

June Chapter Meeting: A Real Show-Stopper! *by Lisa Barnes,* *CMP*

MPI Meeting Leader: Heartland MPI Chapter

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If you weren't at the June 14th Chapter Meeting at the RiverCenter/Adler Theater in Davenport, you didn't get to see Mike Boehm driving a car full of lunatics, Matt Wenger trying to pantomime a storm chaser, or Linda Bravard trying to form a complete sentence with Luci Ismert – one word at a time!

This was just part of the fun and games we enjoyed under the competent direction of Joel Zeff. The title of the Platinum Series Program was “Thinking Without a Script” and boy, did we ever get the opportunity to try that! Through a variety of improvisational games, we each had to stretch to let our creativity flow. One activity had the attendees all pairing up and acting as a blind person and seeing-eye dog. This was a real “eye-opener” as we each had to allow ourselves to be led and “coached” by our seeing-eye dog.

We also learned about the importance of communication and that we need to make sure that when we communicate, the person we're communicating with truly understands what we are saying. My definition of “regular communication” may be different from yours. Through our pantomime/jibberish game, we saw how three people interpreted things differently. Joel “acted out” a place, career and object to one person (Matt Wenger), then Matt had to act them out for another person, and that person had to act it out for the third person. They all actually did pretty well considering they had to do a volcano, storm chaser and fly!

The final game of the day involved the weaving of a very unusual story. We started with two people saying the first and last line of the story. Then we added three to the middle (thanks to Joe Taylor for adding peanut butter!). From there, we kept adding more and more people and sentences to the story, till we had a very funny (and unusual) story! Thanks to Joel and to all the participants for a very fun and memorable experience. Thanks also to Kaye Brethauer and the RiverCenter/Adler Theatre for providing a very nice facility and wonderful lunch!