



VIRGINIA
CHAPTER

VA Voice: April 2024

This edition of the VA Voice is generously sponsored by Kalahari Resorts.



Letter from MPI-VA President, Martina James

"I hope you have heard the buzz about the energy and inspiration from our recent April Education & Networking event at the Hilton Richmond Downtown. The team at the Hilton's active engagement and enthusiasm truly made it a memorable occasion, and I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to their team and everyone who participated as an attendee or presenter."

[Read More Here!](#)

Leadership News



Seize the opportunity to shape the future of MPI Virginia! We're seeking passionate individuals to join our Board of Directors for 2025. If you're ready to make a meaningful impact, lead with innovation, and connect with fellow industry leaders, nominate yourself or a colleague to serve on our Board of Directors for 2025!

Apply or Nominate a Colleague for the Board Here!

We also have an immediate need for volunteers on the Annual Conference committee!

If interested, please email Kim Carragher, our Annual Conference Chair, kim.carragher@whitelodging.com.



Annual Conference: Leadership Amplified: Inspire, Innovate, Ignite

Call for Session Proposals

Our 2024 Annual Conference theme is "Leadership Amplified: Inspire, Innovate, Ignite." The conference aims to bring together event planning and meeting professionals to engage in education, idea sharing and conversation related to topics that will advance the meeting industry across the Commonwealth and beyond its borders. Attendees can look forward to presenters that will **INSPIRE** attendees in the areas of leadership development, current event trends, **INNOVATIONS** and the creative use of technology to advance our industry. Sessions are guaranteed to **IGNITE** the passion for creativity and shaping extraordinary experiences that they can then take home with them and implement in their own day-to-day meeting planning process.

All session proposals are due no later than April 30, 2024 at 5pm. Late submissions may not be accepted.

Presenters who are selected to present at MPI Virginia's Annual Conference will be able to take advantage of the 50% off Speaker Rate available. MPI Virginia is unable to provide honorariums, stipend or travel reimbursements for presenters during the Annual Conference.

Questions? Reach out to MPI Virginia's VP of Education, [Penny Guiles](#).



[Submit Your Session Here](#)



Nominations are now OPEN to celebrate our amazing chapter members and volunteers! Check out the website link to nominate and celebrate the volunteer members of the MPI-Virginia chapter. We have a variety of awards categories and need you to submit an active MPI member you feel deserves an award this year!

[Submit Nominations Here](#)

Timeline to consider:

Nominations close May 8, 2024

Voting opens June 2, 2024

Voting Closes July 2, 2024

Winners will be announced at the August 6th Awards Celebration at the Annual Conference at Kimpton The Forum in Charlottesville, VA!

If you are interested in joining the Awards committee to help with nominations and planning the Awards Celebration at the Annual Conference please reach out to Megan Hazzard at hazo29@henrico.us

MPI Virginia Upcoming Events

May Chapter Meet-Up

KEVA Studios, Midlothian, VA

May 15th, 2024, 5:30pm-7:30pm

[Register Here](#)

FREE for MPI-VA Members
\$10.00 Fee for Non-Members

Enjoy an evening of sipping, snacking, and shopping as you mix and mingle with fellow members and guests. Past President, Linné Diiorio, CMP, will serve as our facilitator and tour guide as we learn more about this local business and how it serves as a platform for thought leaders and non-profits in the community.



MPI's World Education Congress (WEC)

Louisville, KY

May 21st-23rd, 2024

[Register Here](#)





July Chapter Meet-Up

Henrico Sports & Events Center,
Glen Allen, VA

July 10th, 2024, 5:00pm-7:00pm

[Register Here](#)

FREE for MPI-VA Members
\$10.00 Fee for Non-Members

Come check out this new 185,000 square ft venue which opened in November 2023 featuring 12 basketball courts, 24 volleyball courts, a 3500 seat arena and meeting space!

Leadership Amplified:
Inspire | Innovate | Ignite

August 5th - 7th, 2024

The Kimpton Forum Hotel
Charlottesville, VA

Member: \$279.00 (Hurry! This rate only valid through July 6th)

Non-Member: \$399.00

[Register Here](#)



November Quarterly Education & Networking Program: Save the Date

November 19th, 2:00pm -
November 20th, 12:00pm

Member: \$105.00
Non-Member: \$120.00

Hilton Norfolk the Main
Norfolk, VA



Membership News

The MPI Foundation is a non-profit organization that will celebrate 40 years in 2024 as the leading meeting and event industry foundation devoted to funding grants, scholarships, and pan-industry research for the people who need it most.

Whether you're an industry veteran or just getting started in your career, the MPI Foundation is committed to giving back to you and your industry, making you both stronger. A donation to the MPI Foundation helps secure the meeting and event profession for the future. When you help the people who bring people together, you help change the world.

Member Support from the MPI Foundation

The MPI Foundation offers grants for education, training, research and other special interest needs that enrich our industry as well as scholarships to complement MPI membership, education and career opportunities. With these grants and scholarships, together, we move this community and our global industry towards critical recovery.

[Learn More!](#)



Happy April Membership Anniversaries!

Christi Ruddy, CMP, Covington Meetings & Events, 34 Years

Nicole Rea Walker, CMP, Corporate Consultant, 20 Years

Frank Passanante, Hilton Worldwide, 7 Years

Allison Bancroft, The Glebe Retirement Center, 1 Year

Eva Chaisson, CMP, Ferguson Enterprises, 1 Year

Brooke Doty, CMP, TD Synnex, 1 Year

Joshua Hoffman, Cvent, 1 Year

Juli Leonardo, Council on Hotel, Restaurant,
& Institutional Education (CHRIE), 1 Year

Barbara Pavesi, Cvent, 1 Year

Shaun Simon, Cvent, 1 Year

Welcome New Members!

Kelly Macusi, CMP, MBA, CAE, Director, Events & Education, The New York
State Society of Anesthesiologists Inc.



Want to shine a spotlight on who you are, personally and professionally? We're looking for members who want to be featured in the next issue of the VA VOICE. If that's you, [please submit your profile today!](#)

Update your MPI Member Profile Today!

It is essential that our members have fully-completed and up-to-date information on their member profile page so we can make their membership tailor-made to their needs. Please take a look at your current profile and make any necessary changes, today. It only takes a couple of minutes!

Check out this video for step-by-step instructions on how to edit your profile.



Featured Article



When to Embrace Change—and When to Hold Your Ground

A veteran planner explains how to push back tactfully but effectively when a proposed change isn't for the better.

[Read Here](#)

Thank You to our Sponsors!





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The VA Voice Newsletter is your monthly source for member news, events, and industry updates. It's produced for members and non-members alike. Have a colleague or prospective member who could benefit from receiving the VA Voice? Email Claire to have them added to our distribution list.

claire@themanagementoffice.com.

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