



**ISSUE DATE: MARCH 2020**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hey all you cool cats and kitten,

If you are anything like me, you may have dumped a few hours of your social distancing into Netflix's Tiger King. If you haven't yet, you may have at least seen one of the many MEMES on social media. It is a shocking documentary (or a train wreck that you can't stop watching) about crazy cat people, but nonetheless, it has helped many get their mind off of COVID-19 for at least a moment.

This letter is not just another COVID-19 communication, as MPI and the rest of the world that you have ever given your email address to have already communicated. If you know me well, you know that I have multiple side hustles. However, the CDC is not one, and I am not going to pretend to have any information on this virus and when things might go back to normal. This is a message of hope to an amazing MPI community that is my family.

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## SPONSORS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the current ongoing restrictions with Covid-19 and following recommendations from the CDC and local government requests, our April Events have been cancelled. Stayed tuned for some online content.

May events are currently still on the schedule. Please Save The Date and look for updates (coming soon) regarding registration or rescheduling.



## MPI Tampa Bay After 5



May 11, 2020  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Unlock Tampa Bay Visitors Center  
201 N. Franklin Street, #102  
Tampa, FL 33602



## May Education



**May 20, 2020**  
**4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**  
(pending CDC guidelines)

**Epicurean Hotel**  
1207 S. Howard Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33606

1 HR CMP | PLANT BASED  
TRENDS | HEALTHY BOWLS | ECO-  
FRIENDLY PACKAGING | CBD OIL

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

### COFFEE TALK



**Tuesdays**  
10:00 am - 10:30 am  
(except April 14th - GMID Day)



[www.callpms.com](http://www.callpms.com)



## Virtual After 5



**It's 5:00 Somewhere!**  
Thursdays at 4:00 pm

Check your emails for the special members only link for both of these virtual events.



Join us for this very special full-day summit, focused specifically on tools and skills relevant to moving forward during this unique global situation. We will connect with our industry leaders and peers from around the world in a live, 12-hour global broadcast and share learnings that are immediately actionable and relevant.

[Click for  
More Information](#)



EPICUREAN

AWAKEN APPETITES UNKNOWN™



## 2020 Sunshine Education Summit

Looking ahead to a great 2020 SES! Save the date for the MPI Sunshine Education Summit, August 31 - September 2, 2020 at Galylord Palms Resort & Convention Center!

Representing the Tampa Chapter serving on the TONS Committee are Dolly Brown, Director of Chapter Collaboration and Richard Miseyko, Committee Chair, Team Tampa!

Would you like to help promote the event by serving on our social media team? If so, please reach out to Dolly Brown at [dolly@extravaganzaproductions.com](mailto:dolly@extravaganzaproductions.com).

## CONNECTIONS CAMPAIGN



THE  
CONNECTIONS  
CAMPAIGN



Ahoy There, fellow MPITBA Members!

The Connections Campaign has set sail and it's not too late for you to jump on board. This award-winning program is up and running to help quantify and track ROI for being a member of the MPI Tampa Bay Area Chapter.

As we are just passed halfway through the fiscal year, we have recorded over a **Half-a-Million Dollars** with MPI Tampa Bay Area members connecting and doing business with one another.

For the program's continued success all we need is...YOU!

Please take a moment (really less than 2 mins) to click on the link below and fill out a simple form indicating what fellow MPITBA member you have connected with.

It's that simple. Your involvement is what will make this program a success.

And to reward you for your help...Every entry will be submitted for a drawing for prizes throughout the year.

Last drawn "Treasure" was a gift package (valued over \$100) to the Clearwater Marine Museum. So don't miss out on the opportunity to win a prize while supporting your chapter and your own membership.

[Submit a Connection](#)



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



Please contact Brittany Erigo  
[Brittany.N.Erigo@marriott.com](mailto:Brittany.N.Erigo@marriott.com) if you are  
interested in sponsorship or donating.

### Venue Sponsors

- After 5
- After 5 SOS
- Awards Night

## PHOTO GALLERY

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the images from our  
past events.



## MEETINGS ACADEMY



As we continue to face the challenges of an ever-changing situation with the COVID-19 Virus we are doing everything we can to be in accordance with guidelines from the CDC, as well as local government. Our industry is built on our hearts and passion for producing meetings and events and hosting those in-person. Such an event for our chapter is one that takes a year to plan, that being Meetings Academy due to take place on April 28, 2020. Each year we have a tremendous team of leaders and volunteers who work tirelessly to produce an all-day event filled with education, one-on-one meetings and networking to continue the growth of our industry.

This year the Meetings Academy committee comprised of our **VP of Education Jenifer Smith, CMP, Director of Meetings Academy Katie Cauler, CMP, Chair Maria Thornal** and an amazing team of volunteers **Richard Miseyko, Holly Young, JoDee Colonius, Krystal Ferm, Laurie Hill, Beverly Hastings, Kevin Egan, Allyson Kuentz, Stacey Reed-Cash and Nevar Campbell**. Without their dedication and commitment we wouldn't be in the place to offer such an amazing program, as this isn't something done overnight.

Unfortunately we are sad to announce that due to the continued restrictions that are in place, Meetings Academy 2020 will not take place. We can't thank enough everyone who worked on this year's program and your efforts are seen and truly appreciated. We also want to thank our many sponsors (please see below for a list of them all), for their support of this event. We will not be deterred by the current

## JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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## CONTACT US

352 NE 3rd Avenue  
Delray Beach, FL 33444



situation and already starting to work on an equally fantastic program for 2021.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



The RISE Awards recognize community members from across the globe, celebrating the spirit of leadership, impact, and innovation. MPI Tampa Bay is a two time Rise Award Finalist for Innovative Education. The programs up for an award are our Emerging Leaders facilitated by **Tara Liaschenko** and our Planner Appreciation Breakfast facilitated by **Laurie Hill** with Collaborative Labs. The winner of the Rise Award will be announced at WEC in June, where we can Reunite for Recovery.

*Innovative Educational Programming:*  
Recognize an MPI chapter, club, or student club that has created innovative programming which advances the education and professional development of its members.

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**Former MPI Tampa Bay Area Member, and local industry leader, Joe Kramer, passes away.**



"We lost an industry icon to cancer last week. Joe was a fixture in the Tampa Bay community serving as DOS at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay a number of years ago. He was the consummate professional, always quick witted, charming, smart, and knew this business inside and out. We'll miss you Joe!" – Richard Miseyko

MPI Tampa Bay extends our condolences to the family and friends of Joe Kramer.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES/OTHER NEWS**

### **Certificate in Hospitality and Tourism Management – Florida Atlantic University**

The hospitality and tourism industry is critical to the world, national, state, and regional economy. Between 2016 and 2026, the World Travel & Tourism Council predicts that Travel & Tourism will outperform the global economy, growing by an expected 4% on average annually over the next ten years. Florida Atlantic University's Hospitality and Tourism Management Certificate Program provides participants with the essential skills and knowledge necessary for career development in this exciting field.

Free Online Classes

Please note deadline for registrations is April 7, 2020.

[Click for  
More Information](#)





