

May 2021 MPI Michigan Newsletter

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MPI Michigan New Members

Ann Bruzewski, [Go Great Lakes Bay](#)

Conversations with Members



Julie Oatman

Director of Sales [Souring Eagle Casino](#) & Outgoing MPI MI President

I can't help but think that a year ago at this time, it seems certain that we collectively thought we would be "back to normal" by now. Obviously, we're not, but we are making great strides toward getting to our "new normal."

People are getting vaccinated, we've conquered Zoom Meetings, wearing a mask doesn't seem such a dreadful task any longer, and we're all stocked up on hand sanitizer and know which is "the good kind." We have grown and we have changed; we have all adapted in ways we never thought we would, but we have. We are coming out of this pandemic much better than we ever dreamed possible.

Our industry is coming back...it's not back yet, but we can see it on the horizon. What does the future look like for our state? I think it means in person meetings with a virtual option. I think it means finally being about to hug that friend instead of elbow bumping. It means better communication between people because your words aren't muffled due to wearing a mask. I also think it means we're headed for a time where we can smile at each other again, and not just do your "smiling eyes" look.

Member Spotlight

Sharon Ricketts

VP of Strategy and Business Development
MVP Collaborative, Madison Heights, Michigan
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Our industry has gifted me with so many special experiences for over 25 years. I've worked on mega-events from The Olympic Games, New York Fashion Week and CES Las Vegas to creating intimate hospitality experiences like the Audi Lounge at Vail.

Each program came with long hours and challenges but also provided an opportunity to work with a diverse array of fun and talented people from around the world. Our industry professionals are unique in their warmth and selflessness. They are willing to do whatever it takes for the success of the next meeting, show or experience.

That is why 2020 broke my heart—the event, conference and travel cancellations, the furloughs and layoffs. So after sitting on the sidelines for years, I finally decided to get involved with MPI Michigan and support the rebound and re-imagination of our industry. It's time to help each other return to the fulfilling work of delivering memorable moments for others.

Connect with me:

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[What you Need to Know...](#)

Heading out of this pandemic into a future of excitement, meeting in person, moving into our “new normal” makes me smile, and it should make you smile too. We have survived! We survived with grace, tenacity, strength and the faith that we will endure. Pat yourself on the back and put a smile on your face, because we’re coming back!



Get Engaged with MPI Michigan Chapter

Contribute your talents, experience, knowledge and creativity to your chapter by serving on one of MPI Michigan Chapter's Committees. Only when working together as a team can we do great things, and you are what makes MPI Michigan Chapter great!

Join a MPI Michigan [Chapter Committee Today!](#) Check out all the different committees below and see which one is the right fit for you!

For more information and placement on a committee, please contact Nick Stratton: nicholas.stratton@amerilodgegroup.com



[Check out MPI Michigan for May](#)

By Lauren Schaal, CMP



General MPI Membership Scholarships

We have scholarships available for membership dues, industry certifications and *more*. **Don't assume you don't qualify!** The application process is simple; [click here](#) to learn more and apply.



MPI Academy – live webinars are being added on a regular basis so please keep checking this link <https://academy.mpiweb.org/mipi/pages/webinars> for more information and to register.

Upcoming webinars include:

May 21st - Meetings Outlook: Future Predictions for the Business of Meetings

May 26th - #RealTalk | Standing up and speaking out – AAPI Voices in the Meetings & Events Industry

June 1st - The Science of Meetings & Events Series: The Science of Trust

June 4th - Inclusive Experience for your Virtual Events

Just around the Corner...



MPI MI is excited to announce Celebration!

Celebration! is our annual, year-end awards and recognition event. It caps off an exciting, productive year of learning, networking, and professional growth.

What better way than to CELEBRATE with your industry friends and colleagues!?

We are grateful for [Soaring Eagle Casino](#) sponsoring most of the registration cost, allowing our members to enjoy a low cost of just **\$30 dollars** to attend the event.

Join us **from the office or the comfort of your home** as we celebrate all the pivoting and new opportunities for growth we have acquired throughout 2020. As we continue navigating through this pandemic, on June 2, 2021, we congratulate each other for staying strong and flexible in this industry.

[Register before May 21, 2021, to receive your Michigan Gift Box in time for the June 2, 2021 Celebration!](#)



MPI members lean on each other, learn from one another and are committed to guiding our profession back to the center of economic growth in a post-COVID world.

[Join MPI today](#) and help shape the future of meetings and events.

Questions? info@mpimichapter.org

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

Follow us on social media:



Nominations

Help us recognize our MPI MI Industry Leaders at the 2021 Virtual Celebration!

Nominations are open through May 14th and the winners will be announced at Celebration!

[2021 MPI MI Celebration! Nominations \(click here to access\)](#)



