



VIRGINIA
CHAPTER

VA Voice: January 2024

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



February Meeting Update

Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

2:30PM - 3:00PM- **Registration**

3:00PM - 4:00PM- **Leadership Development & Team Building**

4:00PM - 5:00PM- **Hands On: F&B Charcuterie Boards,**
Presented by Delta by Marriott Virginia Beach Waterfront Culinary Team

5:00PM - 7:00PM- **Welcome Reception** *Photobooth, [DJ Jeff Bristow](#), and more!*

Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

8:00AM - 9:00AM- **Breakfast**

9:00AM - 10:00AM- **AV Essentials from Beginner to Veteran Event Planners**

10:30AM - 11:30AM- **Identifying, Reporting, and Preventing Human Trafficking in the Hospitality Industry**, *Deanna “Dede” Wallace, Victim Assistance Specialist for Homeland Security Investigations Washington D.C.*

11:30AM-12:30PM- **Safety and Security at Large-Scale Events Panel**, *Including panelists from Virginia Beach Fire, Police, EMS and more!*

*(*Subject to change)*

Register Here!

*Our entire team is excited to host
“**For the Love of MPI**” in
February! We are very passionate
about our partnerships, and we look
forward to hosting you then.*

-Neville Erasmus, General Manager of
Delta by Marriott Virginia Beach
Waterfront



[Bid in our Silent Auction Here!](#)



MPI Virginia is still accepting Silent Auction Donation Items for this event (until January 29, 2024). If you would like to donate an item(s) to the silent auction, please complete the following form.

[February 2024 MPI Silent Auction Donation Form](#)

Featured Items Include:

Hotel Packages

- Caesar's Entertainment
- Marriott Newport News City Center
 - Hotel 24 South
 - And more...

Entertainment & Activities

- Flying Squirrels tickets
- Richmond Kickers Tickets
- Richmond Raceway tickets
- Total Wine & More Private Class for 20
 - Cooper's Hawk Wine Tasting
 - And more....

#MeetingsMatter



Join MPI for our eighth annual, industry-leading Global Meetings Industry Day: Virtual experience. This live, 12-hour broadcast features education and activities from all over the world as the meeting industry comes together to celebrate, commemorate, and honor the millions of global events that impact the lives of billions of people every year.

Global Meetings Industry Day (GMID) is an international day of advocacy showcasing the undeniable value that business meetings, trade shows, incentive travel, exhibitions, conferences, and conventions bring to people, businesses, and communities. This year's theme is #TheEventProfessionalsJourney and we relish this opportunity to *celebrate* the wonders the future holds for bringing people together in meaningful ways with thousands of industry friends and colleagues.

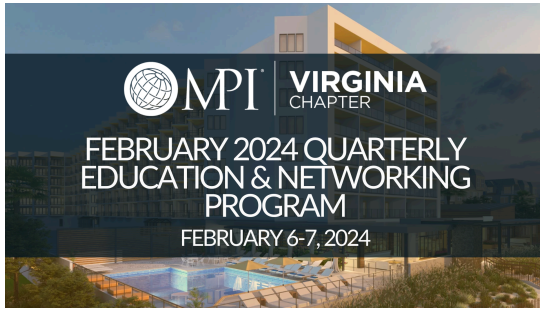
The live broadcast will run from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. US Central Time (06:00 to 18:00 UTC -5), offering you the opportunity to connect with other industry leaders from all over the world. The broadcast is FREE, but we're asking you to consider donating US\$10 toward supporting the efforts of the MPI Foundation, which has awarded more than US\$5 million in grants, scholarships, and research since 2009.

GMID: Virtual is the perfect event to rally together—because when we meet, we change the world.

[Register for GMID's Live Broadcast Here.](#)

[Read here!](#)

MPI Virginia Upcoming Events



February Quarterly Education & Networking Program:
For the Love of MPI

February 6th & 7th

Delta by Marriott Virginia Beach
Waterfront 2800 Shore Drive,
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

[Register for February Quarterly Event Here](#)

February Member Orientation

February 14th, 2024

[Register Here](#)



March Member Orientation

March 13th, 2024

[Register Here](#)



Spring Quarterly Education & Networking Program: Save the Date

Registration for this Spring's Quarterly Event Coming soon!





