

MPI
**GREATER
ORLANDO**
CHAPTER



KAREN KUZSEL

The Psychic Lady

MPI Chapter: **Greater Orlando Chapter**
Membership in MPI: **15 Years**

“ My MPI involvement has been a door-opener... ”

I was involved for several years in the film, television and entertainment industries as a writer, editor, publisher and performer, hoping that Florida would become Hollywood East. During that period, a Disney talent booking agent set me up as a featured psychic entertainer for corporate events. That connected me to people in the meetings & events organizations. I thought if I was going to establish myself as a leader in what I do, I should associate with those who are engaged, experienced and knowledgeable in the industry.

My first activity as a member of the Greater Orlando Area MPI chapter was at a community outreach event in support of a local shelter for abused families. I worked in the kitchen beside other MPI Orlando members, none of whom I had had any real communication or connection with prior to that collective bonding. It confirmed that I was in a group that cared and shared.

Though eager to participate in a leadership capacity, I wasn't sure if coming in as "The Psychic Lady" would merit any favorable recognition, especially among the hotel, destination management and theme park professionals who represented the chapter's core membership at the time. A colleague who knew of my journalistic career invited me to a communications committee meeting, however, and I left that meeting as the group's new editor. As a result, I've been a chapter leader since 2002, including several years as a board member. The acceptance, respect and encouragement I receive from MPI colleagues -- for what I can do, not for what my job title reflects -- have been especially rewarding.

As the sole proprietor of a small business and a "people person," my membership also has led to professional and social relationships, gigs, respect from industry peers and, of special importance to me, the opportunity to work with an industry publication, Prevue Magazine. As I have to interview planners and destination management officials for my stories, my MPI involvement has been a door-opener to people who are usually a bit hesitant to speak about their projects otherwise.

Karen Kuzsel