

MPI Heartland Chapter Newsletter

A publication by the Heartland Chapter of
Meeting Professionals International

September Issue

September 2008

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Did You Know?

Chapter Mission Statement:

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

President's Corner

Paulette Lester

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It is with pleasure I am writing my first article for the MPI Newsletter. Your MPI Heartland Board of Directors has had a busy summer and we are looking forward to an exiting year. Your 2008-2009 is a team of dedicated and motivated professionals who are committed to leading the Heartland Chapter. Your current Board is: President Elect, Sean Olson -Qwest Center Omaha; VP Education, Michelle Hilsabeck - Des Moines Marriott; VP Finance, Amanda LaPuzza - Starwood Hotels; VP Membership, Jeff Spence - Embassy Suites/Des Moines; VP Communications Nichole Brown - Omaha CVB; VP Administration, Kathy Codner - National Pork Board, Past President, Nancy Herselius - Creative Meetings and Events; Chapter Administrator, Brenda Ram - University of Nebraska Medical Center. POD Leaders: Central POD - Kellie Hanselman - Stoney Creek Inn and Molly Lydon - Iowa Bankers Association; Western POD: Leslie Brandt - Planit Omaha; Maggie Kotlzar - Omaha Marriott and Angie Kistaitis - Mid America Center.

The theme this year at the Chapter Leadership Conference was "Lead Different". The Heartland Board took this to heart and we have implemented a few changes for the coming year. We started with our Board Retreat and have implemented our new monthly Board Conference Call.

Our Focus Group meeting is a new opportunity for Heartland members to meet in small groups with the Board and share your views for the Chapter. We will hold

these meetings periodically throughout the year. This summer one was held in Central Iowa and one in Nebraska, many great ideas were shared. The next set of Focus Group meetings will be held in late September, if you are interested in attending, please feel free to contact any Board Member.

The Education Committee has a terrific slate of new educational topics planned for the year. The sessions will offer many creative, interesting and engaging issues. A list of the upcoming events are located on our website.

The Heartland Fall Summit will be offered November 6, 2008 to further develop your personal and professional career. This new educational summit will be an excellent opportunity to network, learn and grow. Please plan to attend the terrific education sessions scheduled for this year and invite someone you know who would benefit from these great speakers and topics.

The Heartland Group Space is another new project for the chapter. This is an opportunity for you to interact with each other, discuss industry challenges and ask questions of the Board and MPI.

Our Newsletter will have a new design and you will notice articles from various Board Members. They will highlight some of the accomplishments for the chapter and specify involvement opportunities.

These are a few of the changes you will notice in the coming year. We want all MPI Heartland members to know that we appreciate your dedication to the chapter and would welcome your opinions, ideas and involvement. We encourage you to give us your feedback so our chapter may grow and continue to offer you quality experiences.

I would like to thank Nancy Herselius and her Board for their terrific leadership for the 2007-2008 year and for implementing the Succession Plan for the Chapter - which we will continue this year. A few members have ended their terms on the Board and we would like to thank Mary Carson for doing an outstanding job on the Chapter Newsletter and to Pam Peterson for doing a great job as Co-POD Leader for the Central POD - we appreciate their time and efforts in making the Heartland Chapter a success.

I look forward to seeing you at the Chapter and POD meetings.

President Elect's Corner

Sean Olsen

Qwest Center Omaha

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We are officially off and running on the 2008-2009 MPI Season and I am excited to see the direction the Chapter is headed in. We have a number of exciting and new endeavors that will add to the value of a membership.

The first new endeavor is the 2008 MPI Fall Summit to be held on November 6th at the Foxboro Conference Center in Johnston, Iowa. This all day event will feature a number of great educational and networking opportunities. Speakers and Topics will include: Marge Anderson - MPI International Board of Directors presenting

"What MPI is doing and how it can help you". Samuel Erkonen - MPI Platinum National Speaker presenting "Advanced Contract Legal Issues and Negotiation Strategies". An interactive National Discussion Panel that will be discussing "Trends in the Meeting Industry". We have not secured all of the panelists but we are confident that we will have an interesting mixture of national presenters.

