



CONNECTS

Back by Popular Demand: 2nd Annual Speaker Showcase

September 20th, 2011

Laughs Unlimited

1207 Front Street – Old Sacramento

It's not too late to register!

Offering an exciting line-up, a fun, casual venue and a happy hour time slot - the 2011 Speaker Showcase is shaping up to be every bit as successful as its predecessor.

In these times of ever-shrinking budgets, finding a speaker who doesn't have to be flown from across the country can save planners significant money. The MPI Speaker Showcase is the perfect place to preview speakers located right here in the Golden State.

The line-up is full of promise with topics including, "Tech Tools for Meeting Planners: Cheap Is Good – Free Is Better", "The Standard of Everyday Greatness", and "Power in the People: The Benefits and Challenges of Diversity". The speakers include some familiar names like Jack Gallagher and Beth Ziesenis, as well as some great new finds, Tim Vincent, Antarctic Mike, Kevin Bracy, Ryan Shortill, Peter Khoury, and our MC, Mark G, the corporate comedian. Experience each of the 8 speakers as they give a 10-minute "sample" of their respective presentations - prepare to be entertained as well as informed.

The education committee is excited to present a slightly different format for this event as the location and event both lend themselves to post-work festivities. Laughs Unlimited, in Old Sacramento, has a laid back atmo-

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Worth Your Time

September 20: *2nd Annual Speaker Showcase*

October 25: *Fall Fest Galaween
2011-2012 CLOTY
Awards, Rising Star,
Crystal Platter*

November 15: *Workshop Education
Luncheon, Longevity
Awards*

December 7: *CalSAE Seasonal
Spectacular*

UP TO DATE EVENT
DETAILS ONLINE AT
WWW.MPISSN.ORG



SACRAMENTO/ SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

Meeting Professionals International Sacramento/Sierra Nevada Chapter shapes and defines the meeting and event industry in the greater Sacramento/Sierra Nevada region.

CONNECTS

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Next Editorial and

Advertising Deadline:

Winter 2011 – Oct 21, 2011

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Lauryl Hernandez, CMP

Hyatt Place

Sacramento/Roseville

President's Message

Thank you for your investment and membership in our local MPI chapter! Our vision is to be the top resource for education, mentorship and networking for meeting industry professionals in the Sacramento Sierra Nevada region. We are 230 members strong and continually growing.

The best thing you can do for yourself and your career is to become active in the chapter. This will increase your ROI on your investment in membership. Attend the monthly events for valuable education, the special events for networking or commit to your professional development by earning your CMP certificate. Did you know, with exception of our incredibly dedicated Chapter Administrator, Cindy Miglino, our entire chapter is run by volunteers?

Whether you've been a member for a long time or have a recently joined the chapter, I encourage and invite you to get involved this year! We all lead busy lives and I empathize with those balancing busy families with even busier careers. This is why you owe it to yourself to get involved even if you only have an hour a month? No task is too small! Can you make 5 phone calls once a month or sell raffle tickets at one of the monthly events? Or, would like to get more experience coordinating and planning events? I guarantee we have a job for you. We have five areas of volunteer opportunities: Communications, Special Events, Finance, Membership and Education. The strength of the chapter lies in our members and the variety of skills everyone brings to the table. Please consider sharing your skills by volunteering for one of the committees. I also encourage you to use the website for chapter communication and calendar of events at www.mpissn.org.

I hope the connections and friends you make this year in MPI will become Life long "Ties that Bind!" It's going to be a great year and I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Please remember to buy MPI and support the suppliers that sponsor our many events.

All the best,

Lauryl Hernandez, CMP, Hyatt Place Sacramento/Roseville
MPI Sacramento/Sierra Nevada Chapter President, 2011-12

MPI Student Experience

By Amanda Anderson, Student Member

"I am here. I've made it. This is just the beginning." As I stride across the streets of Sacramento with my manager at my brand new job, all these thoughts flash into my head at once. I'm wearing a suit, heels, and I'm about to have cocktails and dinner with other professionals in my industry. I am networking, learning, and growing in my field of choice.

