



February 2021 Newsletter

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MPI Michigan New Members

Sarah Hurd Edinger
Eric Leister
Nina Payne

Conversations with Members



Becky Francoeur, CTA, CMP
Events Project Manager
[Michigan Realtors®](#)

Q: Why did you decide to join the MPI MI board for the coming year?

Dream without fear, love without limits

Member Spotlight -

Eric Leister



After leaving High School, Eric joined a music education Nonprofit called the Young Americans. In his time spent there, he learned quickly that if he did not adapt to continually changing circumstances, he would never accomplish his goals. Luckily this proved to be a vital attribute that led him to participate in five three-month-long tours spanning twelve countries.

After leaving the Young Americans in 2011, Eric found himself working up the ladder at Boyne Highlands as the Director of Guest Services. In this role, Eric found himself studying closely with the Resorts Event Planners and Convention Staff. Eric left Boyne in 2016 to become the Executive Director of the Home Builders Association of Northern Michigan. Here, Eric used those adaption skills to manage trade shows and the HBANM's first Parade of Homes in 10 years.

Eric is now happily working for the Great Lakes Center for the Arts as their Property Sales Manager and Box Office Manager. In a way, this is full circle for him. The arts capture the very essence of human nature, and helping

Over the last few years I have had the privilege of being an engaged member. My experience has been so rewarding and I strongly encourage others to become engaged as well. The connections I have made and the relationships built by being involved with this organization are something I truly cherish. Now the time seems right to dive in even further. I am excited to be on the board to give more back to my fellow members. I am excited to strengthen myself both personally and professionally and support others doing the same. Last year was a challenging time for us all. I look forward to helping navigate our "new normal" and seeing our industry thrive once again.

Ask a CMP!



Elizabeth Pike, CMP

MI Chapter Administrator - Meeting Professionals International

[Treeline Associates](#) Senior Consultant

Association & Event Services

Question: Why did you choose to pursue your CMP?

I decided to pursue my CMP to help me grow both professionally and personally. Obtaining my CMP had been on a goals list of mine for quite some time and I was so excited to do this in 2020. Prepping for the exam and learning in detail even more about event planning has helped me to become more well-rounded and a better meeting planner.

Working for Treeline Associates I work with a variety of different associations, including an International Association. With the CMP being recognized worldwide, I knew this would help my clients feel assured that they are receiving the best possible meeting planning available to them.

I look forward to continuing education and collaborating with other CMPs on how to move forward with the events industry as we navigate the unprecedented time we are in now. I feel like gaining my CMP has given me a wealth of new knowledge, networks, and opportunities to learn.

Check out MPI Michigan February

By Lauren Schaal, CMP



others host events keeps that spark going.

Eric R. Leister

Box Office Manager/Property Sales Manager

[GREAT LAKES CENTER FOR THE ARTS](#)



What you Need to Know...

Think Like A Startup

Join your peers from around the world in an experience that will have you laughing, learning and looking for more!

MPI's TalkFEST is a brand new way to connect with others, engage in meaningful conversations with like-minded peers, and strengthen your networks based on meaningful discussions.

This **FREE** digital event starts with an inspirational keynote "Innovate or Die Trying" with Bombshell founder, Pablos Holman. Then, we'll hop off to the Braindate platform, for a day and a half of curated, 1:1 and group conversations that you can either create or join! You'll walk away with new friendships and new ideas. mpi.org/talkfest



Just around the Corner...



Thursday, February 18th



AGENDA

9:30 AM - Exhibit booths, Virtual Silent Auction

10:00-10:30 AM -Speed Networking

10:30 AM - Keynote Speaker -Jan Spence- **Dare to Be Different! 3 Keys for Goal-setting Success**



MPI MI Chapter - 2021/2022 Board Slate

OFFICERS:

President: Karalee McKinstry, CGMP, CTA, GMS
President-Elect: Debbie Hughes, CMP
Immediate Past President: Julie Oatman, CMP
VP Communication: Sharon Ricketts, CMM
VP Education: Terra Damchuk
VP Membership: Brie Kear
VP Finance: Jenn Morden, CMP, CTA
VP Leadership Development & Exploration: Nick Stratton

DIRECTORS:

Director of Social Media: Becky Francoeur, CMP, CTA
Director of Monthly Programs: Jennifer Moeckel, CMP
Director of Strategic Memberships: Stacy Yerby, CMP
Director of Member Care: Andrea Starmer, CMP
Director of Regional Conference: Lindsay Kirching, CMP
Director of Fundraising & Special Events: Ashley Smith

Questions? info@mpimichapter.org

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

Follow us on social media:



12:00 PM - Break, Virtual Silent Auction

12:30-1:15 PM - Dave Lorenz-Industry update

1:15-1:30 PM - Final Bids for Virtual Silent Auction

2:00 PM - Event Concludes

**Dare to Be Different! 3 Keys for Goal-Setting Success -
Jan Spence**



**SPEAKER BIO - DAVID LORENZ Vice President of
Travel Michigan with an Industry update**



Silent Auction

BID NOW

- Bidding opens on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.
- The auction will close Saturday, Feb. 20th
- The link for the event is: MPIMI2021.givesmart.com
- The bidding starts at \$50 for each item