



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SARATOGA HOSTED MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL
WESTFIELD CHAPTER BOARD RETREAT**

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. --- The Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau hosted sixteen members of the Meeting Professionals International (MPI) WestField Chapter Board of Directors for a 2 ½ day retreat on May 19-21, 2010.

In addition to strategic planning sessions, chapter board members were able to enjoy, and be exposed to, the many attractions and venues that make Saratoga a desirable meeting & conference destination. The retreat included guided bus tours around Saratoga, historic walking tour, tour of the Saratoga Race Course, and Yaddo Gardens. There were five hotel/meeting venues involved and numerous Convention Bureau member attractions and service providers participating throughout the days. In return for sponsorship of the retreat, participating members will receive advertising and marketing opportunities with the MPI WestField Chapter throughout the year.

“On behalf of the incoming 2010-2011 MPI WestField Chapter Board of Directors, we are extremely grateful for the hospitality, partnership and collaboration the city of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., demonstrated to our leadership during our visit May 19-21, 2010,” states Santiago R. Carmona, Incoming Chapter President, 2010-2011. “During this challenging economic climate, we are fortunate to have industry leaders and strategic partners that recognize the importance of business meetings and the positive impact they produce to the overall economy of our respective destinations. The Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau, along with their hotel and vendor partners, put together an incredible program balancing our business needs and the opportunity to take in and experience their beautiful destination with the sights and sounds that make Saratoga Springs a great business destination for meetings and events. All the while, providing continuous team building and networking opportunities imbedded in the program content. It was this experience that allowed our Board of Directors to be energized and it resulted in having the most productive Board Retreat our leadership has ever experienced... period!”

Todd Garofano, President of the Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau added, “We were thrilled to have the opportunity to host the Board of Directors of the WestField Chapter of Meeting Professionals International. Having these industry professionals, from a key feeder market for Saratoga Springs, in our community, experiencing the gracious hospitality of our members is a tremendous opportunity for us to showcase our destination for new meetings & conference business. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with our friends from the WestField Chapter.”

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The Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau is an independent, not-for-profit destination marketing organization with the mission of attracting group business to the Saratoga area and to serve as a liaison between group buyers and local businesses.