



Meeting NEws

May 2007

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President's Message

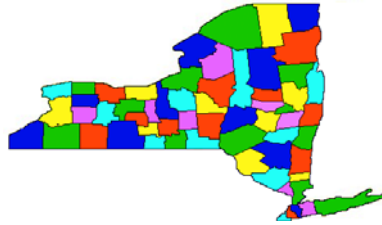


Dear Chapter Members:

The election process is final! Congratulations to **Carrie Hillenbrandt** of the Albany Marriott, our new President-Elect, and **Gina Mintzer** of the Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau on her reelection as Vice President of Membership. We also

June 12: Annual Membership Meeting

(for members only)



Join us for this complimentary members-only event! You'll have the opportunity for exclusive networking with fellow MPI members and to meet and greet the

volunteer board members who drive our MPI Northeastern New York Chapter. You'll witness the installation of officers and hear the officers' reports on team activities for the year, highlights of the past year from our outgoing President, **Judy Rucinski**, and goals for the year from our incoming President, **Mike Snyder**. Be sure to sign up to participate on a team and get a preview of our upcoming events!

One of the highlights of the Annual Meeting is our **silent auction**. All year long, each member has been earning MPI NENY Points Money to cash in on great items at the auction. Every time you attend an event, bring a guest or volunteer on a team, **YOU EARN** points money! Last year's auction featured amazing prizes - examples include an overnight at Lake Placid's Mirror Lake Inn, a package for Mohonk Mountain House, valuable dining certificates and more!

This is also a great marketing opportunity! We need your help with donations to reward our members who have worked so hard this past year for our chapter. Get your name exposed to the premier planner professionals. [Click here](#) to download the auction donation forms. We appreciate your support!

EVENT SCHEDULE

New Member Orientation: 4 p.m.

welcome **Tim McCullough** of the Albany Crowne Plaza, who stepped in as our new Vice President of Finance.

I hope you'll join us to meet our board and your fellow members on June 12 at 5 p.m. at NYSUT for our Annual Business Meeting!

- **Judy Rucinski, CMP**



Join Meeting Professionals International and more than 3,000 of your colleagues from around the world for the **2007 World Education Congress July 28-August 1**. Rediscover your joie de vivre in Canada's sparkling **Montréal**, the host city to MPI's biggest and most exciting annual educational and tradeshow event.

MPI Northeastern New York is working together to coordinate transportation for members who plan to attend. **We need to hear from you!** If you are interested in riding a bus with our group, please email jrucinsk@nysutmail.org no later than **May 18**.

For more information on the conference, please go to www.mpiweb.org. Conference registration and housing are now open. Hope you can join us!

REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS TO ENTER CANADA

For travel by air: Valid passport required to enter Canada or re-enter the U.S.
For travel by land, ferry, or sea: Proof of U.S. Citizenship Required. *Usually Acceptable Proofs of U.S. Citizenship:* Valid U.S. Passport or one of the following carried together with Official Photo ID: Certified Copy of Birth Certificate, Certificate of Citizenship, Certificate of Naturalization,

Registration: 4:45 p.m.
 Business Meeting & Cocktail Reception: 5 p.m.
 New York State United Teachers
 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham

[Click here to register today!](#)

Member Spotlight: Cindy Sullivan

Cindy Sullivan, CMP, Sales Manager for **The Saratoga Hotel & Conference Center**, currently serves on the MPI NENY Board as **VP of Education**. Previous to her four successful years in sales at this property, Cindy received her Associate's degree from Paul Smith's College and her Bachelor's degree from Johnson & Wales University. After graduation, she worked at **The Sagamore Resort** for nine years. Cindy has had many wonderful role models or mentors in her career thus far. One in particular she remembers is Jon Stultz, the former Director of Sales at The Prime Hotel (former name of The Saratoga).



