



HEARTLAND CHAPTER

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

July/2009

Issue: 1



MPI Heartland Chapter Newsletter

Our goal is to provide educational opportunities for professional growth, development and competency for those in the meetings industry through education, communication, recognition and networking.

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Outgoing President Remarks

Where did the 2008-2009 year go! It was a fantastic year for the MPI Heartland Chapter and it was my honor to serve as your President. I have been privileged to have worked with a terrific Board of Directors who is dedicated to the Heartland Chapter. The Board along with all the various committees has made this past year a very successful one. I thank all of them for donating their time, talents and efforts.



I believe that our Chapter membership is invaluable and provides an incalculable return on our investment. I encourage you to attend the POD and Chapter meetings, which provides each of us with countless opportunities to network with our peers and engage in terrific educational sessions.

MPI Headquarters has started a new recruitment program that would benefit many of your colleagues in the hospitality industry. The New Member Referral Rewards Program started June 1, 2009 and is open to all active MPI Members. A new member will be officially credited to the recruiter when new membership has become active by paying for a full membership at the rate of \$375. If you as a MPI

AUGUST 11 Chapter Meeting
Marriott Ak-sar-ben
Omaha, Nebraska

SEPT. POD Dates

Western POD
State Farm Insurance
Lincoln, NE
9/9/2009
2 - 3pm

Central POD
Fort Des Moines
Museum
Des Moines, IA
9/16/2009
11:30-1:30pm

OCTOBER
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member refer a new member to join MPI, you will receive a \$25.00 MPI credit that can be used toward your membership renewal. There is no limit to the number of members you can recruit (if you recruit 13 new member by the time your membership is up for renewal your membership will be paid for). New student or faculty memberships are not eligible for this program - only full paying memberships. For members to receive credit, have the new member put your name or id number in the referred by section on the paper application or on the online process and you will be created for the referral. More detail information is on the MPI website at www.mpiweb.org.

Your new slate of officers for the 2009-2010 is very talented and enthusiastic. They have many terrific events planned for the coming year. Please consider assisting them with your time by joining one of the many committees. You'll be glad you did.

I have enjoyed the opportunity, this past year, to serve as your President and I want to thank our entire membership, it is because of each of you that we have such an amazing chapter.

Education Update

Gina Swackhammer
AGC of Iowa

The next chapter meeting will be held on August 11 at the Courtyard by Marriott Aksarben, in Omaha. The business meeting will begin at 11:00, keynote speaker at 11:15 with lunch at 12:15 meeting will conclude at 1:15.

Our speaker for this event will be Noah Blumenthal. He is the Founder and President of Leading Principles, Inc., an executive coaching and consulting company dedicated to helping individuals, teams and organizations see a fresh perspective in order to make better decisions. As a speaker, coach and consultant, Noah has worked with clients in the Fortune 500 in financial services, advertising, media, pharmaceuticals, professional services, utilities and consumer products and was named by Leadership Excellence Magazine as one of the world's "Top 100 Minds in Personal Development."

Noah will speak on "Be The Hero", discover the power to fly through any obstacle and overcome any challenge. In this entertaining, inspiring, and highly interactive session you will be provided concrete tools and techniques that you can implement immediately



Fall Summit
Iowa Events Center
Des Moines, IA

NOVEMBER 19
Western POD Meeting
Omaha Marriott
Omaha, NE

to overcome challenges and shape your success in work and in life. It's your choice. Wouldn't you like to Be The Hero?

Central Pod September Meeting

"Are You Smarter than an AIB Student?"

Who's smarter? AIB travel and hospitality students or Heartland Chapter members? This will be a lot of fun and educational. (No, you don't have to answer questions in front of everyone.) Please join Rita McClain, Travel and Hospitality Department Chair, from the AIB College of Business as she challenges each group to answer questions related to our industry. With the combined meeting industry experience of our members, this should be a slam dunk, right? Don't be so quick to predict the winner. Rita will bring a few well prepared students so we need all chapter members to attend. Be prepared to have fun, network, help your team and learn something new.

September 16, 2009
11:30 - Noon: Registration
Noon - 12:30: Lunch
12:30 - 12:45: Chapter Business
12:45 - 1:30: Program
1:30: Conclusion

Featured Article by: Pam Woods

Work Smart Tip: Record It In Your Planner



Isn't the workday challenging enough without stressing yourself by forgetting to take care of something important? Well, that's what happens when you make mental notes or write things on scraps of paper. Instead, employ the following technique consistently to track the glut of stuff (appointments, tasks, deadlines, etc.) that you want to recall and accomplish.

In the office: When you receive a document, quick scan it to see if it's pertinent to you. If it is and you need to take an action-record it as an appointment, with yourself, on your planner (either a paper or electronic planner will work). Then tuck any information you want to reference later, into a corresponding file or electronic folder. Treat verbal requests similarly.

