

CONVENTION **BUREAUS**

Dave Beachnau has been promoted to senior vice-president of sales, market-

ing and sports at the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau. Beachnau has worked at the bureau in different capacities for the past 24 years; prior to that,



Dave Beachnau

he spent eight years working in the hospitality industry.

Visit Phoenix has promoted **Lorne Edwards** to vice-president of sales and services. Edwards came to the organization as director of sales after 16 years with the Hyatt Hotels Corporation.

Kellie Linder has been named national sales manager at Visit Savannah (Georgia) where she will handle accounts based in Chicago and other major markets in the Midwest and West. Linder previously held sales and management positions at two Savannah properties: Hotel Indigo and the River Street Inn.

Tamara Whiting has been hired as national sales manager of the Cincinnati

USA Convention & Visitors Bureau. She previously worked at VisitPittsburgh as national sales director. Whiting also previously spent time with Starwood Hotels



Tamara Whiting

& Resorts as a field marketing manager.

Lauren McKee has been appointed national sales manager of Visit KC (Missouri); she will be responsible for the Southeast. McKee most recently served as sales manager of the Crowne Plaza/Kansas City Downtown.

Laura Saeger has been named director of sales and business development at the Bermuda Tourism Authority. For the last decade, Saeger has served as the head of North America meeting and incentive sales for the South Africa National Convention Bureau.

HOST & SUPPLIERS

Ryan Golpeo has been named director of operations at the Hawaii Conven-



Ryan Golpeo

tion Center in Honolulu. Golpeo has experience serving as director of operations at the Forum in Inglewood, California, and as general manager of premium services at

the Talking Stick Resort Arena (then the U.S. Airways Center) in Phoenix.

Giovanni Beretta has been appointed vice-president of Swire Hotels in the United States and general manager of the hotel East, Miami in downtown's Brickell City Centre. Beretta most recently served as managing director of the Carlyle hotel in New York City.

Shepard, a trade-show services and event-production company based in Atlanta, has appointed Frank Villamar as chief financial officer and promoted Steve Margos to vice-president of West Coast operations. Villamar most recently served as CFO of Turnberry Innovations. Margos previously served as manager of Shepard's Las Vegas branch. He will maintain that role but also assume leadership of the Phoenix and California branches.

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SPOTLIGHT: DISNEYLAND RESORT

Let's say you have a cool wealthy uncle and he lets you throw a party for 12 of your closest friends in his house. Then let's say that uncle is Walt Disney and the house is in the middle of Disne-

yland. That, in a nutshell, is the experience of 21 Royal, a new offering for groups in Anaheim, California.

Now available for groups of up to 12, the 21 Royal experience starts with passes to the park and then, in the evening, guests are led into the 21 Royal residence, which is located in

New Orleans Square above the Pirates of the Caribbean ride.

The living room at the 21 Royal

residence was created using Walt and Lillian Disney's original plans.

From there, they can spend time enjoying cocktails, appetizers and live acoustic music while exploring the

various rooms, which include a lot of signa-

ture Disney touches. Guests are then brought into the formal dining room for a tasting menu overseen by Executive Chef Andrew Sutton and Chef de Cuisine Justin Monson paired with

> wines selected by Project Manager and Sommelier Matt Ellingson. Each menu is personalized to the group and, in true Disney fashion, stories are woven throughout the evening as each course is presented.

> The experience ends on a balcony that overlooks the

Rivers of America and offers spectacular views of fireworks and the Fantasmic! show (on the nights they're offered in the park).

Ann Shepphird

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Association Update

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



- Alan Kidd has been named president and CEO of the Cincinnati-based National Association of Sports Commissions. He will begin his tenure during the 2017 NASC Sports Event Symposium, scheduled to run March 27–30 in Sacramento, California. Kidd, the former president of the San Diego Sports Commission, is currently with BoldPointe Partners, a private equity firm.
- The American Society of Association Executives, based in Washington, D.C., recently launched a broader, enhanced and competitively priced directors and officers (D&O) insurance-coverage solution for the association community. The flexible, multi-coverage plan is designed to meet the evolving risk-management needs of trade and professional associations, as well as other nonprofit organizations, across the nation.
- In other ASAE news, the **ASAE Foundation** recently announced the four winning projects of its annual Innovation Grants Program, in which recipients receive \$10,000 to further innovation exploration and development in the association community. The four winning organizations are: the American **Industrial Hygiene Association** of Falls Church, Virginia, for its Industrial Hygiene ProPath; the **American Institute of Certified** Public Accountants of Durham, North Carolina, for "Creating a Knowledge Sharing Platform to Accelerate Innovation in Accounting & Finance"; the Institute of Food Technologists, based in Chicago, for its program "Go With Purpose Global Challenge: Elevating Stu-

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Association Update

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Fredia Brady has been named general manager of the SMG-managed Wilming-

ton Convention Center in Wilmington, North Carolina. Brady has more than 25 years of experience and most recently served as senior director of sales and mar-



Fredia Brady

keting for the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center in Georgia.

Matthew Humphreys has been named general manager of the Hyatt Regency/San Francisco. Humphreys most recently served as general manager of the Hyatt Regency/Santa Clara, also located in California.

Peter Simoncelli has been named general manager of the Ritz-Carlton/



Peter Simoncelli

Chicago. Simoncelli has more than 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry. He previously served as general manager of two Westin properties in

Chicago: the Westin/Michigan Avenue and the Westin/Chicago River North.

Hans-Georg Roehrbein has been named general manager of the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, which recently completed a multimillion-dollar renovation. Roehrbein most recently served as general manager of the Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino in Egypt.

Richard Byrd has been appointed general manager of the Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach Shores, Florida. Byrd most recently served as general manager of the Crowne Plaza/Melbourne Oceanfront in Melbourne, Florida.

