

## CONVENTION BUREAUS

**David Clark** has been named president and CEO of Visit Mobile (Alabama). Clark brings to his new role 29 years of industry experience, previously serving as general manager of The Beach Club in Gulf Shores, Alabama.



David Clark

Before that, he worked with Marriott International for 25 years.

**Michael Larragueta** has been named vice-president of sales at the Reno-Sparks (Nevada) Convention & Visitors Authority. Larragueta most recently served as executive director

of sales at the Silver Legacy, Eldorado and Circus Circus properties in Reno.

**Connie Kopecky** has been appointed sales account executive at Visit Milwaukee. Kopecky has more than 20 years of experience at GMR Marketing, where she most recently served as director of travel, corporate events, meetings and hospitality.



Connie Kopecky

The Greater Birmingham (Alabama) Convention & Visitors Bureau has promoted **Steve Pierson** to director of convention sales and has hired **Carman Atchison** as sales manager for the Northeast territory and the arts and culture markets. Pierson previously served

as the bureau's national sales manager and, prior to that, was vice-president of sales for convention bureaus in Knoxville, Tennessee; Rochester, New York; and Houston. Atchison most recently served as sales manager for Westin and Sheraton properties in Birmingham.

## HOSTS & SUPPLIERS

**Blake Henry** has been named general manager of both the Owensboro Convention Center and the Owensboro Sportscenter in Owensboro, Kentucky. Henry most recently served as director of operations at the Baton Rouge Convention Center in Louisiana.

**Paul Cardona** has been appointed general manager of Le Méridien/Chicago-Oakbrook Center in Oak Brook, Illinois. Cardona has more than 22 years of experience; he previously held executive positions with Four Seasons Hotels



Paul Cardona

& Resorts, Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, the Park Hyatt/Chicago and the SLS/South Beach in Miami Beach, Florida.

**Mike Burton** has been named general manager of the Westin/Jackson, which is scheduled to open in August in Jackson, Mississippi with 203 guest rooms and 10 meeting spaces. Burton most recently served as general manager of the Westin/Chicago Northwest in Itasca, Illinois.

**Marco Tabet** has been named general manager of the Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort in Mexico, where he served as director of food and beverage from 2007 to 2012. More recently, Tabet was general manager of the Hilton/Lima-Miraflores in Peru.

**Robert Purdy** has been appointed general manager of the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa & Casino in

continued on page 23

## SPOTLIGHT: NEW YORK CITY

Several new meeting hotels have made their debut in New York City, currently home to more than 112,000 hotel rooms across the five boroughs. According to NYC & Company, the city's destination marketing organization, the guest room inventory is expected to grow to 135,000 by 2019.

In the borough of Brooklyn, **1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge** has opened at the Pier 1 development. The 194-room property provides more than 20,000 square feet of flexible func-



The waterfront 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge was designed by local artists and uses 100 percent wind power energy.

tion space, which includes a 50-seat screening room and the Meadow Rue event space, which can accommodate groups of up to 1,000. A 4,000-square-foot rooftop that can

host up to 350 people and a 10th-floor lounge are expected to debut in May, and a spa is scheduled to open in June.

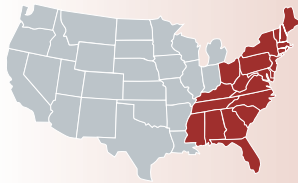
In Midtown Manhattan, **The Whitby Hotel** offers 86 guest rooms and three meeting rooms. Additional hotel features include a library, outdoor terrace, 130-seat screening room and The Whitby Bar.

And right in the hub of Times Square, the **DoubleTree by Hilton New York-Times Square West** is located just steps from the Broadway Theater District. The 35-story property

offers views of the Manhattan skyline, a rooftop bar, a signature restaurant, 612 guest rooms and a 1,000-square-foot conference room that accommodate groups of up to 15 people.

# Association Update

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



• **Katharine “Kathie” Morgan** has been named president of ASTM International, an international standards-development organization based in eastern Pennsylvania. A 33-year veteran of ASTM International, Morgan was the organization’s executive vice-president for the past two years and, before that, she was vice-president of technical committee operations. She serves on a number of boards including the American National Standards Institute, the International Consumer Product Health & Safety Organization and the American Society of Association Executives. Morgan succeeds **James Thomas**, who served in the role for 25 years.

