



MPISN CONNECTS

Fall 2024

In this Issue,

Message from the President.....2

Swinging Soirée Recap.....3

Member Spotlight Planner.....4

Member Spotlight Planner6

Member Spotlight Supplier.....7

Moments from the Ton.....8

Chapter Awards.....9

Crab Feed Date.....10

Thank you to Volunteers.....11

Thank you to Key Sponsors.....12

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



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Happy Fall Y'all! Glad to finally get some cooler weather. Lauren Goff, your MPI Sacramento Sierra Nevada President here with my final membership address. That's right, my term will come to an end here soon as we prepare to install our new incoming board at the Gala in November, but more on that in a bit.

How fun was the MPISSN Swinging Soiree Golf Tournament? Whether you came out to swing the clubs with new friends, or learn more about wine in our region, it was a day of perfect weather and so much fun! Special thanks to Lauren Pontier and Maria Dempsey who led the very memorable event and I can't forget our sponsors who we couldn't have done it without. Please consider locking in your sponsorship for next year in now!

Thank you to those who took a few minutes out of their day to fill out our chapter satisfaction survey. This is a very important metric in order to gather more intel on how we can improve the chapter to better service our members. We had a 30% response rate which was our highest in the last 4 years, but the overall satisfaction of our chapter fell below our last 4 years scores. This then leads into my next ask from the chapter. Did you know that we are run by all volunteers? MPI's vision is to "lead and empower an inclusive meeting and event community to change the world". The mission is to "connect the global meeting and event community to learn, innovate, collaborate, and advocate". We can't achieve those goals without volunteers like you! Ask yourself, how can I maximize my membership? What skills can I level up in the new year? And how can MPI play a role? Remember: You get out of the chapter what you put into it. So now is the time to raise your hand and see how you can help. Please reach out to our Incoming Presidents either Marques Davison or Christina Bauders or even our Chapter Admin Beth Bettencourt to let them know you are interested in getting involved. We can match you to a volunteer job that will help you grow, but also in a timeframe that works with your schedule.

GOLF TOURNAMENT & WINE TASTING

What an incredible day on the links recently at the MPISSN's Swinging Soiree: 9-Hole Golf Tournament & Wine Tasting 🏌️. A massive shoutout to our fantastic sponsors for making this event a huge success: Visit Los Angeles, Visit Sacramento, Visit Pasadena, Visit Walnut Creek, North Lake Tahoe, Marriott Long Beach Downtown, Visit Placer, Visit Amador, Nugget Casino Resort, and our Title Sponsor Monterey Meetings.

We had a successful Wine Tasting and Seminar with Maria Dempsey, Sommelier, Wine Aficionado and Speaker, who conducted the Seminar and Education and Amador Vintners AVA and Amador Vintners for hosting the wine for the session. Thank you to Visit Amador and See Monterey for the amazing wines they donated for the Reception. Big thank you to Lauren Pontier and Maria Dempsey for chairing the event along with committee members Danielle Fayette and Angela Cava.

Gold sponsors included IHG Hotels, Visit San Diego, Visit Palm Springs, Meet in Long Beach, The San Francisco Peninsula, Grand Hyatt San Francisco, Hyatt Regency Sacramento, Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa, Hyatt Regency San Francisco.

The energy was amazing, and the competition fierce, but the real winners were the connections and fun we all shared. Thanks to SPN Photography/Videography for capturing every moment so perfectly. 📸 Be sure to check out the [full gallery](#) to relive all the memories from this spectacular day!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KELLIE SCHROEDER

Moulding & Millwork Producers Association

How long have you worked in the hospitality and meetings industry, and what led you to choose it as your career? I did not choose the hospitality and meetings industry; I fell into it by answering a job advertisement and securing a position within the Moulding & Millwork Producers Association (MMPA) in 1995. I laugh to myself every time I think about how I came into this industry as I know it was meant to be. I have only worked for three employers in my life, and MMPA is the third. Most people have worked for three companies before leaving university. I came into the association world at the start of my professional career and proceeded to work as finance director, marketing director, programs and eventually accepting the position to oversee the organization. What hooked me to stay in the association world was the diversity of work and everchanging task environment. The hospitality and meetings component provided the social networking and creativity relief to days of policy and governance work—it balanced my world.

What is your advice to aspiring young professionals?

Learning must be continuous no matter what level of success you reach. Maintain memberships in organizations to hone your skills and education. Expanding your reach in all areas in which your current position may make impact will always be noticed and will advance your career. Aspiring to set/meet challenging goals, obtain work/life balance, maintaining your mental health and being a good human being will aid in your career journey. Networking opportunities are a gift not to be overlooked. Things go wrong, and your network will be there to support you.

How did you start your involvement with MPI, and how long have you been a member? I realized meetings and hospitality were a key component to our association programs. When I advanced to a level within my association where I was going to directly oversee certain aspects of our programming, I joined MPISSN on June 27, 2002. I immediately enrolled in the CMP study group, and I took the CMP exam in late fall that year. I have maintained my CMP designation since January 1, 2003.

What value have you seen in your MPI membership?

