



**MICHIGAN**  
CHAPTER



## December 2020 Newsletter -

# Happy Holidays!

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### MPI Michigan New Members

Liz Cluley  
Katie DeWeerd  
Katie Leonard  
Suzanne Sipe, CMP

### Conversations with Members

Chris Rowley  
Executive Director  
Mt. Pleasant Area CVB



I started at the Mt. Pleasant Area CVB to promote meetings in the Mt. Pleasant area. I love selling meetings in Mt. Pleasant because it's a great central location in Michigan for meetings. When I first joined MMPI, I was new to the industry and wanted to meet people; at my first meeting they were looking for volunteers and I joined a committee. From there, I was asked to join the board and served on the board for six years. In that time, I was Director of Strategic Alliances, VP of Finance, and President. During my time on the board, I had so many amazing experiences for which I am beyond thankful. I gained lifelong friendships and enjoyed opportunities I would not have otherwise had access to without being active in MMPI. I attended national conferences in Cancun, Mexico; Vancouver, B.C., and attended

### Member Spotlight -



**MARGARET MORSE**

**Director of Sales and Marketing**  
[Hotel Indigo Traverse City](#)

After a career in the music industry (working promotion for a major label) and with a background in advertising, Margaret joined the Hospitality Industry over 30 years ago.

Since then, she's had the opportunity to represent two full-service resort properties and two downtown Traverse City properties. Margaret has been successful in developing relationships and loyal partnerships in the national and state association markets, national and local corporate, entertainment and event segments. She's grateful for the opportunities she has had to work with leaders in every field of human endeavor and to have the opportunity to learn something new every day.

Recognized with a 'Lifetime Achievement' award by Michigan Meetings + Events Magazine in 2014, Margaret is committed to superior customer satisfaction and to sharing her experience with people new to the Industry.

Margaret knows the impact her efforts have on the people she works for – the people she works with – and the community in which she

leadership trainings in Texas several times. I helped start an MPI student chapter at Central Michigan University and was Mentor of the Year in 2009. I was voted Michigan's Finest Sales Professional in 2016 and received the Chapter Meeting Industry Leader Award in 2019. All of which I am honored to have received and always thankful for my MMPI family.

Chris Rowley

Executive Director

[Mt. Pleasant Area CVB](#)

### Ask a CMP!



*Question: What are you looking forward to in 2021?"*

This may be a strange thing to miss when speaking to kindred spirits as a meetings professional who is a perpetual planner and who loves lists and details, but I have found that one of the things that used to be an outlet for me that I find myself longing for is the occasional escape – the last minute road trip, whipping the car into a new shop I have never stopped at, calling some friends for an impromptu game night or trying a new restaurant for lunch. I think that just “deciding to spend the night” instead of having to plan an overnight weeks in advance turns out to be something I never knew I took for granted. I love just jumping in the car and driving but now like everyone else I have to plan for restroom stops, masks, sanitizer and adequate spacing. I can't just pile a few girlfriends in the car, and most of our favorite things have been put on hold anyway. We love to hit all the festivals, concerts, art fairs, antique shows, flea markets and auctions.

So I am going with Spontaneity. I want to take advantage of a beautiful day by hopping in the car and going for a drive, but I also want to spend a rainy day catching a new release at the movie theatre. I want to hear live music again – a lot of it! I want to hit every festival and event I can hit. I want to sample food and taste the wine and share my plate. And I want to veer off course and try something new or different “just because” and not worry so much about whether or not it is safe. I may not be able to do all that in 2021, but I sure hope that I am able to stop planning for a while and do something more impromptu.

Suzanne Sipe, CMP | Sales Director Petoskey Area CVB  
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resides. It's a responsibility she takes very seriously.

Best job ever.

What you Need to Know...

### Our Gift to You



\$125 off new MPI Memberships

\$75 off MPI Renewals

Must use promo code: GIFT20

Click for more info and to join: [Join Meeting Professionals International | MPI](#)

*Applies to Premier and Preferred Planner or Supplier Memberships only*

Just around the Corner...

Thursday, February 18, 2021

M M P I  
*Signature Series*

[New Holland Brewing Company](#)

Details Coming Soon!

### Message from MPI MI President

Julie Oatman



### **"Congratulations to our latest Award Recipients!"**

*Each year at Celebration we have the opportunity to give out our end of the year awards that are nominated for by our membership. With us having to cancel Celebration this past June due to Covid and the pandemic, we feel that it's very important to recognize the final three winners that we would have recognized if we had gathered in person."*

### Rising Star Award

This award is for a member who demonstrated a positive impact on the Chapter through attending events and volunteering within the Chapter.

## 2021-2022 MPI Michigan Board of Directors Nominations

Each year, the MPI Michigan Chapter Nominating Committee recommends a slate of candidates to serve on the Chapter Board of Directors. On behalf of this year's Nominating Committee, please use the 2021-2022 Board of Directors Application, to submit your name for a position on the board.

The Board of Directors is made up of 14 chapter members: 6 Directors, plus 5 Vice Presidents, the President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past President. Active chapter members in good standing are eligible for the nomination and election to any elective office. For Vice President positions, it is preferable that the member has previous service on the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee is made up of planners and suppliers who are in good standing and are familiar and active in chapter functions/events.

### **MPI Michigan Chapter Board of Directors Qualifications:**

Be a member in good standing

Be willing to fulfill the obligations of office, in the capacity indicated

Have a history of involvement, accomplishment and dependable service to MPI

Be willing to contribute time, energy and creativity to the chapter with the consent of your employer

Serving on the board is not only demanding and challenging, but it is also extremely rewarding. Consider becoming a leader in an award-winning chapter of the largest organization of meeting professionals. This is your chance to contribute to the growth and professionalism of our chapter. For more information on how to become involved please click [HERE](#)

Check out Decembers [New Blog!](#)

### **[It has Cocktail Recipes!!](#)**

By Lauren Schaal, CMP



Questions? [info@mpimichapter.org](mailto:info@mpimichapter.org)

Website: <https://www.mpiweb.org/michigan>

Follow us on social media:



### **Winner: Ashley Smith**

*"I am so grateful to be recognized and excited to see what 2021 has in store."*



### **Exceptional Service Award**

The best F & B and AV mean nothing if the service team is lacking. This award is given to a venue/business that provided exceptional service during an event you attended last year.

### **Winner: Brie Kear- Boyne Resorts**

*"We are honored to be recognized for exceptional service amongst many other top notch venues. We look forward to moving on in 2021 and continuing to serve you!"*



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EXPERIENCE THE LIFESTYLE

### **Member of the Year Award**

This award goes to someone who has actively recruited members to the chapter, utilizing social media to promote chapter events and members, using chapter hashtags in social media posts, attending chapter events, volunteering within the Chapter, being a member in good standing and being a mentor to members.

### **Winner: Jennifer Berkemeier**

*"I am overwhelmed, humbled, grateful and honored to be named Member of the Year for 2020. I thoroughly enjoy contributing to a great organization with such amazing leadership and member base, and look forward to further collaboration and partnership. Thank you!"*