You should be hearing from one of the committee members soon to give you more information on this conference. Please put it on your calendar and bring a friend. This is going to be an opportunity that you can not afford to miss. The cost will be very reasonable. Heartland Chapter members from Omaha and Lincoln will also have the opportunity to travel in style to the conference in a limo bus. Please let me know if you have any questions or would need any additional information.

I want to thank the Fall Summit committee members who have been working hard to put this together:

Jennifer Neid - Embassy Suites-LaVista
Abby Johnson - Qwest Center Omaha
Lori Riggs - Leading Star Productions
Brian Tornquist - Park Inn Regency Lodge
Regina Doxey - VIP Limousine
Kim McPheron-Kreitter - PayPal
Michelle Hilsabeck - Des Moines Downtown Marriott

I also want to thank our sponsors for the Fall Summit:

National Pork Board
Embassy Suites-LaVista
Foxboro Conference Center
J&S Audio Visual

Finally, I encourage all of our members to take some time and visit the brand new MPI website. The address has not changed and can be found at www.mpiweb.org. There are many new features and I think that you will like the way that it looks.

While you are on the website, please go to the Heartland Chapter GroupSpace page and sign up to be connected to all members of the Heartland Chapter. Members will be able to post discussion questions, blog about industry activities, attach documents and stay connected with other Chapter members. This also allows members to connect with MPI members from around the world.

To sign up, log in to the MPI website on the home page. Click on the community tab and then scroll down to the groups tab. You can either see a short video on how to use GroupSpace or search for the Heartland Chapter. Once you have located the Heartland Chapter GroupSpace, you can click on it and it will ask you to join. It is as simple as that!

Have a great MPI year and let us know if you need anything.

Sean Olson, CMP
Heartland Chapter President-Elect

Membership Corner

Jeff Spence

Embassy Suites on the River

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This is my first official "corner" message as VP of Membership. I hope you have all had the opportunity to check out the new MPI Website at www.mpiweb.org. I would also encourage you to please log in and create or update your profile inside MY MPI. By doing so you can update your work information and personalize your online MPI experience to fit your needs!

I would like to announce that we have created some new volunteer positions within Membership:

- Maggie Kotlarz and Kate Langmoreland have volunteered to serve as the Chairs of Student Relations.
- Katie Schwint has volunteered to serve as the Chair of Retention.
- Patricia Fortune and Tami Reier have volunteered to serve as the Chairs of New Members.

I wanted to take this time to welcome the newest members to the Heartland Chapter:

- Christine Fairbanks Mutual of Omaha
- Abby Johnson Qwest Center Omaha
- Arren Wetzels Central Lighting & Equipment Inc.

Thank you to everyone in our Chapter that continues to talk about MPI and the benefits of being affiliated with our organization. We are currently at 135 members and are continuing to grow. Keep spreading the word and don't forget about our recruitment incentive campaign that continues this year.

2008/09 Recruitment Incentive:

Remember to recruit a new member (supplier or planner) and receive \$50 cash per person who becomes a member of the MPI Heartland Chapter by June 2009. Please contact Jeff Spence, VP of Membership at 515-559-0084 or at jeff.spence@jqh.com.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting and working with all of you on our campaign.

Cheers,

Jeff

Education Corner

Michelle Hilsabeck

Des Moines Marriott Downtown

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michelle.hilsabeck@marriott.com



If you missed the MPI Heartland Chapter meeting on August 20th at Glen Oaks Country Club, you missed an exciting hour with Mitch Matthews learning how to "Google your Brain™". In his lively presentation, we learned that, just like with online search engines, the better questions you ask yourself, the better answers you'll come up with. The simple act of reframing a situation or a thought can yield incredible results!

Mitch displayed a great desire to understand what those in the Meetings World do and encounter. Based on his desire to help others and engaging delivery style, the MPI Heartland Chapter is working to secure Mitch for another event later in the year. Feel free to read more about Mitch Matthews by Googling him!