Out of the office: When you're away from work and hear/learn

something you want to remember-whip out a note pad and record the key information. Then transfer the information to your planner upon returning to work. A great note taking tool is the "Executive Jotter" made by the Andrew Thompson Co. It's a sleek leather case that holds 3x5 index cards and is rigid enough to write on. The Jotter easily slips into a shirt pocket or purse.

Utilizing this simple methodology for preserving information means you won't miss anything. It also has the benefit of keeping you sane and free of distractions as you won't be keeping mindless details in your head! Thus, you are able to focus on important projects and plans.

Super simple-incredibly effective! Pam N. Woods is co-author of a bestselling book, *Create the Business Breakthrough You Want: Secrets and Strategies from the World's Greatest Mentors*; endorsed by Ken Blanchard and Dr. Stephen Covey. She is a respected authority on personal effectiveness who has mentored hundreds of executives, managers, and professionals over the last three decades. Now, through her business, Smart WorkLife Solutions, she is helping individuals at home and at work to declutter their space, their schedules, and their lives.

Pam's website is a resource with information and services to help a diverse population of individuals organize their office, home, and life. If you want to save time, boost productivity and reduce stress, visit the Smart WorkLife Solutions website today.

Go to www.worklifecoach.com or go to these specific pages:

Free how-to articles and advice -
www.worklifecoach.com/solutions.htm

Organize your office, home, or life -
www.worklifecoach.com/services.htm
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Planner Spotlight!

Written by Michelle DeClerck, CMP, President,
Conference Event Management

Being in this field really BITES sometimes - literally! Could you claim planning the International Snake Bite Symposium as your favorite event? DIANE FROST, CMP, Program Associate within the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center does!



She feels fortunate to have been able to bring in speakers to Omaha from all over the world to discuss poisonous venomous creatures. The highlight of the trip was when they brought in several rattle snakes to observe and took a field trip throughout the state to hunt down rattlers. If that doesn't give Ophidiophobia readers something to get spooked about, thinking about the dinner they hosted at the zoo where they brought in a python to crawl around the room might send some scurrying up their chairs!

Diane's career path to the position she took over nine years ago was built on the foundation of receiving her BS in Family Science from the University of Nebraska. She also was able to develop her organizational skills as the residency coordinator for Surgery at Creighton University. Now at UNMC, among many diversified duties, from training to developing policy, she coordinates an average of 25 continuing medical education activities per year for state, regional, national and international audiences.

"The part of the job that interests me the most is the people interaction and seeing all the details of a program fall into place," commented Diane. "The satisfaction of a program that has come off very successfully is quite fulfilling."

What's ahead for Diane? She will receive her Masters degree next spring through the online program at the University of South Dakota in Educational Administration. She also loves to travel, counting favorite spots of Europe, Jerusalem, the Caribbean, and Hawaii, with Alaska on the wish list. As for downtime, she and her husband love to kayak and fish on the lake they live on, as well as garden.

Supplier Spotlight!

Written by Michelle DeClerck, CMP,
President, Conference Event Management

Not many get to know the event production industry quite like Arren Wetzel, President of Central Lighting and Equipment, Inc (also known as CLE). Arren's father owned a large production company that put on outdoor music festivals and high-scale corporate events and so it was natural for Arren to develop a passion for the industry he grew up in. Arren's passion for event production resulted in CLE's start-up operation from his single car garage in 2001 and has grown leaps and bounds since then as one of Central Iowa's most reputable companies.



As the president of the company, there are many days when Arren holds multiple roles. "My position ranges from handling accounting to

driving a truck across country to set up an event," Wetzel shared.

Due to Wetzel's positive belief in leadership empowerment, he finds his business is not only successful because of his work involvement, but also due to the contributions of his talented team of in-house staff. "I have some of the most knowledgeable employees out there, which allows me to focus my energy on where I am needed the most," commented Wetzel.

With years of industry exposure and experience, Wetzel believes that being a supplier in the production industry is fully based on relationships. "I know people that remember me when I was five years old helping my dad with an event. Once you get the bug for this industry, you never turn back," Wetzel said.

Wetzel has traveled all around the country, and he still finds that his favorite place is at home with his wife and two sons, ages five and 16 months. Great family time consists of playing in the yard, to catching up on some good cartoons.

Newsletter Advertising

Have you considered how you can best get your business name out there to potential clients? Consider advertising in the MPI Heartland Chapter newsletter! The newsletter is sent electronically to Heartland Chapter members and uploaded to the website.

The Heartland Chapter publishes a newsletter five times a year which includes information on upcoming chapter events, updates on the industry, member information, MPI International events, education AND advertising!

The deadline to submit advertising requests is the 15th of the month for the following month. Ads should be submitted electronically in .jpg format. For more information, contact Nichole Brown at NBrown@visitomaha.com or at 402-444-4611

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