Steven Hurst has been named general manager of the Salishan Spa & Golf Resort in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. Hurst previously served as general manager of the Heathman Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

Fred Findlen has been appointed general manager of the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa on the Hawaiian island's western Ka'anapali Coast. Findlen has been with Hyatt Hotels & Resorts since 1985 and most recently served as general manager of the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa & Casino in Incline Village, Nevada.

Bill Hendrix has been promoted to general manager of the Hotel Hershey in

Hershey, Pennsylvania, effective May 1. He currently serves as the property's assistant general manager. Prior to joining the Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, Hen-



Bill Hendrix

drix worked at various Ritz-Carlton and Four Seasons properties.

Philip Clough has been named resort manager of the Four Seasons Resort/Scottsdale at Troon North in Scottsdale, Arizona. Clough has worked for Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts for six years and was previously resort manager of the Four Seasons Resort/Oahu at Ko Olina in Kapolei, Hawaii.

The Waldorf Astoria/Beverly Hills, scheduled to open in June in Southern California, has hired **Jeroen Werdmolder** as hotel manager and **Vanessa Williams** as director of sales and marketing. Werdmolder most recently served as hotel manager of the Waldorf Astoria/Amsterdam while Williams was most recently director of business development at the Conrad/Seoul in South Korea.

Peter Rockwood has been named vice-president of sales of L.E. Hotels, a global hospitality brand. He most recently served as vice-president of sales for Salamander Hotels & Resorts.

Joe Gaeta has been named director of sales and marketing for the Grand Hyatt/New York in New York City. Gaeta most recently served as director of sales and marketing at the InterContinental New York Barclay.

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dent Engagement Through Global Collaborations"; and the National Court Reporters Foundation of Reston, Virginia, for its Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project. The recipients will be recognized during ASAE's 2017 Great Ideas Conference, scheduled for March 5–7 at the Hyatt Regency/Orlando in Florida.

- The Washington, D.C.-based **Council for Responsible Nutrition**, the trade association for the dietary supplement and functional food industry, has promoted three executive staff members. Mike Greene, formerly its vice-president, has been promoted to senior vice-president of government relations; Nancy Weindruch, previously a senior director, is now vice-president of communications; and Ingrid Lebert, formerly a director, has been promoted to senior director of government relations. Prior to joining the organization, Greene's roles included serving as communications director for U.S. Rep. John Dingell of Michigan. Weindruch previously worked at the public affairs firm Powell Tate, serving as a member of the health care public affairs practice. And before Lebert came to the council in 2005, she worked in the intellectual property division of the law firm McKenna, Long & Aldridge and at the legislative consulting group Klein & Saks.
- · Washington, D.C.-based **Destination Marketing Association International has** announced its 2017 business plan. Its goals include becoming the recognized advocate for the DMO industry; expanding its international footprint to grow membership, non-dues revenue and global impact; transforming its partnership business model to create beneficial solutions; and becoming the premier source for destination marketing and management education and professional development. The organization has also been actively working to elevate its annual Destination Showcase. which is scheduled for March 2 at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C.

Kathy Kolar has been appointed director of sales and marketing at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center. She has experience leading the pre-opening marketing for the Hotel Indigo/Pittsburgh-East Liberty.

Dustin Imbesi has been named director of sales and marketing at the Hyatt Regency/San Francisco Airport in Burlingame, California. Imbesi most recently served as director of sales, marketing and events at the Hyatt Regency/Reston in Virginia.

SiuYin Ko has been named corporate director of sales at Rosewood Hotels &

Resorts. She brings to her new role extensive experience in the incentive, meetings and events industry, including serving as regional director of sales at Four Seasons



PEOPLE (PLACES

SiuYin Ko

Hotels & Resorts for more than 20 years.

CONSTRUCTION & EXPANSION

The Wyndham Grand/Clearwater Beach has opened in Clearwater, Flor-



Wyndham Grand/Clearwater Beach

ida. The resort offers 343 guest rooms, a pool overlooking the beach and a 24-hour fitness center. For meetings, the hotel features more than 22,000 square feet of space including an 10,632-square-foot ballroom.

The 126-room **Aloft/Louisville East** has made its debut in Louisville, Kentucky. Hotel features include nearly 3,600 square feet of meeting space, an indoor pool, a fitness center and a bar.

In Kansas City, Missouri, **Hotel Phil- lips Kansas City** has completed a



Hotel Phillips Kansas City

\$20 million transformation and is now part of the Curio Collection by Hilton. The 20-story, downtown hotel offers 216 guest rooms, a new restaurant and meeting space for groups of up to 150 people.

The US Grant hotel in San Diego has completed a \$13 million renovation of its grand lobby, meeting venues, fitness center and all 270 guest rooms. The property offers 33,000 square feet of meeting space, including four ballrooms.

LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort in Naples, Florida, has completed a \$6 million renovation, which included new Beach House guest rooms, sustainability initiatives and a gourmet coffee bar. The 189-room resort offers 12,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space.

In Arlington, Virginia, what was formerly the Hyatt/Arlington is now the **Hyatt Centric/Arlington**. Following a full renovation, the property now offers 318 guest rooms and more than 6,700 square feet of event space.

AND FINALLY...

Plans have been announced for the construction of the **Red River Street Canopy Walk**, which will connect the Austin (Texas) Convention Center to the Fairmont/Austin, currently under construction. The \$6 million, elevated bridge will enter into the second floor of the convention center and is expected to be complete in August. The 37-story Fairmont is also scheduled to open in August with 1,048 guest rooms, a spa and nearly 140,000 square feet of meeting space.

—Edited by Jennifer Lee