

TRACEY BOCKHOP, CMP

MPI WISCONSIN CHAPTER

■ **I have had a strong interest in the meeting and event industry dating back to high school.**

I was very active in planning meetings and events for my local Future Farmers of America chapter. In fact, one of my first jobs was assisting in the planning of the local county fair. Once I completed my college education, I immediately started employment for Marriott as administrative assistant in the catering department.

■ **I had the honor of being recognized as a “40 under 40” award recipient** in *Connect* magazine in 2012. My nomination was submitted by a catering manager who felt that my efforts in planning our annual meetings with their establishment was worthy of recognition. To this day, I still find pride in the fact that I was recognized for this and humbled by the fact that it was through my peers in the industry.

■ **I would thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to plan a major event** such as a corporate tent at the Super Bowl or being involved in the planning of the logistical aspects of the Olympics. Knowing that I was able to rise up to the challenge of being involved in the planning process of an internationally-known event would truly be a great accomplishment!

■ **While I was a catering manager, we did an offsite event for 3,500 people** over the course of four days. All meals were served in a tent the size of four football fields. If that wasn't challenging enough, we were serving out of a makeshift kitchen. Because of the organization done ahead of time, the event went off very well.

■ **It was through my employment as a catering manager that I first learned about MPI.** I was so interested in all that it had to offer that I made a great personal decision to join. MPI provides a wealth of opportunities, including establishing business connections, something that I have really tried to take full advantage of. Currently, I am very involved in my chapter's CMP prep classes and really enjoy speaking with people who share my passion about the industry.

■ **It's the challenges we cannot predict that we must still consider and plan for accordingly.**

This is something that both the supplier side and planner side have really done well in the past 10 years. Being flexible to sudden change—natural disasters, political unrest, etc.—is what we need to be great at.

■ **I have had the pleasure of planning functions with Caesars Entertainment**

for more than two years now. I really appreciate the fact that they view me as a partner and help to execute my vision, while making suggestions about what works well at their properties. Their willingness to be available at any time to assist, along with their entire seamless process, is very reassuring.

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Photo by Lewis Photography