The host, Glen Oaks Country Club, provided the Chapter with well appointed meeting space including our audio-visual and served a fantastic lunch. They did a great job and were more than accommodating. To find more information on using their services for an event, call Emily Van Zante at (515) 221-9000.

Our host for the October Chapter meeting will be the Downtown Omaha Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center (1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68102). The event is Tuesday, October 7th. Registration will open at 10:45 with the meeting beginning at 11 with lunch to follow.

Our Platinum speaker will be Michele Wierzgac, MS, CMM, and she'll be presenting her program BUILDING BUSINESS ACUMEN: What The Boss Wants From You™. Please refer to her article for more information.

We are excited to see you there!

Heartland Chapter Meeting-October 7 11am-1:30pm

BUILDING BUSINESS ACUMEN: What The Boss Wants From You™

By Michele C. Wierzgac, MS, CMM

A strong business background assists you in creating possibilities within your organization or opens doors to outside opportunities. Acumen is the depth of your awareness of the business activities going on around you and your ability to help your organization drive business results. Taking a business-focused approach with everything that you propose or execute demonstrates that you are serious not only about meeting management but also about your role in the overall business.

This program will help you to align one's understanding of the current business strategy to drive business results. And build strong business fundamentals by



analyzing the company's performance, trends, competitors and customers.

Please join the chapter at the Downtown Omaha Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center (1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68102).

Directions-

From the East: I-80 West to Hwy 75 North. Take I-480 East to the 14h Street Exit. Continue straight on 14th Street to Dodge Street. Turn right at Dodge Street to 16th Street. Turn right into the DoubleTree Hotel Entrance. The parking garage is on the right-hand side.

From the West: I-80 East through Omaha to I-480 East. Take I-480 East to the 14th Street Exit. Continue straight on 14th Street to Dodge Street. Turn Right on Dodge street and go to 16th Street. Turn right at 16th and you will be at DoubleTree Hotel Entrance. The parking garage is on the right-hand side.

From the North: I-29 to I-480 West to Omaha. Take Exit 3 for 14th Street. Turn left onto 14th Street. Continue straight on 14th Street to Dodge Street. Turn right on Dodge Street to 16th Street. Turn right at 16th and you will be at DoubleTree Hotel Entrance. The parking garage is on the right-hand side.

From the South: I-29 North to I-480 West to Omaha. Take Exit 3 for 14th Street. Turn left onto 14th Street. Continue straight on 14th Street to Dodge Street. Turn right on Dodge Street to 16th Street. Turn right at 16th and you will be at DoubleTree Hotel Entrance. The parking garage is on the right-hand side.

What's the word in the Pod's?

September Central Pod Meeting Overview

Central Pod Leaders

Kellie Hanselman
Stoneycreek Inn
515-559-2008
Kellie.hanselman@stoneycreekinn.com

Molly Lyon
Iowa Bankers Association
515-286-9888
mlydon@iowabanker.com

The September 10th Central Pod Meeting was held at the Des Moines International Airport in Des Moines. Our speaker, Roy Criss presented, Air Service at Des Moines International Airport-Airline/Travel Industry Updates to our members in attendance.

The overall program touched on the travel trends in and out of the Des Moines International Airport and what the future holds for the travel and airline industry. A few points that were discussed:

How the commercial air industry works. The power of the enplanement. What greater ridership has brought to Des Moines. The true cost of going elsewhere and how it is affecting us for business and for personal use. What the immediate future

holds for all travelers.

Thanks to Roy and his staff for hosting us at the airport and offering the tour of their other meeting facilities. Also, a big thanks to Debbie Gunderson from the Renaissance Savery Hotel for being our sponsor and providing the wonderful raffle prize.

September Western Pod Meeting Overview

Western Pod Leaders

Lesley Brandt
PlanIt Omaha
402-516-3624
lesley@planitomaha.com

Maggie Kotlarz, CMP
Omaha Marriott Hotel
402-516-3625
Maggie.kotlarz@Marriott.com

Angie Kistaitis
Mid-America Center
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MPI Western POD Meeting September 10th, 2008 at the Omaha Marriott

There is a serious new problem in the workplace, and it has nothing to do with downsizing, global competition, pointy-haired bosses, stress or greed. Instead, it is the problem of distinct generations - the Veterans, the Baby Boomers, Gen X and Gen Y - working together and often colliding as their paths cross. Individuals with different values, different ideas, different ways of getting things done and different ways of communicating in the workplace have always existed. So, why is this becoming a problem now?

