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Meeting Professionals International – Wisconsin Chapter Announces its 2008 Award Winners for Outstanding Professional Achievement in the Meeting and Event Industry.

Meeting Professionals International – Wisconsin Chapter (MPI-Wisconsin) held its award ceremony at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. Annually, awards are given to those members that have demonstrated outstanding leadership and volunteerism for the Chapter.

The following were awarded:

Hall of Fame: Cinda Vingers, CMP - Dairyland Power Co-op, La Crosse
Industry Partner: Wisconsin Dells Visitors and Convention Bureau
Journalism Award: Sue Lidstrom - Sheraton Madison - Marcus Corporation
Meeting Industry Advocate: Paulette Heney, CMM - Meetings and Incentives, Caledonia
Planner of the Year: Linda Hale – Wisconsin Credit Union League, Pewaukee
President's Award: Tami Gilbertson, CMP – WPS Health Insurance, Madison
Rising Star Award: Joey Greeno – Kalahari Waterpark Resort, Wisconsin Dells
Supplier of the Year: Laura Cornell, CMP - Monona Terrace, Madison
Team of the Year: Fall Education Team - Marin Medema – Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake; Cindy Foley, CMP – Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton
Kristin Bjurstrom Krueger, CMP Scholarship: Alexandra Chugina, Madison Area Technical College
Professional Development Grant: Carmen Smalley Schaer - North Central Hotel Group, Middleton

About MPI Wisconsin Chapter

MPI Wisconsin leads the meetings industry in Wisconsin through education. Monthly, both members and non-members are invited to participate in exceptional education that allows those who plan meetings to gain solid professional development and also showcase many of Wisconsin's hotel properties and special venues. Further, MPI-WI continues to strive and work diligently to educate corporate leaders on the impact of meetings on business. It is essential as members of MPI to instill public confidence, engaging in fair and equitable practices and building professional relationships with meeting industry colleagues.

The 359 members of Wisconsin Chapter of Meeting Professionals International (MPI), established in 1977, offers education, the latest research and trends, leadership training, best practices, professional development and networking opportunities, which help its members enhance their professional value and define the strategic value of meetings within their respective organizations. For more information, visit www.mpiwi.org.

About Meeting Professionals International

Established in 1972, Meeting Professionals International (MPI; www.mpiweb.org) is the largest association for the meetings profession with more than 19,000 members in 66 chapters and clubs across the USA, Canada, Europe and other countries throughout the world. As the global authority and resource for the \$122.3 billion meetings and events industry, MPI empowers meeting professionals to increase their strategic organizational value through education and networking opportunities. Its strategic plan, Pathways to Excellence, is designed to elevate the role of meetings in business via: creating professional development levels to evolve member careers to positions of strategic understanding and influence; influencing executives about the value of meetings; and ensuring MPI is the premier marketplace for planners and suppliers.

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