

Creativity in Communication: A Program Review *by Patti Daniels,*
CMP

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The November program began with the realization that by creating a fun environment and positive outlook you decrease stress increase productivity, happiness and creativity. The presenter, Joel Zeff, a nationally recognized speaker, actor and comedian, created hilarious spontaneous role-playing scenarios on stage with volunteers from the audience. The more we learned and laughed with each other, the more we wanted to know and grow. Joel pointed out that "stress" is designed for more serious issues rather than the trifle things in life such as a computer not working.

"It's important we learn how to "accept" change and be open and flexible to it. We all have to deal with change constantly and sometimes quickly because the way we communicate is different with everyone. How you deal with change will affect your stress level."

Joel also pointed out that we are trained to be angry about things in life. It's too easy to get frustrated, and because we affect everyone around us, and we are dependent upon each other in life; it's important to realize that with positive communication and support we create teamwork and build stronger relationships!

When MPI attendees took a chance and a risk - we saw confidence build. With support from each other, creative communication poured out.

Through fun and humorous exercises, we learned how to build on each other's contribution and be responsible for the outcome. Joel and the MPI participants had the audience roaring with laughter, which opened our

minds and hearts to learning about our own abilities and potential pitfalls. When Past President Bobette Gorden used only body language and gibberish while communicating to Past President Bill Johnson, CSP, the laughs and support from the audience grew stronger. Finally, after Bobette paraded around the stage while we had no idea she was describing Walt Disney World Orlando, Bill amazingly came to the correct conclusion the destination was a roller coaster.

We all had fun as we watched some of us take a risk, gave positive support and ultimately learned these invaluable components of effective communication.

- Be as clear and "detailed" as possible - it's otherwise too easy to misunderstand.
- 50/50 participation, ownership, and responsibility - Realize your own contribution.
- Create a positive environment! - Instead of being frustrated or non-supportive.

Think of how much happier and more successful you can be by creating better communication and using these abilities you are capable of!