PEOPLE



CONVENTION BUREAUS

Tom Kiely has been appointed CEO of Visit West Hollywood (California),



Tom Kiely

effective October 17. He will transition from his current role as executive vice-president of tourism at the San Francisco Travel Association. Kiely also has experience

serving in leadership positions with the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, Atlantis, The Palm in Dubai and Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, California.

Teresa Anderson has been named CEO of Visit Granbury (Texas). A

30-year-veteran of the destination marketing organization industry, Anderson has served in various state and national leadership roles. She was instrumental in launching the industry's first accreditation program, and in 2007, she formed her own professional advisory services firm.

Molly Rawn has been appointed executive director of the Fayetteville (Arkansas) Advertising & Promotion Commission, which operates the Fayetteville Convention & Visitors Bureau, Town Center, Visitor's Center and Clinton House Museum and, in addition, grants local proposals. Rawn most recently served as director of development and communications at the Scott Family Amazeum in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Karen Totaro has been named senior vice-president and general manager of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation, which was created by the city of San Diego to manage, market and operate its waterfront convention facility. Totaro most recently served as general manager of the Atlantic City Convention Center in New Jersey. Before that, she served as assistant general manager of the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati.

Michelle Revuelta has been appointed vice-president of media relations at Choose Chicago. She most recently served as media relations director at Tourism Toronto.

Tony Poe has been appointed director of national accounts at the Little Rock (Arkansas) Convention & Visitors Bureau. Poe most recently served as the national sales director of Absolute Travel, a New York Citybased tour operator.

The Athens (Georgia) Convention & Visitors Bureau has hired Missy Brandt Wilson as director of sales and Jay Boling as junior sales manager. Wilson previously served as the bureau's senior sales manager, and prior to that, she was the director of sales and marketing for the Village Inn & Pub in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Boling most recently served as the economic development assistant for the Oconee County (Georgia) Board of Commissioners.

Amy Peralta has been appointed sales manager of Gulf Shores & Orange

Beach (Alabama)
Tourism, where she
will handle all markets in Alabama,
Georgia, Louisiana,
Mississippi and
Texas. Peralta most
recently served as



Amy Peralta

sales manager of the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach.

TRANSFORMATIONS

A number of hotels in New York's Times Square have recently undergone significant renovations. The **Westin/New York at Times Square** has completed a \$39 million, multiphase

renovation that included a new lobby, 45th-floor Empire Suite and culinary concept. The Empire Suite, formerly the Presidential Suite, spans 1,800 square feet and provides sweeping views of Manhattan. The hotel features 873 guest rooms and a total of more than 34,000

square feet of meeting space, including three ballrooms and 32 meeting and breakout rooms.

One of the new event spaces at the

Time Hotel is the Glass Pavilion, which

can accommodate groups of up to 35.

The 193-room **Time Hotel** also completed a major renovation. The \$20 mil-

lion update introduced four new spaces for meeting and events: the Penthouse, which can accommodate up to 50 people; the Glass Pavilion, with space for up to 35; a boardroom/private dining room, which can host up to 24 people seated or up to 35 standing; and Le

Grande Lounge, with space for up to 20 people seated or up to 40 standing.

The 45-room Hotel Shocard has unveiled two new event spaces: the Sho-Stopper Suite, which can host events of up to 50 people, and the Ensemble Suite, for up to 20 people. The

Sho-Stopper Suite has a 575-square-foot rooftop terrace and 325 square feet of indoor space. The Ensemble Suite has a 300-square-foot rooftop terrace and 225 of indoor event space.

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The Louisville (Kentucky) Convention & Visitors Bureau recently made several new appointments and staff promotions. Allison Joyce has been named convention sales manager in its convention-development department. She most recently served as executive meeting manager at the Marriott/ Downtown Louisville. Nicole Twigg, who previously served as the CVB's director of tourism, has been promoted to vice-president of tourism. Mae Bower has been promoted to director of meetings for team sales and state associations from her former role as senior sales manager. And Chris Bumann, previously an administrative assistant in the convention sales department, is

The Sacramento (California) Convention & Visitors Bureau has officially been renamed **Visit Sacramento**. According to the destination marketing organization, the change was designed to better convey the organization's purpose to both visitors and residents across a variety of brands that Visit Sacramento manages.

now tourism coordinator.

HOSPITALITY & SUPPLIERS

Lisa Timbo has been named general manager of the JW Marriott/Chicago.



Lisa Timbo

A 30-year industry veteran and a Chicago native, Timbo previously served as general manager of the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel

in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida, has named **Derek Baum** as general manager and **Jay Finkelstein** as assistant general manager. Baum has been with Rosen Hotels & Resorts for 30 years and most recently served as general manager of the Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando, Finkelstein has worked for 10

years in catering and convention serves at the Rosen Centre Hotel.

John Bruce has been appointed general manager of the Coast International Inn in Anchorage, Alaska. Bruce has more than 15 years of hospitality experience and most recently served as assistant general manager of the Coast/Bellevue in Bellevue, Washington.

William Zeralsky has been named vice-president of national marketing for the MGM/National Harbor, scheduled to open later this year in Oxon Hill, Maryland, with 308 guest rooms, a 3,000-seat theater and 27,000 square feet of meeting space. Zeralsky most recently was vice-president of casino marketing for regional operations at MGM Resorts.

Debi Bishop has assumed the role of managing director of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort in Honolulu. Bishop has 30 years of industry experience and most recently served as general manager of the Hilton Waikoloa Village, also in Hawaii.