I think about how I got here and flash back to a time when graduation was still three years out, and my closest thing to professional contacts were my teachers. The one I was listening to that day was talking about what we needed to do if we wanted to be successful right out of college. "Join an Association. I don't care which one, there are many. Just join one. Make contacts. Network" he said. After writing down the long list he gave us, he excused us for the day. After doing research on each group he had mentioned, I chose to sign up for MPI, Meeting Professionals International. They had a chapter in Sacramento, as well as chapters nationally and internationally. They also had a career site online to search for jobs and a monthly magazine. This magazine contained articles on the happenings in the profession I wanted to enter. The final thing to convince me to join, was the fact that it only cost, get ready now, \$40.00 for a whole year membership. That type of student price and discount told me that these people were interested in getting to know students like me.

I was so nervous for the first luncheon that I attended. It was at a beautiful hotel in Sacramento and the topic was 'Green Meetings'. I went to a "new member's orientation" where I met all the other new people, none of whom were students, and the higher ups in the MPI Organization. Afterward, I nervously pinned on my name tag to my 'business attire', plastered a smile on my face, and marched into the ballroom. I went from group to group, introducing myself and handing out my business cards. "What company are you with?" people would ask. "I'm not." I'd respond, "I'm a student at CSU Chico. I'm going into hotels and events." The response was friendly and interested; many stated that they wished they had started networking when they were my age. I sat at a table with a senior manager at a Marriott in Rancho Cordova and got at least 16 business cards by the end of the event.

Over the next two years it was hard to attend the meetings because I had so many classes, but the membership contact book, the monthly "One" magazine, and the online job data base made the \$40.00 a year more than worth it. Finally, I graduated and started to apply for jobs. The one I wanted more than any of the others was a Sales Administrative Assistant position in the Sales Department at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. In one of my interviews I mentioned that I had been a member of MPI since 2009. The manager exclaimed that was perfect because she had just volunteered to head up the student membership committee.

Flash to the present, I'm with that manager in a swank restaurant enjoying a glass of wine and networking at a great MPI Fete. She's talking about contacting schools in the Sacramento Chapter area and writing articles for the newsletter. "I already volunteered you to help Amanda, is that ok?" Yes. Yes it is.

MPI is an amazing organization, and the benefits they give to students trying to break into the industry are phenomenal. They have started a mentor program that will match students with a professional who best fits their professional development needs. They provide new member orientations and they have member contact information, a magazine that each member receives, and even a job site that members can search for employment opportunities with.

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SACRAMENTO/ SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER MPI

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

LEADERSHIP

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MPI Student Experience

continued from page 3

If you are a student, or just a professional looking to meet more people in the industry, join this association. It is an inexpensive and an extraordinarily helpful learning experience and networking opportunity. I for one am thrilled that I didn't wait to start my experience with MPI. Joining this chapter will help you gain connections, internships, and careers.

Begin your career by going to <http://www.mpiweb.org/> and the Sacramento Chapter at <http://www.mpissn.org/>. Someday you'll be able to stop and think, "I am here. I've made it. This is just the beginning."



Grow Your Leadership Skill Set

by Joy Florentino, CMP

One way to advance our career is to expand our skill set. We all know that Meeting Professionals possess leadership skills. What evidence can we provide current and potential employers of our ability to lead? Volunteering for leadership within our MPI Chapter provides an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills. Consider a position as a Committee Chair or Board Member. Our chapter provides leadership training and mentorship. In addition to walking away with a growth experience, you can add your leadership position to your resume as evidence of your leadership experience.

If you are interested in exploring leadership options, please contact Joy Florentino, CMP, joy.florentino@marriott.com or 916-307-9916.



