



MPI NENY Annual Awards Recognize Top Meeting Planner and Supplier



Each June MPI NENY honors a meeting planner and supplier within the organization based on numerous criteria. The 2009 recipients are **Vanessa LaClair, CMP**, Membership Services & Events Coordinator for Independent Power Producers of New York for Meeting Planner and **Cindy Sullivan, CMP**, Sales Manager for the Saratoga Hilton as Supplier.

The application lists the criteria as: "In recognition of outstanding association/industry contributions, leadership and professionalism." The awards are based on international and chapter participation, presentations relating to the industry in general, articles written in the hospitality industry press, community service and industry recognition previously received.

Professional Excellence in the Meetings Industry - Planner

Vanessa LaClair, CMP joined in March 2007 and after joining to complete her CMP training she found many reasons to become involved. And involved she certainly became by taking over the vacated position of Vice President of Communications just five months after joining the chapter. Members recognize her as the Vice President of Communications for the Chapter and her contributions include:

- The further development of the monthly newsletter creating a more visually stimulating and content driven communication for members.
- The NENY promotional piece "A World of Connections" which promotes the chapter in print and via electronic media.
- Created the **NEws Flash** to communicate important and time sensitive information that could not wait for the newsletter.
- Contributed to the re-designed MPI NENY web site unveiled this spring.
- Created social network pages for the chapter in Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Vanessa says about her membership "I am motivated to remain a member and stay involved with the chapter because it offers so much in the way of networking with peers, improving my skills through education and developing my professional career. But it is also the personal side of the chapter that motivates me. I have made so many new friends within the chapter which I know will last a lifetime."