Networking and education are the two main reasons for me to maintain my membership. But I have to say the ability to volunteer to work on committees with other meeting and hospitality professionals for our Chapter's events adds to my overall enjoyment of my member experience. As a member, I am alerted to industry hot topics and know I may call anyone in my MPISSN network if I have a question regarding events, room blocks, contracts, etc. which is invaluable to me. (Continued on next page)



(continued from page 1) What a magnificent time this mermaid had at the Ton Gala! You all looked so gorgeous, and those dance moves.... DIVINE! Thank you to our event sponsors and attendees who made this event shine!



So as we wrap up this term, I want to welcome new members Angela Cava and Carina West to the Board of Directors. As always, thank you all for your membership and support of the meetings and events industry. It really is incredible how we have all bounced back from the pandemic and are now as busy as ever! As I transition to Immediate Past President, I look forward to handing the reigns over to Marques and Christina, but being there to guide them to success!

All my best,



(continued from page 4) **Where do you live?** I reside in Woodland just north of the Sacramento airport with my husband, Todd. Woodland is a wonderful small community with a big heart. Just give us a reason to shut down Main Street to throw an event and we will!

Do you have any pets? We have two dogs which rule our home and my heart. Weighing in at 8 pounds is Gracie Ann Marie, who is a Portuguese Podengo Pequeno with ears that stick straight up even when she sleeps. Daisy Mae is our tiny Morkie weighing in at 4 pounds. Our pups are spoiled rotten as all pets should be.

What's the most memorable place you've traveled to or wish to visit? This is a hard question. As my association is international, I have had the opportunity to travel to six continents with my job. In the Far East, I routinely visit Korea, Taiwan, Japan, China, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore. In Oceania, I visit Australia and New Zealand. In the Americas, it is USA, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Chile, and Brazil. In Europe, my regular travels include Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and we also branch into the United Kingdom. For the Middle East, we work in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Couple that with personal travel throughout my life, and I have a large travel footprint. Every location I have traveled to has been memorable—from the haunted abbey in England to taking a gondola ride in Venice to visiting Barcelona's Parc Guell to see Gaudi's creations. So, I will say a place I wish to visit is Split, Croatia, for its beautiful beaches and UNESCO sites.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DANIELLE FAYETTE

CA Peace Officers' Association
(CPOA)

How long have you worked in the hospitality and meetings industry, and what led you to choose it as your career? I started my career in the Association world assisting with planning events in 2012 after being a stay-at-home mom for 11 years. Before having kids, I worked at Hewlett Packard and feel as though that's really where it started. I was planning so many meetings, offsites, and celebratory events. I have always loved 'planning'. Once I learned about the whole meeting planning world I was hooked!

What is your advice to aspiring young professionals? I would say don't be afraid to ask questions. Find a few people who could mentor you. Network, network, network. Volunteer. Get involved!

How did you start your involvement with MPI, and how long have you been a member? I've known about MPI for a while, and now my current position has allowed me the time and support to be involved with the organization. I am beginning my second year as a member.

What value have you seen in your MPI membership? I have really enjoyed being involved with MPI. I have made numerous connections and even reconnected with many people along the way. It's so nice to have a group to collaborate with, ask questions when I need help, and have fun!

Where do you live? Carmichael, CA. I have lived in the same area since 1990!

Do you have any pets? I do not have any pets currently; however, I have been dog sitting a very sweet German Shepherd for nearly 5 years... Oh! and I have a 100lb grand dog..lol

What's the most memorable place you've traveled to or wish to visit? I haven't had much time to travel due to raising kids but now that they are grown, I am looking forward to doing so!! One place I have always wanted to go is Fiji. I would like to go to the Florida Keys though! I was born in Key West but didn't live there long as my dad was in the Navy and moved a lot.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JESSE HERNANDEZ

Clear Graphics and Printing

How long have you worked in the hospitality and meetings industry, and what led you to choose it as your career?

I recently got involved this past year in becoming a vendor member. I chose to join because I've been serving various Chamber of Commerce and Trade Association clients / event planners already with their conference printing needs.

What is your advice to aspiring young professionals?

Get involved as much as your time permits. Don't feel intimidated or afraid to ask questions and seek internship opportunities.

How did you start your involvement with MPI, and how long have you been a member?

I got started by networking and getting to know other members that we both had mutual clients. I've been a member for almost 1 year.

What value have you seen in your MPI membership?

Getting to meet new and potential client's that I don't normally have the accessibility to meet through MPI.

Where do you live?

I currently live in Orangevale. But I work & was born & raised in Sacramento.

Do you have any pets?

No pets at this time.

What's the most memorable place you've traveled to or wish to visit?

I've been to Aruba and several of the surrounding islands. It was really beautiful seeing the views from the cruise ship! I hope to visit New York soon!



MOMENTS FROM THE TON

On Thursday, November 7th, those with a golden ticket stepped into a world of elegance and charm as we presented the MPISSN **Talk of the Ton: a Regency Era Gala Ball**. This spectacular event transported guests to a bygone era, filled with the splendor and grace reminiscent of the Regency period. Attendees embraced the spirit of the evening by donning exquisite period costumes, bringing the world of Bridgeton to life.

The gala featured delightful entertainment, including a captivating rendition of the famous Bridgeton dance that swept attendees off their feet. It was a night of recognition and celebration, where prestigious awards were presented to honor outstanding achievements within the community.

Adding to the excitement, the evening concluded with the installation of the new board of directors, setting the stage for a promising future for MPISSN. The Talk of the Ton was more than just a gala; it was an enchanting evening of connection, celebration, and timeless elegance.

[See full gallery of photos here](#)



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