Education Luncheon

Marriott Cal Expo - July 19, 2011



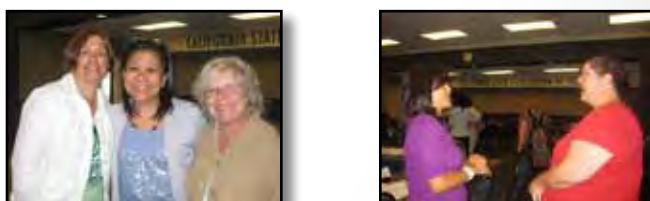
Fete

McCormick & Schmick - August 2, 2011



Tools for Chapter Leaders

CSAC Building - August 2, 2011



LEADERSHIP

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Vacant

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Business Card Ads

If you are looking for a lower cost way to Advertise in the MPI SSN Connects Newsletter; we have the thing for you. For only \$100.00 as a member or \$150.00 as a non member you can advertise your Business Card. What a way to be seen!

**I am MPI.
I Love What We Do.**

Tell Us Your Story.

"THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM NEEDS A WEBSITE CHAIR"

Do you have special skills or talents in Web Design and/or Updating Websites?

If the answer is YES, please consider volunteering for the Communications Team. Contact Lisa Bispham, President Elect or Theresa Stamey, VP of Communications for more information or for other volunteer opportunities.

Let your peers know what you are up to!

Email promotions, new positions,
designations, etc. to:

tferrini@cimh.org

Are You MPI? Do You Love What You Do? We Want to Hear!

MPI's community is full of inspired members whose MPI experience has made a real difference in their personal and professional lives. Meeting and event professionals have a unique calling. We bring people together—all sorts of people. For all kinds of purposes.

Each of you has a story. Now you have the opportunity to share your unique story for the "I am MPI" campaign at www.mpiweb.org/stories. This site was created to celebrate the passions that drive the people in the MPI community.

Share your story now and become part of the MPI mosaic—inspire yourself and others.

For Chapter Meetings & Other Gatherings

I want to share an opportunity for you. MPI has recently launched the "I am MPI. I Love What We Do" campaign. This campaign, which includes a website where member's personal stories are collected and posted, is an opportunity for you to personally give your unique voice to the mosaic of the MPI member community.

Think back to how you got into the industry. What was the catalyst? Your first MPI event. How did you feel afterward? Your first business connection through MPI, which I'm sure you probably still have to this day. These are the kinds of stories that we're collecting.

I hope you will take the time to not only tell your experience but to read those of other members. You never know who you may influence through your story and what you can learn about others. Go to www.mpiweb.org/stories and get started telling your story!

President's Award Recipient

Diane Ramsdell By Joy Florentino, CMP



The President's Award is given by the President to a member who has provided exceptional support to the President in the execution of his/her duties. Dozens of members come to mind when it came time to select a recipient for the President's Award. The task of narrowing it down to one person was daunting, but in the end, there was no question that our 2010-2011 Publications Chair, Diane Ramsdell, stood out amongst the qualified candidates. Diane worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our chapter put out a quality newsletter and member directory. She was the liaison to every committee working with each chair and each board member to promote chapter communications and provide our members with valuable information in a timely manner. Thank you Diane for your support in my role as President, and for your dedication to our chapter.

Longevity Pin Recognition

To be presented on November 15, 2011 and February 21, 2012

20^{years}

Susan Crane, Party Concierge
Diane Donohue, CMP, California Newspaper Publishers Association
Linda Petta, CMP, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Janet Waldie, CMP, Precision Meeting Management

15^{years}

Carol Berry, CMP, ABC Management Services
Deborah Clore-Myers, CMP, California Alliance of Child & Family Services
Edwin Mahoney, Event Ready

10^{years}

Hillary Burton, Visit Newport Beach
Amanda Flangas, John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel Resort & Casino
Audrey Hornberger-Muth, Lions Gate Hotel & Conference Center
Kris Keesling, CMP, CHME, CTP, Embassy Suites Lake Tahoe Hotel & Ski Resort Resort
Patricia Kunz, Lake Natoma Inn
Cindy Miglino, CMP, CAE, Miglino Convention and Association Management
Amy Orr, CMP, ORRganized Events
Pamela Rudd, Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite
Kellie Schroeder, CMP, CAE, Wood Moulding & Millwork Producers Association
Margie Starr, CMP, Sheraton Grand Sacramento
Rhonda Stevenson, California Beer & Beverage Distributors

