

# **ALHI's Kevin Hinton Becomes Chairman Of The Meeting & Event Industry's Largest Global Community, Meeting Professionals International, on July 1**

CHICAGO, IL (May 2012) – **Kevin M. Hinton**, Executive Vice President of **Associated Luxury Hotels International (ALHI)** and of **Associated Destinations Worldwide (ADW)** – ALHI's Global Solution, will become **Chairman of Meeting Professionals International (MPI)** on July 1, 2012, for its 2012-2013 fiscal year. Hinton has been serving as the Chairman-Elect for MPI since July 1, 2011, a position for which he was selected by MPI's nominating committee, and approved by the members of the worldwide organization. MPI, the meeting and event industry's largest global community, is comprised of more than **23,000 members, representing 86 countries**, belonging to 71 chapters and clubs worldwide. In addition to his duties at ALHI, Hinton as Chairman will also continue to serve on the MPI International Board of Directors, and on the MPI Executive Committee, for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. He is based in the ALHI/ADW Global Sales Office in Chicago.

As **Chairman of MPI**, Hinton will lead the 18-member MPI Board of Directors, the governing body of MPI, which is responsible for reviewing and approving the organization's strategic plans, for overseeing financial integrity, and for monitoring performance against achievement of strategy and long-term vision.

**Hinton** is Executive Vice President of **ALHI ([www.alhi.com](http://www.alhi.com))**, a prestigious dues-based National Sales Organization (NSO) which for over a quarter century has exclusively provided National Sales services and support for its distinctive portfolio of more than **130 Four- and Five-Diamond quality hotels and resorts** to the North American meetings and incentive marketplace. He specifically serves as Executive Vice President of **Associated Destinations Worldwide ([www.adw-gso.com](http://www.adw-gso.com))**, ALHI's new Global Sales Organization (GSO) specialist unit launched in October 2011, which provides incremental local sales and services to the U.S. and Canadian meetings and incentive marketplace dedicated for its worldwide member destinations, upper-tier hotels, and first-class convention facilities from around the world.

In his position at ALHI **Hinton** is responsible for the global sales solutions and account advocacy for meeting professionals and incentive/recognition specialists located in North America, which have programs globally.

Prior to joining ALHI, Hinton served as CEO of hinton+grusich, which was acquired by ALHI in January 2011. In that position he was responsible for overseeing the company's day-to-day operations and strategic growth. A highly regarded industry leader and strategist, Hinton has served as MPI Chicago Area Chapter's president, and on its board of directors. Among the many honors he has received was the "President's Award" from the Chicago Area Chapter of MPI. He began his service on the MPI Board of Directors in 2008. He is a graduate of Marquette University, with a degree in Finance and German. He also graduated from the University of Chicago's Executive MBA program. After college, he was a Peace Corps volunteer for two years in Mali, West Africa.

"I'm very excited about the privilege of serving as Chairman of MPI," said Hinton. "I really look forward to working with our Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and with the membership of MPI to strategically build upon MPI's already strong foundation. MPI is an outstanding organization and an exceptional resource for all involved in the meetings industry, and I am very excited about leading the team to move our meetings and events industry forward."

Hinton added, "Plus, MPI is uniquely positioned to provide a strong voice for the value of face-to-face meetings, and I look forward to promoting that message throughout my tenure."

David Gabri, ALHI's and ADW's president and CEO, said, "Kevin is the perfect person to lead MPI, as he is a committed visionary leader, skilled strategic planner, and a passionate MPI advocate who truly inspires. He will do an outstanding job for us all."

ALHI provides to meeting professionals, association executives, incentive specialists, and business executives experienced Global Sales services with diverse options among its outstanding member hotels and resorts worldwide for programs requiring from 10 to more than 6,500 rooms.

**There is no cost to planners' organizations** to utilize the **ALHI Sales** services, expertise, and account advocacy, as its members' dues fund the organization to best serve executives and planners with local professionals to provide appropriate options for successful programs worldwide.

Featuring a worldwide portfolio of over **115,000 rooms** and suites and more than **10.5 million square feet of meeting space worldwide**, **ALHI** provides planners and their organizations experienced National Sales services, and easy and professional one-call local access, to outstanding hotels and resorts which specialize in meetings and incentive programs.

**ALHI and ADW** now feature 23 upper-tier hotels and resorts **outside of the U.S.** in its portfolio, found in 17 international destinations. This includes five hotels in China (including two in Hong Kong), one in Australia, one in New Zealand, one in the Bahamas, four in the Dominican Republic, one in Jamaica, one in England, one in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), three in Canada, and five in Mexico. The ADW team works in concert with the ALHI NSO professionals providing incremental sales intelligence, account advocacy, first-hand insights and valuable assistance for outbound international group programs.

Member hotels in ALHI and ADW include extraordinary Four- and Five-Diamond quality meeting and incentive resorts, incomparable city hotels, exclusive smaller hotels, golf resorts, historic and landmark properties, island destinations, resorts with spas, properties in international destinations, and hotels and resorts with world-class gaming and entertainment.

For a list of ALHI's entire portfolio, visit [www.alhi.com](http://www.alhi.com), and preview details of ALHI's membership, including easily useful information on several defined specialty segments within the ALHI portfolio. Planners can quickly see details of the properties' meeting, accommodation, recreational and dining offerings, as well as destination information and "Luxury on Sale" value opportunities. A photo gallery, meeting floor plans and specs, and a location map for each property are also easily available.

For a list of ALHI's ADW's "worldwide portfolio" specifically, visit [www.adw-gso.com](http://www.adw-gso.com), and preview details of each member hotel, including details of the properties' accommodation offerings, meeting facilities, amenities, restaurants and lounges. The site also features informative destination information on 17 international cities, including the appeal of each destination, key points of interest, how to get there, weather statistics, currency information, language(s) spoken, the time zone, electricity information, distance to other cities, and local holidays.

ALHI now has 16 professionally-staffed National Sales Offices, with locations in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Louisville, New York City, Orlando, Philadelphia, Richmond, Savannah, Southern California, Toronto, Washington, D.C., and Washington (state). Go to [www.alhi.com](http://www.alhi.com) to identify the "ALHI Contacts" sales professionals in your state/area.

For information about ALHI, contact your nearest ALHI National Sales Office, call the "ALHI Group Desk" toll-free at **866-303-ALHI (2544)**, and visit [www.alhi.com](http://www.alhi.com). For specific information about Associated Destinations Worldwide, call **(312) 346-5768**, and visit [www.adw-gso.com](http://www.adw-gso.com). For more information about Meeting Professionals International, visit [www.mpiweb.org](http://www.mpiweb.org) or call **(972) 702-3000**.

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PR Contact: Karen Lamonica at (407) 788-7070, ext. 208 or [klamonica@chisano.com](mailto:klamonica@chisano.com)

Note: **High-resolution photos** of Kevin Hinton, and of ALHI and ADW member properties, are available by contacting Karen Lamonica.