The Mt. Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (MPACVB) provides professional guidance and services to make your next meeting, one for the books!
**MPI Michigan Membership!**

Mark your Calendars

Membership 101 is scheduled for September 21st at 10:00 AM. Invites will be sent out to new members!

**Ask a CMP!**

This month we spoke with MPI MI member, Kathy Morin, CMP, CGMP, GMS, Group Sales Manager Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau

**Question:** As a new CMP, what steps did you take to study, and what is different about the exam process now?

**Answer:** My kickoff to studying for the CMP was our MPI Boot Camp, held after the MPI Great Lakes Education Summit in Traverse City in November 2019. I had submitted my application in March 2020, and with being temporarily furloughed, I had plenty of time to study. I had scheduled a May exam but then received notice that it was going to be postponed until the next testing window of August. Also with the change was the option to have the exam proctored online, and also the ability to take the exam anytime throughout the year, not just the four months (January, May, August, or November) that it normally has been available. I found the full

**Member Spotlight - Nick Stratton**

Sales Manager Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites (Greenleaf Hospitality Group)

Nick is currently the Sales Manager at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, MI. He has been with the Radisson since June 2017. Prior to being a Sales Manager, Nick was a State contracted planner for the Community Mental Health Association of MI. At the same time, he handled working as an on-call firefighter and emergency medical technician for a private Ambulance company.

Born and raised in Flint, MI but recently moved to Kalamazoo after accepting his current position. He enjoys being on the other side of the industry, the challenges, and still creating memorable moments within his position all while helping the groups he brings into the hotel. He was always told that he could sell ketchup to a woman with white gloves! Nick definitely enjoys keeping his plate full and remaining busy. He typically is called the jack of all trades, but he manages his time well to be able to enjoy time with his two four-legged children (Scooby - German Shepherd & Mustasia - magpie cat) and his wife Beth. From playing video games to enjoying time with his friends, water sports, or road trips. If he's not doing one of those, you'll find him being your VP of Leadership & Development to continue a strong MPI!

**What you Need to Know...**

[VOTE NOW!](#)
version of the Pocket Prep app helpful for practicing questions (especially on my desktop; I had it as a startup tab so it was always easily accessible) and also Joanne Dennison, MSEd, CMP has a series of free YouTube videos that were also great information.

The exam itself was admittedly a bit nerve-wracking, but also the online proctoring security checks are taken quite seriously to reduce any chance of dishonesty. It was close to 30 minutes to test my system and complete all the security protocols before I even started my exam. The Events Industry Council (EIC) has updated guidelines on their website about the online proctoring process, but there were a few unexpected issues (one was that you can’t use lined paper, only plain white copy paper) that aren’t noted anywhere and can cause an anxious candidate a little more stress! But I can breathe a bit more now, and I’d be happy to answer any questions any future CMP’s may have about the process.

Kathy Morin, CMP, CGMP, GMS
Group Sales Manager – Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau
kmorin@cadillacmichigan.com

Conversations with Members

SHERYL KORN
Meeting Planner, Amway North America
Special Events

When I became a meeting planner 20+ years ago, I never dreamed a day would come when everything I knew and counted on and planned for would be turned upside down overnight. I left the office on a Thursday afternoon in March 2020 with instructions to work from home on Friday and stay tuned for further instructions on Sunday about whether to return to the office the following Monday, or not. That was over 5 months ago and I’m still working remotely.

2019 - 2020 Nominations
Don’t delay in recognizing a fellow member. The deadline to submit nominations for each category are:

Rising Star nominations deadline is October 5
Exceptional Service deadline is November 2

Winners will be recognized at our chapter events throughout this fall.

To learn more about the awards visit the Nomination page add hyperlink (https://www.mpi.org/chapters/michigan/education-events/celebration1-nominations)

The MPI MI Mentorship Committee understands how difficult the past six months have been for the hospitality industry. While the Mentorship Committee typically only serves a small group of people, we realize the need for career and life coaching has reached an all-time high during this pandemic. As such, we’re thinking outside the box to reach a larger MPI MI audience.

We would like to gauge interest in a six-week Life Coaching Program. This will be a condensed version of the Mentorship Program with more specific areas of assistance, such as Career Assistance and Time Management / Productivity. If you can please take a couple of minutes to complete the survey HERE it will help the Mentorship Committee bring this program to life. Any questions can be directed to the Mentorship Committee Chair, Sarah Dysinger, at sarah.dysinger@gmail.com.
I’ve had to learn to use new technologies and new terminology, explore new ways to help people feel recognized and rewarded for their accomplishments in a virtual world, negotiate new contract terms, and exercise my ability to be flexible and change plans at a moment’s notice. I’m grateful for the support and education that MMPI and other organizations have been providing to help with this journey we’re all on. I’m eagerly looking forward to the day when we will be able to travel and meet in person again but until then, I’m just taking one day at a time and making the best of each moment. Until we meet again…

**2020/2021 Sponsorship Catalog**

Support the MPI MI Chapter! A variety of opportunities exist for your company to gain valuable exposure in Michigan’s meetings industry. With the generous support of our partners, MPI MI Chapter hosts numerous educational and networking events each year. These events not only provide valuable education to our members, but give you the opportunity to gain an audience with our membership to showcase your property, city, or company. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Get Engaged with MPI Michigan chapter**

Contribute your talents, experience, knowledge, and creativity to your chapter by serving on one of the 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 an 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: nstratton@ghgkz.com

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**NOT TO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR TOMORROW SEPTEMBER VIRTUAL EDUCATION**

**September 9, 2020**

Hump Day Happy Hour w/ Shawna Suckow
3 PM - 5 PM
Virtual Sponsorships available [CLICK HERE](#)

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**HELP NEEDED!**

The MPI MI Chapter has chosen Hunter Hospitality House in Port Huron for our September Signature Series charitable organization. The mission of Hunter Hospitality House is to provide a complimentary home away from home, steps away from the hospital, for those in need of restoration while either comforting a sick loved one or receiving treatment themselves.

Please consider a monetary donation or select an item or two from the list below and have it sent via Amazon to Hunter Hospitality House.

Address to send items to:

**Hunter Hospitality House**
1010 Lincoln Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060

Wish/Needs List:

- Grocery Gift Cards (Meijer and Kroger Preferred)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox Wipes
- Automatic Dishwashing Detergent
- Pledge Furniture Polish
- Non-perishables - Baking mixes, Canned pasta, Grab & Go bags (granola bars, juice boxes, cheese/cracker packs, fruit snacks, snack cakes, etc.), Single-serving cereals,
Check our [website](#) often for the latest news, information, and great conversations on any industry topic under the sun.

Microwave popcorn, Single-serving snacks (cheese/cracker packs, chips, candy), Boxed noodles, rice, potato mixes, Chunky-type soups, Canned fruit, Non-dairy coffee creamer

- Room Freshener Spray
- Bottled Water

**Questions?** info@mpimichapter.org

**Website:** [https://www.mpiweb.org/michigan](https://www.mpiweb.org/michigan)

**Follow us on social media:**

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**Meet Mt. Pleasant**

[meetmtp.com](http://meetmtp.com)