5^{years}

Karalee Adams, San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau
Sarah Atilano, Embassy Suites San Francisco Airport
Philip D'Amico, Wyndham Rio Mar Beach Resort & Spa
Lauryl Hernandez, CMP, Hyatt Place Sacramento / Roseville
Jannah Johnson, California Primary Care Association
Bridget Johnson, San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau
Amy Lai, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.
John Leinen, Reno Sparks Convention & Visitors Association
Lindsay Olson, Event Architects
Colleen Rainey, California State Firefighters' Assoc
Jennifer Rohde, Pacific Legal Foundation
Sandra Stanphill, CMP, Tenaya Lodge/Yosemite Hotels
Kathie Ward, BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.
Tamara Williams, CMP, Domino Events

sphere (picture rough wooden floors and an old west style bar), so leave those heels and ties in the office! After a lively presentation from the speakers, Laughs Unlimited will offer happy hour drink prices, and Sunshine Catering will treat us to a plethora of tasty hors d'oeuvres while we do a little networking.

This event is open to all to meeting industry professionals. For more information, the complete line up and online registration, go to events at www.mpissn.org.

Early Bird Fees -

Register by September 14th

Member - \$35 Non member - \$45

Regular Fees -

Register after September 14th and On-site

Member - \$50 Non member - \$60

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Speakers

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Hors d'oeuvres, networking and no-host bar (happy hour prices)

8:00 pm - Laughs Unlimited's Best of Open Mic Night (complimentary for showcase attendees)

~Event Preview~



Mark G – The Corporate Comedian – MC

Mark G's comedy style has made him Northern California's favorite performer for corporate events. He has more than 6 years of experience and has performed for a multitude of different companies, universities and charity/benefit events. His quick witted style allows him to personalize each performance and interact with his audience in a positive uplifting manner. Mark G's unique style is a great fit for any meeting or event.



Antarctic Mike - Expedition Ready

Antarctic Mike is a professional speaker, sales trainer and adventure athlete. In Jan 2006, Mike became one of just twelve people to have run a full 26.2-mile marathon on the Antarctic continent, setting an American record in the process; 11 months later he returned to Antarctica to become the first American to complete the Antarctic Ultra Marathon, a grueling 100km footrace. Since then Mike has completed marathons in Siberia, Mount Washington, and the Canadian Arctic. As a professional speaker, his presentations and motivational messages are all grounded in stories from Polar history, including his record setting accomplishments in Antarctica. Through stories from Antarctica, Mike teaches associations, business leaders and sales groups fundamental principles of success and selling.



Beth Ziesenis - Upgrade to Free: Productivity Tools

Beth Ziesenis is an author, speaker and nerd. Since her first Commodore 64 computer, Beth has been fascinated with technology and computer shortcuts that make people's lives easier. She keeps up with all the new online applications and downloads that can help you look like you're working with a team of marketing, computer and productivity experts, even if you suffer from a shrinking staff and a disappearing budget. From her home base in sunny San Diego, California, Beth helps computer users all over the country filter through thousands of apps, gadgets, widgets and doodads to find the perfect free and bargain technology tools for business and personal use.

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Volunteer of the Month

By Lauryl Hernandez, CMP, President

Every month a volunteer is nominated and recognized as "Volunteer of the Month" and will be featured in our MPI publications. As we kick off the New Year, I'm proud to introduce our FIRST Volunteer of the Month recipient, Melissa Leal. Melissa is the Programs & Finance Director for Wood Moulding & Millwork Producers Association. She has served as the Chair of the Public Relations Committee for over one year and jumped right in when the chair position suddenly opened mid-year in 2010.



Melissa Leal
Wood Moulding & Millwork
Producers Association

Melissa was nominated by Theresa Stamey, Vice President of Communications, who had the following to say about Melissa:

"She is one of the most enthusiastic volunteers that I have had the pleasure to work with. She is conscientious about her role in the Chapter's activities, responds quickly and never lets a deadline pass without meeting her commitment. She's shy but underneath that shyness is a diamond that sparkles once she's comfortable."