• The Washington, D.C.–based **American Society of Association Executives** recently announced the 148 professionals who earned their Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential. The organization’s winter 2017 class of CAEs will be honored, along with the summer class of CAEs, during the 2017 Annual Meeting & Exposition, scheduled to run August 12–15 in Toronto.

• The **Convention Industry Council**—comprising 33 member organizations that work to offer tools and programs to support the meetings, conventions, exhibitions and events industry—has selected SmithBucklin to provide full-service association management. Additionally, the council’s headquarters will move from Alexandria, Virginia, to Washington, D.C., this month. **Karen Kotowski**, the council’s CEO, will continue to serve in that role when she joins the SmithBucklin team.

• The **Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)**, based

*continued on page 27*

*continued from page 17*

Incline Village, Nevada. Purdy most recently served as general manager of the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort & Spa in Colorado.

**Nail Task** has been named general manager of the Big Cypress Lodge in Memphis, Tennessee. He previously was assistant general manager of the Titanic Deluxe Bodrum hotel in Turkey.

**Noni Hughes** has been appointed general manager of the Kimpton Hotel Vintage in Portland, Oregon. Hughes previously served as assistant general manager for six years at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington.



*Noni Hughes*

**Vincent Bucci** has been named managing director of the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort & Spa in Florida, which recently completed a \$40 million transformation. Bucci most recently served as general manager of the Hyatt Regency/Westlake in Westlake Village, California.

**Jeff David** has been named managing director of the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. David previously served as managing partner of the Greydon House in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

**David Arraya** has been named resort manager of the Four Seasons Resort/Lanai in Hawaii. He previously held a number of senior management positions at resorts across the United States and Asia, including the East/Miami and East/Hong Kong hotels, the Fontainebleau/Miami Beach and the Pierre in New York City.

The 128-room Park Hyatt/St. Kitts, scheduled to open late this spring on the Caribbean island with 7,000 square feet of event space, has hired **Julian Moore** as general manager and **Mark Guthrie** as director of sales and marketing. Moore most recently served as general manager of the Park Hyatt/Hadahaa in the Maldives. Guthrie comes to the property with experience as director of sales, mar-

keting and events at the Park Hyatt/Washington, D.C.

The Omni Hotel at The Battery Atlanta, scheduled to open early 2018 with 264 guest rooms and more than 12,000 square feet of meeting space, has named **Ramon Reyes** as general manager and **Jennifer Mayo** as director of sales and marketing. Reyes previously served as director of rooms and operations for the Omni Royal Orleans in New Orleans. And for the last 12 years, Mayo was the director of sales and marketing at the Omni/Charlottesville in Virginia.

The Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix has named **Ryan Fitzgerald** as resort manager and **Carey Shindler** as senior sales manager. Fitzgerald most recently served as hotel manager of the Loews/Philadelphia. Shindler comes to the Arizona Biltmore from the Arizona Grand Resort & Spa in Phoenix where she served as national sales manager for more than three years.

The Statler Hotel in Dallas, which is undergoing a \$225 million redevelopment expected to be complete this spring, has appointed **Evan Danziger** as general manager and **Jennifer Wasserman** as director of sales and marketing. Danziger



*Evan Danziger*

previously served as general manager of the Embassy Suites/Denver International Airport and as assistant general manager of the Embassy Suites/Phoenix-Scottsdale. Wasserman has more than 20 years of hospitality experience and most recently served as director of sales and marketing at the Highland Dallas.

**Brad Lyles** has been named director of sales and marketing at two properties in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin: the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa and the Timber Ridge Lodge & Waterpark.

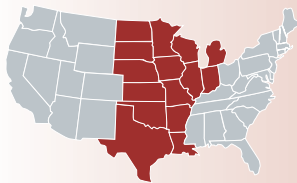


*Jennifer Wasserman*

*continued on page 27*

in Silver Spring, Maryland, has selected Spargo, Inc., to provide various management services for its annual North American Waste-to-Energy Conference (NAWTEC) and SWANApalooza and Wastecon expos through 2020. Attended by private and municipal-sector waste management professionals, SWANA events showcase products, systems and services used for the collection, processing, composting and recycling of solid waste.