This is the first time in American history that we have had four different generations working side-by-side in the workplace. Remember, if you are old enough, when older workers were the bosses and younger workers did what was asked of them, no questions asked. There were definite rules as to how the boss was treated and how younger workers treated older workers. No longer: Roles today are all over the place and the rules are being rewritten daily.

Les Tighe, Human Resources Consultant with HR Systems, helped us identify, discover & work through generational differences in the workplace. His informative & interactive presentation, The Generations - Do we all see the world in the same way?, was a must experience for anyone in the workplace.

Les showed us how understanding generations differences in core values leads to an understanding of generational differences in workplace characteristics. By understanding both, we can learn to effectively communicate amongst the different generations.

2008-2009 Board of Directors



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DID YOU KNOW?

You can earn CEU's by attending Heartland Chapter Meetings .

If you recently received your CMP designation or are considering applying for it, did you know that you can earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by attending your Heartland Chapter meetings? CEU's convert into validated hours that serve as points toward your CMP and CMM. This information is requested when completing the CMP and CMM applications and for recertification.

Members may keep their own detailed record of MPI meetings they attend and CEU points they earn throughout the year. However, if you prefer, I will keep track of this information for you according to the guidelines set by MPI. POD leaders and the VP of Education have received a copy of the CEU Chapter Guidelines and Criteria set by MPI, and if the meeting program you attend qualifies for CEUs, please complete the CEU Tracking Form (available at your meetings), have your POD leader or Education/Program Chairperson sign off on your attendance and fax the form to me at (515) 280-4140. Please note, however, that forms submitted after 30 days of the completion of the program will not be accepted for credit. At the end of the MPI fiscal year, you will receive a report showing the number of CEU credits you have earned.

Visit the MPI website www.mpiheartland.org for the pdf file to review the requirements for the CMP designation. Feel free to contact me at 515.286.4220 or you can email me at PamPeterson@iowabankers.com if you have any questions.

Focus Groups

Both the Central and Western POD have been conducting Focus Groups over the past couple of months. Thank you to those who provided input. If any members are interested in participating in any future focus groups please contact any board member of the Heartland Chapter. In addition, if you know of any dropped members who would be willing to participate please provide those names as well.

Happy Anniversary!

Supporting MPI For 5 Years!

Tonja Towne Barwick - Helmsbricoe
Lisa Stephens - Carlson Hotels Worldwide
Brenda Ram - University Of Nebraska Medical Center
Cherie Keithley - Valmont Irrigation
Lisa Moore - NSCA



Supporting MPI For 10 Years!

Rhonda Thomas - Bandag, Inc.

Mark Your Calendars

~Upcoming Meetings & Events~



October 7th - - Chapter Meeting (11 am - 1:30 pm)
Building Business Acumen: What the Boss Wants From You
Omaha Doubletree

NOVEMBER 6th - - MPI Fall Summit (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)
Foxboro Conference Center
Johnston, Iowa

JANUARY 14th - - Western POD Meeting (3-5 pm)
Regency Lodge
2009 State of Omaha - Dana Markel

14th - - Central POD Meeting
Location - TBD

MARCH 11th - - Western POD Meeting (3-5 pm)
Qwest Center Omaha/J&S Audiovisual

11th - - Central POD Meeting (3-5pm)
Salisbury House

APRIL 20-21 - - Heartland Chapter Annual Meeting

Holiday Inn Downtown at Mercy Campus
Des Moines, Iowa

MAY 13th - - Western POD Meeting (3-5 pm)
Embassy Suites Conference Center LaVista (tentative)

13th - - Central POD Meeting (3-5 pm)
Jasper Winery

In The Next Issue.....

- Let's us toot your horn! Planner/Supplier Spotlights
- Educational Opportunities

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