When asked about her volunteer role with MPI, Melissa opened up with the following reflection, "When I was asked to consider volunteering with MPISSN, I was at a crossroads in my membership and struggled to make MPI a priority. Initially, I was apprehensive, but volunteering gave me the drive to make the most of my membership. The benefits of working within a knowledgeable community of meeting industry professionals gave me a rewarding chance to broaden my skills and sharpen my tools."

MPI is very fortunate to have Melissa Leal serving as Chair of Public Relations! Congratulations,

Melissa and thank you for all you do!

Stay up to date at:

www.mpissn.org

Website Login Instructions

Bookmark www.mpissn.org - check in often

Login/Passwords

For the membership log-in areas, your login is your last name and your password is your MPI membership number given to you from headquarters in Dallas.

Example

Login: Miglino (be sure to capitalize the first letter of your last name),

Password: 222222 (sample membership number - your number may 5-7 digits).

Some of our members have identical last names. If you are one please use this slightly different method.

Example

Login: MiglinoC (be sure to capitalize the first letter of your last name AND your first initial)

Password: 222222 (sample membership number - your number may 5-7 digits).

Become a fan of MPISSN on Facebook!



<http://www.facebook.com/editaccount.php?networks#/pages/Meeting-Professionals-International-MPI-SacramentoSierra-Nevada-Chapter/131549028488>

Directory Changes - New Members

Teresa Hoover, Executive II, Blood Source - Mather
10536 Peter A McCuen Blvd., Mather, CA 95655-41228
Phone: (916) 453-3658 **Email:** teri.hoover@bloodsource.org

Kyle Huddy, Regional Sales Manager, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, 3800 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502
Phone: (775) 824-4469 **Fax:** (775) 824-4469
Email: thuddy@atlantiscasino.com

Mindy R. Klick, Marketing Communication & Events Manager
Carson Valley Visitors Authority
1477 US Hwy 395 N Suite A, Garderville, NV 89410
Phone: (775) 782-8144 **Email:** mindy@carsonvalleynv.org



Kevin Bracy - THE STANDARD of Everyday GREATNESS

Kevin's difficult childhood has given him the fuel and created the work ethic necessary to earn a baseball scholarship and then go on to play professionally for 2 years. He is now an international speaker, author, executive producer and owner of LifeChangers International and KJ Textbooks. After 14 years of delivering kick-off/closing keynotes to various groups, hosting Kevin Bracy School of Motivation and executive producing his live shows nationally and internationally, Kevin feels like he is just getting started and believes the best is yet to come.



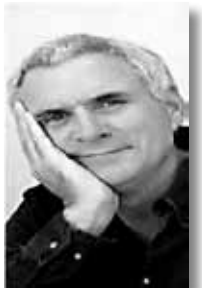
Peter Khoury – Negotiation Power

Peter Khoury is a strategic coach, speaker, and trainer with Ovson Communications. A certified NLP Professional Coach, Peter is a specialist in the fields of communication, conflict management, and negotiations. Peter worked as a pharmaceutical process engineer before starting his coaching and speaking career. His diverse knowledge, business experience, and systems thinking approach allow him to build customized frameworks to advance participants' negotiation skills and power



Tim Vincent – Power in the People: The Benefits and Challenges of Diversity

Tim Vincent is a consultant who has presented at conferences around the country on a variety of topics related to improving services. He has conducted and developed trainings on such topics as stigma, cultural competency, counseling techniques, and diversity. Tim's consulting organization, Equality In Health, allows him to continue his commitment to positively impact health disparities by providing dynamic and relevant training, technical assistance, conference presentations and capacity building to a wide range of organizations and professionals.



