



01 | LOOKING AFTER YOU AND YOUR TEAM

This session will focus on “Looking after you and your team” including decompressing after long event hours/weekends, how important your mental health is, how to not overextend yourself (saying no), and looking at what work-life balance truly means. Part of the session/whole conference will include a quiet space for those who need a zen spot for a few moments. There might be some furry friends involved as well!

Speaker: TBD

02 | SPILL THE TEA, SECRETS OF A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEAM

How are some teams able to create a cohesive and effective culture while others struggle with interpersonal challenges and roadblocks? In this engaging and interactive session, Kim and Richard will “spill the tea” on what is at the core of the team's debilitating issues and provide you with actionable steps toward enhanced collaboration and results. Gain insights into why “why” matters and how to focus on trust and trust to become a more effective team member and team leader.

Keynote Speaker(s): Richard Andersen, CVE, ICD.D & Kim Bedier, CVE

03 | HARVESTING STRENGTH: TOOLS FOR MANAGING VENUE CRISIS

This session is designed to equip event professionals with essential tools for handling venue-related crises. Participants will delve into effective strategies for identifying, preparing for, and managing potential issues that can arise during events. From logistical challenges to unexpected emergencies, this session offers practical solutions to ensure smooth operations and minimize disruptions. Through real-world examples and interactive discussions, attendees will gain the confidence to handle crises with strength and agility, equipping them to effectively navigate unexpected challenges in any venue setting.

Speaker: Dusty Nichols, Dir. of Shawnee County Emergency Management

04 | CLOSING THE DEAL: CONTRACTS & LEASES FOR VM'S

This panel will explore the key elements of contracts and lease agreements for convention centers, arenas, stadiums, and everything in between, highlighting best practices for negotiation and compliance. Gain insights from industry experts to help you navigate the complexities of venue agreements and ensure smooth event operations.

Speakers: Cait Burggraf, Anthony Lopez, Keller Taylor & Mike Tabor

05 | DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

The panel will have HR representatives (where possible) from each generation (representatives from Ops if no HR individual is open), giving insight and information on how to approach difficult conversations. This includes basics like, how to manage an employee who disagrees with your instruction or direction:

1. Disagree Respectfully
2. Define the Outcome or Goal that is expected
3. Listen and validate their feelings if not the situation
4. Re-state the outcome/goal that is expected

Panelists: TBD



06 | LEADERSHIP BY CONSENSUS: TURNING STAKEHOLDERS INTO VAMPIRE SLAYERS

Learn how to lead large projects through consensus building, turning potential obstacles into passionate advocates. This session covers key strategies for engaging stakeholders, accelerating feedback, and overcoming resistance to ensure project success. Discover the difference between leadership by consensus and design by committee, and leave equipped to turn stakeholders into zealous champions for your project. The "vampire slayers" referenced in the title are stakeholders (get it?) who become zealous advocates for your project instead of bureaucratic obstacles.

Speaker: David Greusel, FAIA, Principal, Convergence Design

KEYNOTE SESSION; COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP – LIVING A LIFE OF INFLUENCE

On November 23, 2013, Dan Meers came within inches of losing his life while practicing a bungee jump and zip line stunt at Arrowhead Stadium... home of the Kansas City Chiefs. What Dan anticipated being the thrill of a lifetime ended up being the spill of a lifetime. The stunt went terribly wrong and Dan plummeted 75 feet before crashing into the stadium seats. Miraculously Dan survived. He spent 9 days in the hospital and got some really big scars. Dan smiles when he says, "Scars are just Tattoos that come with a Cool Story." During this powerful presentation, Dan shares his incredible story and the important lessons that he learned during his long road to recovery about leadership and about life.

Keynote Speaker: Dan Meers, Kansas City Chiefs

07 | CERTIFICATION: TRAINED CROWD MANAGER

08 | BONUS CERTIFICATION: STOP THE BLEED

Limited to 100 people
