

Michigan Chapter MPI 2007-2008 President's Message



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I had the privilege of attending the MPI Chapter Leaders Conference in May. MPI hosts this conference for all incoming chapter leaders, and they graciously pay for four board members from each chapter to attend (a great way to see our dues dollars coming back to support the chapters).

The opportunities at the conference are endless, which makes it a great way to get ready for a new year in the chapter. MPI CEO, Bruce MacMillan spent a lot of time talking about the changes that have occurred in MPI and sharing with us the changes that we will see moving forward. I'm sure many of you have noticed these changes in the form a new MPI web site with industry information including the Wiki and blogs. If you haven't checked them out yet, you should. There is great information there from people who have first-hand experience. All of this information sharing is one of the things that will set MPI apart from other organizations in the future.

MPI is a global community and we need to take advantage of all that our community has to offer. So how do we know what our community has to offer? Story telling is one way. We all have a story to tell of how MPI and MMPI have made a difference for us. I want to hear those stories. I want to hear those stories at every meeting and in every newsletter. Send me your story or if you would like to get up and share it at a meeting, all the better!

To get the ball rolling, I am going to share one of my MPI stories. At MPI World Education Congress (WEC) in Dallas last July, I took some time to walk through the trade show. As a planner for a state association, I always struggle attending national/international trade shows because we only host our meetings in Michigan, unless it is conjunction with the National Association of REALTORS. Knowing that, I focused on visiting the booths of the cities that would be hosting future national meetings: New Orleans and Las Vegas. When talking with the people from New Orleans, I met two individuals that would be the reason for the success of our event in November of last year—Nancy Trosclair of Destination New Orleans and Shari Fisher of Hotel Monteleone.

In all that had occurred in New Orleans, there were challenges being the largest event there since the levy breach, but Nancy and Shari showed me the meaning of being part of the MPI community. We were hosting a reception at Hotel Monteleone for about 500 people from our region to celebrate the national president being a Michigan REALTOR member. There was a lot of pressure to make it a "wow" event. Then things started happening. Our initial contact was no longer at the hotel. I couldn't get a return call from anyone I was told could help, and I had another state call and say they had the same room we did for a reception at the same time as ours. That is when I dug through the business cards I collected at WEC and found Nancy's and Shari's cards.

I called Nancy first and hired her to be our independent planner. I called Shari and confirmed we had the space, and she got things moving for us at the hotel. Nancy made visits to the hotel so that they knew we had a local person working for us and our expectations were clear. Keep in mind, that this is not a big budget reception. From entertainment to linens to helping set up, Nancy was there. She was amazing. She even took my husband and me on a tour of the devastation and where she and her husband had lived just three years prior. You could see the water line which was almost to the roof of the brick ranch. She told us how she had been back there at least 20 times and still could not make the trip without crying. Needless to say, we cried on our visit. It was overwhelming and we were touched by the experience.

In the end we had perfect weather, a great event and not only did I have a new found appreciation for my MPI membership, but our CEO and Senior Vice President did too. My MPI community made all the difference. Now let's hear your story.

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