

5-4-3-2-1-Go!

By Neil Adams, Bright Event Rentals
MPINCC WEC 2018 Scholarship Winner

As a grateful and humble recipient of MPINCC's scholarship to WEC2018, it's my pleasure to report on my first-time experience at this conference, which was held in Indianapolis.

From what I was told by veterans of this conference, the layout this year was much different than in years past. An overall village was created, which was separated into four different types of experiences: An Innovation Village; a Leadership Village; an Experiential Village and a Social Village. It was within these sub-villages that most of the educational sessions were held, along with a smattering of exhibitors and activation stations. You got in your steps, as the layout was vast.

Coming into my second year chairing the MPINCC Annual Conference & Expo (ACE), I wanted to take away as many ideas as possible, to apply to our biggest chapter experience. I appreciated that WEC wanted to shake things up and take a chance on stepping away from the traditional way of doing things, which is something I hope we can bring to ACE this coming year. More to come on that front.

Comedienne Dena Blizzard returned as emcee for the morning and closing daily sessions, dubbed "pep rallies." I thought she was good, and she had the crowd laughing. Her presence was a great way to tie the entire experience together, providing a feeling of familiarity, as well as humor to the conference. She engaged with many audience members, bringing some onstage with her, which provided those attendees some fun stories they'll be able to tell for years.

There were a couple of speakers I thought were great presenters and had good content, that I hope we can bring to ACE this coming year. More to come on that front, as well. In addition, Michael Cerbelli presented his "Hot List," which is always a great show. Mel Robbins was also there, who told us about her Five Second Rule, which changed her life and has helped thousands of others to do the same.

Thanks to the Group Me App, I knew where to meet up with everyone from our chapter for all of the social events. Visit Indy did it up right, by creating fantastic experiences that immersed us in the many things for which Indiana is known. I'm not a sports guy, but I had a blast having lunch on the Colts' football field, making friends with Boomer, the Pacers' mascot, and taking a few laps around the track of the Indy 500. The latter was a particular highlight and was a great way to close out WEC.

Your VP, Director and Chair of ACE spent a lot of the conference huddling on what we would like to do for next year's Annual Conference and Expo. Thanks to the global MPI community and to the organizers of WEC, we've come back with some great ideas, and our hope is to be

able to execute as many of them as possible. One way or another, we'll bring the global experience back to NCC.