Lorraine Turner has been named regional executive for Premier Hotel Collection's two U.S. properties (both located in California): the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel and the Anaheim Majestic Garden Hotel. As the first person appointed to this new role, Turner will work on creating a strategic human resource plan uniting the hotels. She most recently served as chief administrative officer for the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel, where she worked for 15 years.

Melissa Robinson has been named group sales manager for the Midwest

and West Coast markets at the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Robinson previously served as sales and catering



Melissa Robinson

manager at the Hollywood Beach Marriott in Hollywood, Florida.

Alina Lopez has been hired as event sales manager at the Andaz/Wall Street

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Association Update

News from state and regional associations and local societies of association executives

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- Rod Abraham has been named executive director of the Senior Planners Industry Network (SPIN), a global association of senior-level planners, headquartered in Eagan, Minnesota. A former association executive, Abraham is the founder and former chief executive of the Professional Meeting Planners Network (now Plannernet). He also formerly served as a two-time chair of the Meeting Professionals International Foundation board of trustees and was a member of the MPI international board of directors.
- The Alexandria, Virginia—based Association Management Company Institute (AMCI) has selected Canada as the location of its first international chapter and has appointed Serge Micheli as president of AMC/Canada. The new chapter will serve to further the international presence of the AMC sector and expand the AMCI's ability to advance professionalism and high-performance standards throughout the world.
- CMA Association Management, based in Princeton Junction, New Jersey, recently promoted three employees. Kenneth Hitchner will serve as public relations and social media director, Anna Cifelli will assume the role of account executive, and Grace Kim will serve as project manager. In his new role, Hitchner will focus on strategic plans, key messaging and developing new products and processes for the organization's in-house public relations and social media team. Cifelli will take on a greater level of responsibility in leading strategic initiatives for national and international clients. And Kim will assume more responsibility for client projects while setting strategic objectives and managing budgets.

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 The Chicago-based International **Live Events Association** (formerly the International Special Events Society) recently announced its international board of governors for 2016-17. Officers include Judy Brillhart, catering director at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who will serve as president; Ingrid Nagy, owner and CEO of Catering by Design in Denver, as president-elect; Sara Hunt, vice-president of Giants Enterprises in San Francisco, as treasurer; Jennifer Trethewey, managing director of the JT Group in Port Melbourne, Australia, as secretary; and Jodi Collen, events and conferences director at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, as immediate past-president. Governors include Mary Baird-Wilcock, CEO and founder of The Simplifiers, a full-service event-planning company in Nottingham, England; Eileen Bistrisky, president and CEO of Effective Leadership Consulting in Vancouver, British Columbia: Alexis Gorriaran, senior director of (add)ventures in Providence, Rhode Island; Dana Macaulay, director of events and operations at Sonoma County Vintners in Santa Rosa, California; Gwen McNutt, regional external affairs manager at Comcast Cable in Chicago; Tanya Posavatz, owner of Clink in Austin, Texas; and Steven Way, president of Advanced Lighting & Production Services in Randolph, Massachusetts.



• Vicki Varela has been named 2016 National State Tourism Director of the Year by the U.S. Travel Association. Since 2013, Varela has served as managing director of tourism, film and global branding within the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development.

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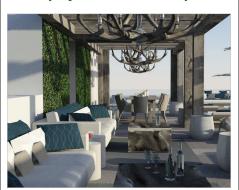
Association

in New York City, where she will oversee the corporate and government markets as well as fundraisers. Lopez most recently was sales coordinator at Westin Times Square, also in New York City.

CONSTRUCTION & EXPANSION

The Montage/Palmetto Bluff has made its debut in Bluffton, South Carolina, following a \$100 million expansion. The hotel now features 200 guest rooms, six dining options, three pool venues, a spa, a children's program, 35 Montage residences and more than 16,000 square feet of meeting space.

The 154-room **Halcyon Hotel** recently opened in the Cherry Creek



Halcyon Hotel

North district of Denver. Features include courtesy transportation (such as bikes and Vespas), hi-speed Wi-Fi and, for meetings, 6,500 square feet of space that can accommodate groups of up to 300 people.

The **Grand Park Events Center** has opened in Westfield, Indiana (about 20 miles north of downtown Indianapolis). The 370,000-square-foot facility features three full-size professional soccer fields, meeting rooms, office space, locker rooms and a restaurant.

At the **Orange County Convention Center** in Orlando, Florida, the renovation and remodel of the 62,182-squarefoot Valencia Ballroom has been completed. The space will have the same look and feel as the Tangerine Ballroom, also newly remodeled. The

convention center offers a total of 2.1 million square feet of exhibit space.

The **Hyatt Regency/San Francisco Airport** in Burlingame, California, has



Hyatt Regency/San Francisco Airport

completed a renovation that includes new design elements, meeting spaces and food and beverage options. All 789 of its guest rooms have been renovated, and the hotel's 69,285 square feet of flexible meeting space includes two new ballrooms—the Sequoia and the Cypress—with views of San Francisco Bay. Also new to the property is a restaurant concept, 3SIXTY, which incorporates a bar, bistro and market.

And in New Paltz, New York, the **Mohonk Mountain House** recently opened the Grove Lodge, its newest accommodation in more than 100 years. Nestled in a fern grove within walking distance of the main hotel, the 7,000-square-foot lodge offers six guest suites and a 1,080-square-foot Great Room.

AND FINALLY ...

The **Claremont Club & Spa**, a Fairmont Hotel in Berkeley, California, has announced the creation of a new position: director of adventures and experiences. **Katy Yong**, who previously served as the resort's director of development, will collaborate with local and regional partners to create programming and tailored experiences for groups, individuals and families. On her agenda: social, cultural, educational and "only-in-the-East-Bay" activities.

—Edited by Jennifer Lee