Jack Gallagher

For most of his life, Jack Gallagher has been entertaining. First as a kid for his family and then for his friends and teachers at school. Jack started his professional comedy career in Boston during the early 80's. As part of that explosive comedy scene, Jack helped establish such clubs as The Comedy Connection, Stitches and the legendary Ding-Ho Comedy. Gallagher's work on network television includes his own ABC sitcom Bringing Up Jack as well as a recurring role on the HBO Original Series Curb Your Enthusiasm. Jack has written and continues to perform his two critically acclaimed one-man shows "Letters to Declan" and "Just The Guy" in theaters and at corporate events across the country. Jack is sure to be entertaining on any subject he choose to talk about...

Sacramento/Sierra Nevada Chapter of Meeting Professionals International

Announces the 2010-2011 Planner and Supplier of the Year Recipients

July 7, 2011 - Sacramento, CA - The Sacramento/Sierra Nevada Chapter of Meeting Professionals International (MPI-SSN) announces the recipients of the 2010-11 Planner and Supplier of the Year at their Annual Event that was held June 7, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento.

The Planner and Supplier of the Year Awards are given to a planner and a supplier on the basis of career involvement, professionalism, and dedication to furthering the goals of the Chapter, MPI and the meeting planning industry.



Laura DeOrio, CMP
*National Consortium for
Justice Information and
Statistics*

The 2010-11 Planner of the Year Award was presented to Laura DeOrio, CMP. She has been a meeting planner with the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics for over 10 years and a MPI-SSN member since 2000. Her love of learning and teaching has been an important part of her involvement in the Chapter. When asked about her most valuable accomplishment with MPI, she quickly points to the mentor program which is a free resource to any member who needs direction with their career. Laura has served as the chapter's Website Chair, has served as the Member Services Committee Chair and has just recently been installed as the VP of Membership of the Board of Directors for the Chapter. Laura also volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program in Yolo County, serves on the event committee for the Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center's annual fundraising event supporting Sacramento's longest run homeless shelter.



Lynda Sagar
*Sheraton Grand
Sacramento*

The 2010-11 Supplier of the Year Award was presented to Lynda Sagar. She is the longest standing employee, with over 10 years, as Group Sales Manager for the Sheraton Grand Sacramento and has been a member of the Chapter since 2005. As a member, she has served on the Annual Event committee, as chair of the Community Service committee, and recently as Advertising Chair. In this role, she was responsible for generating revenue through Website, newsletter and member directory advertising. Lynda states that the most valuable accomplishment with MPI-SSN has been the relationships she has built with the members. In her spare time, she also volunteers for the Hotel Association Clean Up Day, Walk for Breast Cancer and Loaves and Fishes.

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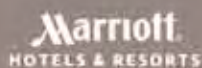
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(who have a combined 50 years of Association experience)
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MPI Supplier of the Year 2006
joy.florentino@marriott.com

Terri Schrader, CMP
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MPI Supplier of the Year 2000
terri.schrader@marriott.com





MPISSN's Inaugural Fall Fest

Don't miss MPISSN's Inaugural Fall Fest and Silent Auction on October 25, 2011!

Keeping up with changing times MPI Sacramento/Sierra Nevada Chapter has moved the Annual Event to the fall! Join us for our Inaugural Fall Fest "Galaween" enjoy networking, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails with colleagues and friends while strolling through the silent auction on the Terrace. Next we progress to the Sequoia Room to finish off the evening with fabulous dessert selections and some prestigious chapter awards. We will be awarding the Crystal Platter, Rising Star and CLOTY (Chapter Leader of the Year) awards. Wait, there's still MORE; we'll have splendid array of wine and beer presented in two separate barrels to be raffled off along with the live auction. Don't miss our first Fall Fest "Galaween".

Show your creative side and dress up for the occasion. Come in costume, a mask, or simply come as you are to enjoy the Galaween!

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Soon to be the new Crown Plaza Hotel in Sacramento (former Holiday Inn Northeast)

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Silent Auction and Networking

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Raffle, Live Auction and Dessert

Don't miss Galaween and all the fun – get your tickets now! Tickets are \$40 a person or \$250 for a pack of 8 tickets (bring potential clients – a great way to impress)! Please visit www.mpissn.org to register online or contact cindy@mpissn.org for more information!

As with any event the Galaween could not take place without the support of our generous sponsors: Thank you to the following:

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