- **CMA Association Management**, based in Princeton Junction, New Jersey, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Founded by **Jeffrey Barnhart**, the firm is triple-accredited and provides leadership and governance, association headquarters, membership and member programs, growth-engine platforms, financial oversight, event-management and full-service marketing.



- **Thomas Arend Jr.** has been appointed CEO of the **American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons** in Rosemont, Illinois. He begins his new role this month and replaces **Karen Hackett**, who is retiring after 14 years of leading the organization. Arend previously served as executive vice-president, chief operating officer and general counsel at the American College of Cardiology. Prior to that, he was an attorney at Shaw Pittman, LLP, and Jenner & Block. Arend is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia bar associations, the American Society of Association Executives and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

- The Dallas-based **International Association of Exhibitions & Events** has selected Louisville, Kentucky, to host Expo! Expo!, its annual meeting and exhibition, in 2020. The event is scheduled to take place at the Kentucky International Convention Center, with the Omni/Louisville (opening in 2018) and the Louisville Marriott Downtown serving as host hotels.

continued from page 23

He most recently served as corporate director of sales at Marcus Hotels & Resorts in Milwaukee.

**Paul Romero** has been named director of sales and marketing at the Kimpton Hotel Zamora in St. Pete Beach, Florida. He most recently was a senior sales executive at the Hilton/St. Petersburg Bayfront, also located in Florida.

**Alan Fabris** has been named director of sales and marketing at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton/Myrtle Beach Oceanfront in South Carolina. Fabris most recently served as area director of sales and marketing for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, overseeing 14 properties throughout the Midwest.

**Katie Rooney** has been appointed regional group sales manager at the Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa in Rancho Santa Fe, California. Rooney previously served as senior national sales manager for the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, also located in town.



Katie Rooney

## CONSTRUCTION & EXPANSION

The 241-room **DoubleTree by Hilton/Evansville** has made its debut in downtown Evansville, Indiana. In addition to having its own 12,000 square feet of meeting space, the hotel is connected via skybridge to the Old National Events Plaza and the Ford Center, which together offer another 600,000 square feet of meeting space.

The dual-branded **Aloft and Element/Dallas-Love Field** has opened just south of Dallas Love Field Airport. The Aloft offers 133 guest rooms, a 24-hour fitness center, free Wi-Fi and a keyless entry system, and the Element offers 91 guest rooms, a complimentary "Bikes to Borrow" program and healthy dining options. The properties share 6,500 square feet of meeting space.

The **Westin/Dallas Park Central** has completed a multimillion-dollar renovation. The update included upgrades to all 536 guest rooms, the lobby, restaurant and bar, fitness facilities, rooftop pool and 42,000 square feet of meeting space.

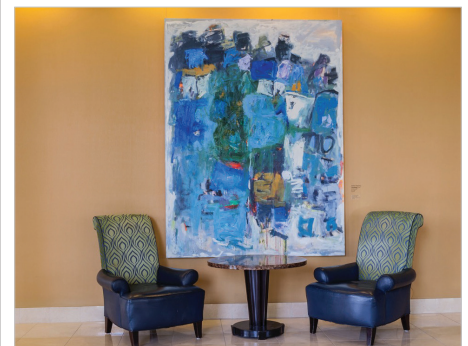
The 470-room **Washington Marriott Georgetown** in Washington, D.C., has completed a \$28 million renovation. The hotel updated its 18 meeting rooms and added three new rooms, bringing its total meeting space to 22,000 square feet.

The **Sheraton Miami Airport Hotel & Executive Meeting Center** has completed a \$10 million renovation, which included updates to its pool, 405 guest rooms and 17,000 square feet of function space. It can host events of up to 300.

The **Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa** in Paradise Valley, Arizona, has unveiled \$2 million in updates, marking the culmination of a two-year renovation project. The property offers 109 guest rooms and event space for up to 250 people.

## AND FINALLY...

The 1,360-room **Marriott Marquis/San Diego** has partnered with local art dealer Alexander Salazar on a new art program for 2017. The hotel will fea-



Marriott Marquis/San Diego

ture work by artists that will rotate every six months. The new program complements the hotel's recently installed artwork throughout its 280,000 square feet of event space, which includes a \$107 million convention venue that opened last summer. ■

—Edited by Jennifer Lee