

CONVENTION BUREAUS

Al Hutchinson has been named president and CEO of Visit Baltimore, effective November 14. With more than 24 years of experience in the hospitality and destination marketing industry, Hutchinson most recently served as president and CEO of Visit Mobile (Alabama). Prior to that, he spent 11 years as vice-president of sales and services at the Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau.



Al Hutchinson

Marc Anderson has been promoted to executive vice-president of Choose Chicago, where he most recently served

as chief sales officer. Anderson previously worked for Choose Chicago from 2002 to 2007 (when the organization was known as the Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau) as assistant vice-president of sales.

Michelle Moore has been named director of sales at Experience Kissimmee (Florida). Moore previously spent 10 years with Visit Orlando (Florida), where she served in a variety of sales positions, most recently as destination services senior manager. She has also worked at two Orlando properties: the JW Marriott/Orlando-Grande Lakes and the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress.



Michelle Moore

Visit Spokane (Washington) has appointed **Dionne Hulsey** as director of national accounts for the central region, and will be based in Chicago. Hulsey formerly worked for both Tourism Montréal and Ottawa (Ontario) Tourism, and managed her own hospitality sales and marketing company.

Suzanne Singleton has been named head of associations at London & Partners, the official promotional company for England's capital city. She previously served as MICE account director at the Grove in Hertfordshire County, England.

HOSPITALITY & SUPPLIERS

Clark Grue has been appointed president and CEO of the Calgary Telus Convention Centre in Calgary, Alberta, effective November 1. Grue co-founded the Rainmaker Global Business Development in Calgary, where he has



Clark Grue

worked as president and CEO. Before that, he served as vice-president of investment and trade at Calgary Economic Development.

The Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company in Hershey, Pennsylvania, recently promoted **John Lawn** to president. Lawn also serves as its chief operating officer, a position he has held since 2015. Before his time with Hershey, he worked as general manager of Centerplate at FedExField in Hyattsville, Maryland, and as executive director of major events for Ridgewells, an event-catering service in Bethesda, Maryland.



John Lawn

Christine Lawson has been named senior vice-president of the Loews

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SPOTLIGHT: LAS VEGAS

Nevada Governor **Brian Sandoval** recently signed legislation that will pave the way for the expansion and renovation of the **Las Vegas Convention Center** as well as the development of a new football stadium.

The expansion of the Las Vegas Convention Center is a \$1.4 billion project that would add 600,000 square feet of new exhibit space to the facility, which currently provides 2 million square feet of exhibit space and nearly 250,000 square feet of meeting space.

The city offers a total of more than 11 million square feet of meeting space. In 2015, the Las Vegas Convention Center reported hosting 49 events with a combined attendance of 1.3 million people.



An expansion of the Las Vegas Convention Center is expected to add 600,000 square feet of meeting space.

The expansion is estimated to attract 610,000 new convention attendees per year.

The legislation also includes plans for the development of a \$1.9 billion, 65,000-seat football stadium that could have the potential to house the NFL's Oakland Raiders, whose owner Mark Davis had expressed an interest in a relocation to Las Vegas if the legislation were approved. NFL team owners would need to approve any potential move.

Both the stadium project and convention center expansion are expected to create more than 14,000 jobs and pump \$1.4 billion into Las Vegas' economy. An increase in Clark County's room tax will be used to help fund both projects.

