



MICHIGAN
CHAPTER

July, 2019 Newsletter

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Welcome New Members



This month we'd like to welcome Laura Elkin, Eric Leister, Cathy Mayhew, Donna Richards, Gabrielle Shoucair and Lydia Wilder to our membership. Hope to see you at a meeting soon!

Member Spotlight



Meet **Ashley Ault, MSA.**, Ashley Ault joins the Hilton Family with over four years of experience working within the hospitality and tourism industry, with a strong emphasis on project management. Her experience is supplemented with a Master's of Science Administration with a concentration in Leadership from Central Michigan University, as well as bachelor's degrees in both Biology and Musical Theater from Oakland University. Ashley's passion has been the source of the dedication and consistency her customers have enjoyed from her service. Ashley is excited to work and collaborate with the DoubleTree by Hilton Bay City-Riverfront.

Ask a CMP!



This month, we spoke to **CMP member Erin Abel.**

Question: What is the most memorable event you have planned?

Answer:

My most memorable event was my first event out of college. Two weeks after graduating from Grand Valley State University I moved to Austin, TX to be the Convention Coordinator for Texas Bankers Association. In 10 months I would be the lead on their annual convention in Colorado Springs. It was in a location I had never visited, and held at the world-renowned Broadmoor.

I was beyond excited, but a bit overwhelmed! I had a few challenges I needed to work through. There was a 100 booth exhibit hall, alongside the 550 person conference, \$50,000 speaker, and I needed to direct the show during each general session. The audience was CEOs and leaders of banks in Texas (an audience I knew nothing about, including their private planes); I had to arrange shipping/transportation of all materials to another state, needed to consider the higher altitude to keep guests safe, and had a general session speaker cancel 12 hours before their scheduled speaking time.

Overall, the event went really well thanks to the guidance I had from the awesome venue and experienced co-workers. I will never forget it; I loved it more than anything, and knew I would be in this field for the long haul. I look forward to someday taking another client back to The Broadmoor for another memorable event.

What you Need to Know



MPI Michigan is excited to offer **new innovative programming** to support members in their career growth. Developed by our creative Leadership Development team, they are:

Mentor Cafe - a new Mentor program designed to pair seasoned members with incoming young professionals. You can register either as a Mentor ([click here](#)) or Mentee ([click here](#)) and will be paired with an appropriate partner. What a great opportunity! (must register by August 2).

Job Postings - do you have a post to fill in the meetings / event industry? We now offer a location and process to get your opening in front of our experienced members. [Click here](#) to post on MPI Michigan Chapter's Job Board.

Scholarship Opportunities - MPI Michigan offers scholarships to members in a variety of categories, including yearly membership, event registration, CMP certification fees and more. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

Just Around The Corner



Mark your calendars for our next meeting, **September 19** at The DoubleTree in Bay City! This will be the first meeting of the MPI year and it will be a great kickoff you won't want to miss. Details to follow; registration will be open soon.

Conversations with Members



We spoke to MPI MI member Tracy Russold (Treetops Resort) for her thoughts on volunteering: "People choose

Pick of the Gallery



MPI Michigan Chapter
turns 40 this year!

to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to give back to the community or make a difference. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or enhance existing knowledge. I chose to volunteer with MPI Michigan Chapter simply because I wanted to meet people and feel part of the team.

Networking can be awkward! By becoming an involved member with MPI's Communications team, it provided me with **a good way to bridge the gap between myself and other members.** It helped me to start that first conversation with someone. Volunteering is a great way to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships. By volunteering, your "circle of friends" can get a whole lot bigger in just a short amount of time.

Volunteering gives you the opportunity to explore new skills and interests. Although I love social media, I knew absolutely nothing about Twitter. I wanted to broaden my knowledge, so I volunteered to take over MPI's Michigan Chapters Twitter account. I googled "Twitter for Dummies" and taught myself how to tweet, provide weekly analytics to the team and manage our profile account. I love to challenge myself, be creative and to try new things. I believe that volunteer work looks great on your resume and can give you an edge when it comes to getting that next job or achieving your next goal. Volunteering for MPI has broadened my horizons in many ways, both professionally and personally!"

Celebration! 2019 Winners

Hopefully you were able to join us on June 4 for another beautiful evening for Celebration! as we honored this year's MPI Michigan recipients:

Michigan's Finest Meeting Site: JW Marriott

Michigan's Finest Non-Property Vendor: Experience Grand Rapids

Chapter Member of the Year: Kristina Kauffman, CTA

Chapter Meeting Industry Leader Award: Chris Rowley, CMP

Chapter Meetings Impact Award: Greater Lansing CVB

Young Professional Award: Terra Damchuk

President's Award: Karalee McKinstry

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Questions? info@mpimichapter.org

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

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