2024 Annual Conference:
Save the Date

August 5th - 7th, 2024

The Kimpton Forum Hotel
Charlottesville, VA

November Quarterly Education &
Networking Program: Save the Date

November 19 & 20, 2024

Hilton Norfolk the Main
Norfolk, VA



Leadership News



Megan Hazzard, MPI Virginia Director of Leadership Development, has been appointed to the MPI 2024 Southeast US Regional Council and will serve as MPI Virginia Chapter's representative for the inaugural year.

Looking to gain exposure at the Annual Conference taking place in August in Charlottesville? Volunteer on the Annual Conference committee!

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



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

for Board of Directors & Committee roles.



Get Involved with YOUR MPI VA Chapter

We are looking for volunteers to join committees and the MPI Virginia board! Time to get involved and get all the benefits out of your membership! Please reach out to Megan Hazzard at Hazo29@henrico.us if you are interested in learning more about how to get involved with YOUR chapter.

We have openings in Membership, Finance, Communications, and Education so wherever your interest in the meeting profession lies, we would love to have you!

Membership News

Happy January Membership Anniversaries!

Jeff Schmid, Ruggles AMC- 15 Years

Beth Castro, World Law Group- 13 Years

M'Leta Watson, CMP, Marriott International- 13 Years

Malieka Wallace, Commonwealth Lodging- 5 Years

Natalie Coppola, CMP, Cvent- 3 Years

Brittany Rice, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation- 3 Years

Lyn M. Acocella-Medina, CMP, CMM, HMCC,
McVeigh Global Meetings- 1 Year

Pamela Melita, Swedish Match- 1 Year

Michelle Moock, Groovin Gourmets- 1 Year

Kristin Pettaway, Drive Smart Virginia- 1 Year

Kelsey Thompson, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity- 1 Year

Welcome New Members!

Kimberly Ryan, Virtual Inc.

Beth Wood, Wintergreen Resort

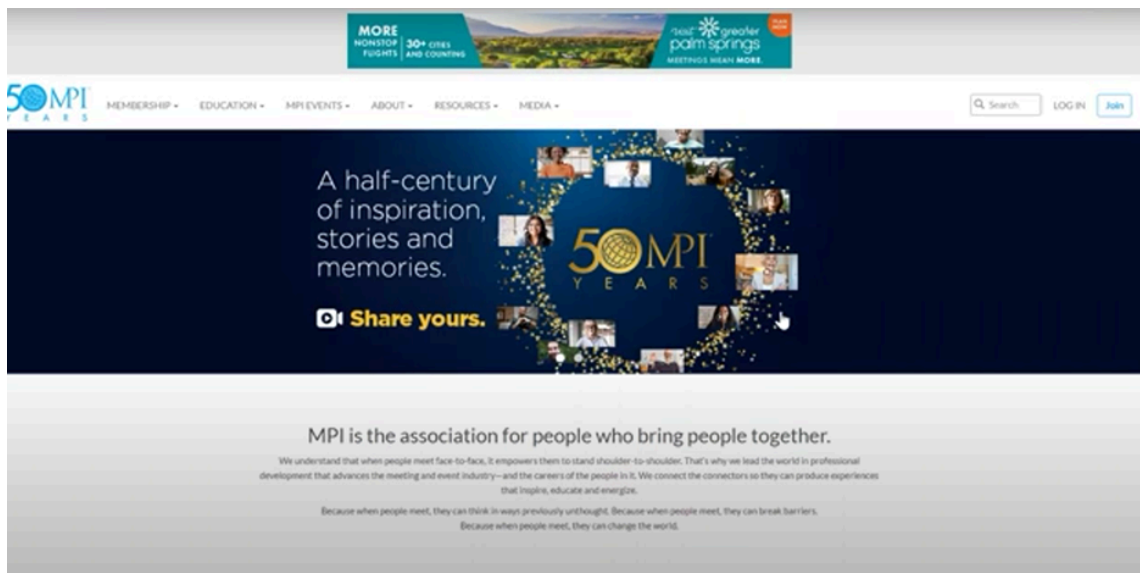


Want to shine a spotlight on who you are, personally and professionally? We're looking for members who want to be featured in the next issue of the VA VOICE. If that's you, [please submit your profile today!](#)

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 News

Budgeting & Contracting Tips for the Ever-Changing Event Pricing Landscape

"Whether you are an event planner or a supplier, practically everyone in the meetings industry is struggling right now with rising costs and tightening budgets. Recently, the MPI Association Professionals Council hosted an informative hot topic chat on strategies for identifying cost-saving opportunities, prioritizing spending, and negotiating favorable terms with vendors."



[Read More](#)

Thank You to our Sponsors!





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28208 | US

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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