



**VIRGINIA**  
CHAPTER

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## VA Voice: September 2023

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



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**A message from your 2023-2024 MPI-Virginia President, Martina James**

**"How many times have you been asked for your resume?** How many times have you updated your resume? How have you tweaked a job description or a personal statement so that it will stand out amongst all those other job applicants? You've worked hard to make it personal, a reflection of who YOU really are. But is it really personal? **Does it really tell the story of why you are who you are?**

What if, instead, we turned in our **LIFE RESUMES** when we applied for jobs, the life experiences, the adventures, the mistakes, the life lessons, the wins, that is what qualified us to get that dream job we applying for. "

[Read here.](#)

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**Save the Date!**

First Fridays for Coffee

Friday, October 6th

8:00am-9:00am

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Wednesday with MPI Virginia Happy Hour

Wednesday, October 18th

5:00pm-7:00pm

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November Quarterly Education & Networking Program

November 2nd-3rd, 2023

The Graduate Richmond

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**MPI Virginia is pleased to announce the offering of  
two membership scholarships for 2023!**



We are excited to offer:

- One full scholarship will be available for a Meeting Planner.
- One full scholarship will be available for a Supplier.

If you accept this scholarship, you are pledging to pay back your scholarship to **MPI Virginia** by volunteering on a committee and attending at least (2) quarterly educational meetings per year. Please complete the application by Wednesday, November 1, 2023. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the VP of Membership, Lori Leib at [lori.leib@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:lori.leib@hamptoncvb.com).

[Apply Here!](#)



MPI Virginia is looking for dynamic and engaging speakers to present at our upcoming quarterly events! If you are interested in speaking, please reach out to Jenny Toomey, VP of Education, at [jenny.e.toomey@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.e.toomey@gmail.com).



MPI Virginia is looking for venues for our upcoming quarterly events! If you are interested in hosting our chapter, please reach out to [Veronica Thompson](#), Director of Sponsorship.



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

for Board of Directors & Committee roles.



MPI Virginia is YOUR chapter and we want all of our members to feel that they have the opportunity to be active in volunteer roles if they want to serve on the Board of Directors or a Committee.

Volunteer roles vary in scope and time commitment requirements, but we have several open positions and invite anyone interested in serving on the Board of Directors or on a Committee to please reach out to [Megan Hazzard](#), Director of Leadership Development.

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## Membership News

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We'd love to send a shout out to our members during their birthday month, but we need to know when your big day is.... so tell us!

**Let us know your birthday here!**

Don't worry- we aren't asking for the year- just the month and day. All birthdays taking place during the same month will be announced together.

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**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.



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## **Happy September Membership Anniversaries!**

Jennifer Root, CMP, Team Events & Meetings, 6 Years

Ellen Kellner, Mind & Life Institute, 2 Years

Amie Grayson, International CHRIE, 1 Year

Candace Cindric, Marriott Richmond Downtown, 1 Year

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## **Welcome New Members!**

Cathy Drewry, Jefferson Lab

Shamera Stewart, CMP, MBA, DES, CarMax

Lindsay Thompson, CMP, Flik Hospitality Group

Veronica Strangis, The Main Norfolk

Jodie Munn, Virginia Crossings Hotel - Tapestry Collection by Hilton

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## 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](#)

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Thank You to our Sponsors!







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