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**Welcome New Members**



*This month we'd like to welcome Laura Bolduc, JD Copus, Andrew Gaines, Jenna Hyde, Kathy Maciag, Tina Miller, Chelsea VanderWal and Erin Weimann to our membership. Hope to see you at a meeting soon!*

**Ask a CMP!**



*This month, we spoke to **MPI MI member Amanda Conger, CMP.***

**Question:** *What are you most looking forward to in 2020?*

**Answer:**

*As the Executive Director for the Cabinet Makers Association (CMA), I am looking forward to our second national conference, which will be held March 4-6 in St. Charles, IL at the Q Center. Our first-ever national event in*

**Member Spotlight**



**Meet Erin Abel, CMP, Owner and Chief Experience Officer, Third Coast Events.**

Erin started her company just over a year ago and loves being an independent planner out of Grand Rapids, MI. Third Coast Events focuses on association conferences and large non-profit fundraisers. It is also important to Erin to include as many sustainable attributes as possible in her events!

Previously Erin was a meeting planner for Grand Valley State University and a convention coordinator for Texas Bankers Association. When Erin is not working, she serves on the event committees for *The Blue Tie Ball* put on by the West Michigan Environmental Action Council and *Shining Through* put on my The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan.

She also enjoys cooking, gardening, traveling, watching and playing sports, and spending time with her husband, Ryan, and dog, Jeter.

**Thanks for your membership, Erin!**

**What you Need to Know**



Did you know...due to the success of our first **Membership 101** conference call, we have a second one scheduled for **Monday, January 13** at 10am! On this innovative call for new members, we will discuss helpful topics such as how to best engage with your chapter, set up your MPI profile at the global

2018 celebrated the organization's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and it was deemed a success by the nearly 200 attendees. We're expecting at least that many people again this year riding on the accolades of the first event. Plus we have a very robust speaker lineup for the 2020 conference, including an executive from Zappos and an economist from the National Association of Home Builders – and they aren't even the keynote speakers!

What makes me extra excited about another national conference is that I am "a team of one" and yet I managed to pull off the 2018 event to everyone's liking. Most importantly, though, I actually had fun throughout the entire process and wasn't a meeting-planner-zilla (you know, like a bride-zilla).

Earning my CMP taught me a ton of valuable skills that I use on a regular basis, and I'm grateful that I was able to acquire the knowledge needed to not only do my job but also enjoy it!

**Thank you Amanda!**

### **Pick of the Gallery**



Just a few of the items donated by our members for the Ronald McDonald House at our December, 2019 meeting.

website, get the most out of your MPI MI directory and showcase yourself and your company. The call will also include time for Q&A with Membership leadership. To join this call, please [click here](#) at 10am on January 13.

### **And exciting partnership opportunities for our members:**

It's a New Year and time for new resolutions! Resolve to spotlight your company or property with an MPI Global *Top Performing Chapter* in 2020. Request for Proposals are out for Diamond Partners and properties to host MPI Michigan chapter events September 2020 – June 2021. To review the requests, please see email attachment. **Why be a Diamond Partner?** Tara Forester from FireKeepers Casino Hotel, a 2019 Diamond Partner said, "It's the epitome of "wine and dine" and the return has been much more than the initial investment."

In addition, many individual **sponsorships** remain for our upcoming Mid-Winter Symposium and Global Meetings Industry Day. Sponsorship value helps offset the costs of chapter membership and to help bring in quality speakers and networking opportunities for our members. For more information on the exciting sponsorship opportunities available, please see attachment.

Any questions you have can be directed to Maryellen Jansen, V.P. of Finance at [Maryellen@MakeitRiehl.com](mailto:Maryellen@MakeitRiehl.com). Thank you to all our sponsors for your continued support. Our strategic partnerships are an integral part of our chapter's success!

### **Just Around The Corner**



Our February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 **Mid Winter Symposium** begins at the [Kalamazoo Radisson](#) with a CMP Breakfast, and the day's education qualifies for 2.5 CEUs! Keynote Speaker Rosemarie Rossetti, PH.D. will share with us the most up-to-date information for accommodating people with disabilities at meetings and events. Included in this event is our annual Silent Auction with dozens of packages for year-round fun. *Be sure to come in a night early* and join us at [Bell's Brewery](#) on February 17 for our annual **Trivia Night!** Match wits with your

fellow MPI colleagues and friends for bragging rights ! Bring a table of 5 to have your own team, or register as an individual and we'll match you up with some industry friends. Your registration will include two drink tickets and appetizers. You won't want to miss these February events; [click here](#) for more information and to register.

## Conversations with Members



We spoke to MPI MI member Kate Barber (Suburban Collection Showplace) for her reflections on the value of her MPI membership: "As a Meeting Professional, I value both the Education and the Networking available to me within my MPI community. While I always enjoy networking with my colleagues, I always find a take away from the educational sessions that MPI has to offer. I feel that the speakers and topics have become more enhanced over the last few years. I also really enjoyed the Women in Leadership Course that was brought to us by our chapter leadership last year. That being said, the networking is always invaluable and my MPI colleagues are by far some of the best!."

Thank you, Kate!

### EXCITING NEWS - FREE ADMISSION

The Michigan Chapter of the National Speakers Association often is one of the best kept secrets for Michigan Convention & Visitors Bureaus Professionals and Meeting & Events Planners. Their nationally-recognized professional speakers reside right here in the Mitten State! Let the Michigan Chapter become your **first-choice resource** for speakers, especially for expanded event agendas or handling weather delays and speaker cancellations.

The Michigan Chapter of the National Speakers Association is offering **two complimentary admission tickets** to each of our remaining, bi-monthly Saturday seminars to event professionals like you. If interested in attending one of their seminars please respond to our Chapter Administer, Elizabeth Pike at [epike@mpimichapter.org](mailto:epike@mpimichapter.org) no later than one week (7 days) prior to the scheduled date. Complimentary tickets are only available through advance reservation. No complimentary tickets are available at the door, the day of the event.

**Date: Saturday, March 14, 2020**

Speaker: Mike Robertson's "No Power & No Point"

Time: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Schoolcraft College's VisaTech Center, 18600  
Haggerty Rd Livonia, MI 48152

**Date: Saturday, May 9, 2020**

Speaker: Anna Liotta's "What's Stopping Millennials or Gen  
Xers or Boomers from Hiring you?"

Time: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Schoolcraft College's VisaTech Center, 18600  
Haggerty Rd Livonia, MI 48152

**Thank you!**

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

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

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