our sustainability fact sheets!

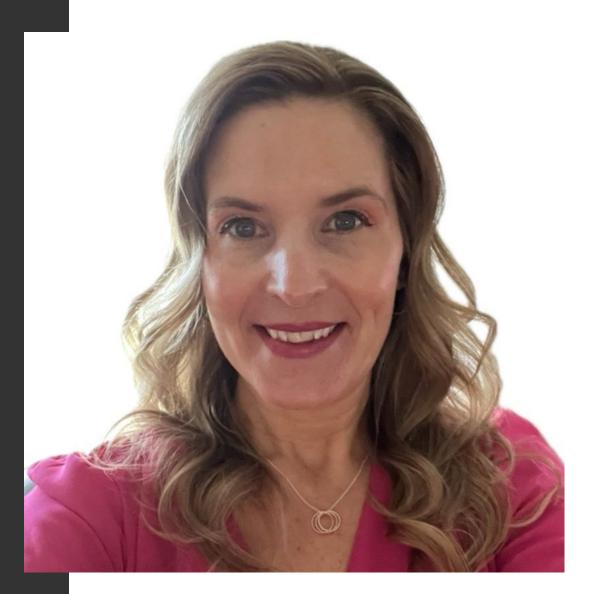
More Intentional. We're not just here to execute your meeting, we're here to assist you and your guests on your wellbeing journey. Each general session room includes a signature Care Station, fitness centers feature Peloton bikes (with World of Hyatt point rewards for completing classes), and attendees will love a chance to utilize Headspace and MasterClass during their time with us.

# What's something you're passionate about outside of work? - or- What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Like most in our industry, I love to travel - and even though I do it often for work, I'm always planning my next personal trip. In 2025, I'm looking forward to visiting my brother in Los Angeles in the fall, and going to Costa Rica with my husband's family in December! Bucket list trips are a Mediterranean cruise, and a huge New Zealand/ Fiji/Australia adventure. When I'm not planning my next vacation, I love to cook, work on projects around my house, play with my pup Maggie, share some laughs (and a cocktail or two) with friends, and enjoy a sunny Sunday afternoon on a golf course!

# Volunteer MANDY

If you're interested in volunteering, reach out to us at admin@mpiwi.org



Mandy Scamardo has been a huge help to our finance team, jumping right in to assist with raffle ticket sales at our January meeting. We really appreciate her can-do attitude and volunteer spirit, especially as a newer MPI member!







Discover the ultimate lakeside destination for your next meeting at Lake Lawn Resort. Nestled on the private shores of Delavan Lake and over 32,000 square feet of flexible meeting spave, we ensure an unparalleled meeting experience that inspires creativity and fosters collaboration. Enjoy breakthtaking lake views, luxurious accommodations, and a variety of recreational activities that provide the ideal balance between work and relaxation.

LODGING | DINING | SPA | GOLF | MEETINGS



# WHO'S IN NEWS

Compiled by Nickie Rouleau



Naomi Tucker, CMP, CMM • 1st

Empowering event professionals to stress less and live more so that they can ... 2w • 🕥

Excited to share my completion of the MPI Certificate in Meeting Management with Indiana University - Kelley School of Business!

This certificate encompassed a 3-phased, 15-week program of graduate-level course work. The content is rigorous, research-based, and specially tailored to meet the needs of professionals in the Meeting and Events Management industry. I am honored to have met so many amazing industry rockstars and learn from their perspectives throughout this journey.

Thank you to Meeting Professionals International for keeping this designation alive. Also, special thanks to Cheryl Oswald, MBA, CMP, CMM, CEM, CIS and Tami Gilbertson, CMP for your votes of confidence, and Anita Carlyle CMP CMM DES **HMCC** for your guidance and insights on the program!

I've wanted to complete this designation for many years, but always pushed it away saying that I didn't "have the time". I'm glad I finally created space for it, and would encourage anyone else that is seriously contemplating this designation to not waste time and go for it!

#KelleySchoolofBusiness #KelleyExecutiveEducationPrograms



MPI Certificate in Meeting Management

badgr.com

Cheryl Oswald, CMP has recently accepted a position as Event Manager with Raising Cane's and will be relocating to Dallas, TX in the next few months!





Jacob Adamski · 1st

Director of Sales and Event Experience

Congratulate Jacob for being promoted to Director of Sales and Event Experience at **Stevens Point Area Convention & Visitors** Bureau, Inc.

#### **Steve Lorenz**

So I did a thing today and bought myself a new house! So excited to have a place of my own and so thankful for all the people who helped me get here. Thank you all for the support and cannot wait for many more adventures in my new home!



Continued on page 27

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#### Kris Rockouski

I'm happy to share that I've obtained a new certification: Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) from Events Industry Council!



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# Kalahari is expanding: We're Thrilled to Announce Our \$85 Million Indoor Waterpark Expansion!

Wisconsin's Largest Indoor Waterpark is getting bigger! Our brandnew 75,000-square-foot indoor waterpark expansion is officially under construction. Featuring a glass-enclosed, open-air waterpark with a retractable roof, We can't wait to welcome you in Fall 2026 to experience endless thrills, unforgettable memories, and so much more! Enjoy an array of other new amenities and attractions including the Lost Lagoon spa whirlpool, the Watering Hole with zero-depth entry and tanning ledges, Coral Cove, and The Grotto adult swim-up bar.

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#### Melissa Falendysz, CMP

I'm beyond thrilled to share that I have been promoted to Team Lead at BCD Meetings & Events! This new role gives me the opportunity to lead and support an incredible team of planners as we continue to...



NOTE: if you have any news to share in this column, please contact Nickie Rouleau, Director - Publications & Community Outreach, nrouleau@wcd.org.





Make the most out of your meetings in Middleton, Wisconsin





- Grants/sponsorships available
- Fun off-site locations
- 1,153 hotel rooms at 9 hotels
- More than 66,000 sq. ft. of conference space
- 80 restaurants & cafes
- 2 shopping districts
- 20 minutes from airport





# Enhance your meeting planning career with the

# **MPI ACADEMY**

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.

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

# SAVE THE DATE

# 2025 CHAPTER EVENTS

April 16-17, 2025

**Spring Education Day & Spring Spectacular** 

Baird Center & Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

May 15, 2025

**Chapter Program & Board Retreat** 

The Legacy Hotel, Green Bay, WI

July TBA

**Summer Social** 

August 21, 2025

**Annual Awards Gala** 

Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield, Brookfield, WI

September 18, 2025

**Chapter Program** 

Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI

October 23, 2025

**Chapter Program** 

Madison Marriott West - Middleton, WI