

## CONVENTION BUREAUS

**Dave Beachnau** has been promoted to senior vice-president of sales, marketing 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, he spent eight years working in the hospitality industry.



Dave Beachnau

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 & Resorts as a field marketing manager.



Tamara Whiting

**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 Convention 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.



Ryan Golpeo

**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.

## 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 Disneyland. 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.

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



The living room at the 21 Royal residence was created using Walt and Lillian Disney's original plans.

various rooms, which include a lot of signature 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.

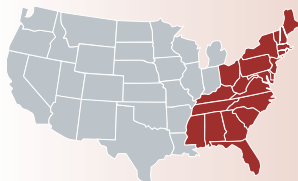
The experience ends on a balcony that overlooks the Rivers of America and offers spectacular views of fireworks and the Fantasmic! show (on the nights they're offered in the park).

—Ann Shepphird

continued on page 23

# 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-

*continued on page 37*

*continued from page 16*

**Fredia Brady** has been named general manager of the SMG-managed Wilmington Convention Center in Wilmington, North Carolina. Brady has more than 25 years of experience and most recently served as senior director of sales and marketing for the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center in Georgia.



*Fredia Brady*

**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/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.



*Peter Simoncelli*

**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, Hendrix worked at various Ritz-Carlton and Four Seasons properties.



*Bill Hendrix*

**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.

*continued on page 37*