Jon impressed Cindy through his polished management practices and ability to foster the individual goals of each staff person without subjugating the goals of the department. Soon after she started at The Prime, he suggested Cindy join the newly founded **MPI NENY** chapter. He understood the role that networking organizations play in professional career development and the spillover success it can mean for business. Later, when it came time for Cindy to consider taking the **CMF** exam, he was 100% behind her and even encouraged holding study groups at their hotel.

Cindy encourages all MPI members to seek mentoring opportunities, either as a mentor or mentee. Whichever role you play, rest assured you will benefit from it. As an MPI member, you have access to many willing mentors with decades of experience in meeting planning - both in our NENY chapter and beyond.

What have you got to lose?

Welcome, New Members!



Rebecca Briggs
 Conference Manager
Christina Cameris
 Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co.
Jason Chen
 The Blackstone Group
Sarah Damico, CMP

Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen.

Update Your Profile!



Please take a moment to update your MPI

International profile.

Visit www.mpiweb.org, log in and click on **update profile**. If you need help logging in, please contact Gina Mintzer, CMP, VP Membership and at 518.434.1217 x301 or gmintzer@albany.org.

Remember: We can update your local profile, but **only you** can update your international profile. 25 points will be given to all those who check and update their profile. If your profile doesn't need an update, but you check it, you will still receive points.

Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[CMP Information](#)
[Chapter Leadership](#)

Got News?

We'd love to hear from you! Please e-mail your announcements



to **Robin Granger**, VP of Communication. [Click here](#) to view the MPI NENY Newsletter Production Schedule.

If you're having trouble viewing this newsletter with graphics, please visit www.mpineny.org to

Pfizer, Inc.

Berelice Donaghey, United Spinal Association
Dee Earle, Holiday Inn Schenectady
Brenda Eckler, The White Studio
Leslie Faulise, Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc.
Eileen Fox, Student
Jim Hoffman, Pfizer, Inc.
Gail Kehn, The Chamber of Schenectady County
Vanessa LaClair, Independent Power Producers
Cathleen McConney, Office of the State Comptroller
Leslie Miller, Residence Inn
Dana Rudy, Jumeirah
Phyllis Secor, NY Funeral Directors Association
Dawn Smith, Sales & Training Events Manager
Amy Smith, Saratoga Arms
Dean Smith, Saddlebrook Resort
Crystal Smith, Events Manager

We Want You!

Are you creative? Innovative? Motivated? Are you ready to make a difference? Join a Chapter Committee Team Today! If you are interested in learning more about Chapter Teams, please contact any of the following:

MEMBERSHIP

Gina Mintzer, CMP, Director of Sales
 Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau
 518.434.1217 x301, gmintzer@albany.org

EDUCATION

Cindy Sullivan, CMP, Sales Manager
 The Saratoga Hotel
 518.693.1002, csullivan@luxuryresorts.com

ADMINISTRATION

Ed Barone, President
 Souders Promotions
 518.452.3000, ed@souders1918.com

COMMUNICATION

Robin Granger, Director of Workforce Development, Chamber of Schenectady County
 518.372.5656, rgranger@schenectadychamber.org

FINANCE

Tim McCullough, Sales Manager
 Crowne Plaza Albany Hotel
 518.427.3008, sm2alb@lodgian.com

SPECIAL EVENT

Debby Goedeke, Convention Services Manager
 Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau
 518.434.1217x100, dgoedeke@albany.org

Kathy Denkenberger, Convention Services Manager
 Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau
 518.584.1531, kathyd@discoversaratoga.org



download a PDF version.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

CMP Scholarship Available



Last summer, **Heidi Longton, CMP** was recognized for 10 years of service at the **Northeastern Retail Lumber Association**. In honor of her achievement, her employer set up a fund in her name to provide a **scholarship award** to MPI NENY members who pursue professional development in the CMP program to benefit both themselves and the MPI NENY Chapter. The scholarship, **up to \$550**, may be used as reimbursement to cover the expenses of the CMP application and registration so that the expense may be lightened. **Anyone who has taken the CMP Exam within the past 12 months** is eligible to apply. The application deadline is **May 25, 2007**.

[Download Application](#)

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