

## CONVENTION BUREAUS

**Ken Lawson** has been named president and CEO of Visit Florida. A former U.S. Marine Corps judge advocate general, Lawson most recently served as secretary of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Lawson succeeds former president and CEO **Will Seccombe**, who resigned amid a controversial \$1 million tourism promotion contract with the rapper, Pitbull.

**Steve Hammond** has announced that he will retire as president and CEO of Visit Sacramento, effective



Ken Lawson

June 30. He held the position since 1999. During Hammond's tenure, the organization's convention and sports sales production has increased by 78 percent and its operating budget has grown from \$2.2 million to \$11 million. His successor is expected to be confirmed this spring.

VisitPittsburgh has announced the promotion of **Tom Loftus** to chief marketing officer, a newly created position aimed at capitalizing on the organization's marketing, digital marketing and communication departments. Loftus joined VisitPittsburgh as vice-president of communications in 2015.



Tom Loftus

**Moji Rosson** has been named vice-president of sales at Visit Wichita (Kansas). Rosson previously served as the general counsel and director of government affairs for the Realtors of South Central Kansas.

**Jodi DiSalle** has been appointed vice-president of communications at Experience Kissimmee (Florida). She most recently served as director of marketing and public relations at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center, also in Kissimmee.

**Phil Hannes** has been named senior director of international marketing at the San Diego Tourism Authority. Hannes most recently worked at Visit Anaheim (California) where he served as director of tourism development for 20 years.

## HOSTS & SUPPLIERS

**Lukus Kindlesparker** has been named general manager of the Westin/Nashville in Tennessee. Kindlesparker most recently served as general manager of the W/Atlanta-Midtown, and prior to that, he was general manager of Atlanta's Glenn Hotel and W/Atlanta Perimeter.



Lukus Kindlesparker

**Tauseen Malik** has been named general manager of the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas. Malik most recently served as general manager of the Lakeway Resort & Spa in Austin, Texas.

**Kathleen Cochran** has been hired as general manager of the Alisal Guest Ranch Resort & Spa in Solvang, California. Cochran most recently served as general manager of the Resort at Paws Up in Greenough, Montana.

**Zach Meyers** has been named general manager of the Arrabelle at Vail Square in Vail, Colorado. He has served as director of hotel operations for the Grand

*continued on page 19*

## SPOTLIGHT: PALM SPRINGS

The desert city of **Palm Springs**, California, recently hosted the annual Palm Springs International Film Festival and used the occasion to show off its new meetings offerings to a group of visiting planners. The festival's star-studded gala was held at the downtown Palm Springs Convention Center, which offers a 112,000-square-foot exhibit hall. Attached to the convention center is the 410-room Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel, which offers an additional 30,000 square feet of space. A full renovation of the Renaissance Palm Springs is expected to begin this June and wrap up by January 2018.

The downtown area is also planning to debut two new hotels. The

Kimpton Hotel is expected to open this summer with 155 rooms and a rooftop pool. The Andaz Hotel by Hyatt is under construction and will offer 150 guest rooms and several garden areas when it opens.

Just south of downtown, a number of properties have recently completed renovations. At the Ace Hotel & Swim Club, updates have been made to the its spa, 173 guest rooms and 6,000 square feet of meeting space. A few blocks east is the colorful Saguaro hotel with 244 guest rooms and more than 19,000 square feet of recently renovated

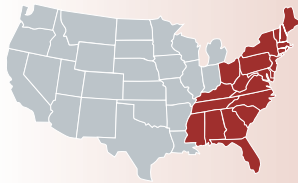
indoor and outdoor meeting space. In the works is a new, 1,175-square-foot terrace located right outside of the Sago Ballroom, which can accommodate groups of up to 300 people.



*The Renaissance Palm Springs is scheduled to undergo a complete renovation that will begin this June.*

# Association Update

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



• The **Virginia Society of Association Executives**, based in Richmond, recently presented its annual Awards of Excellence. **Richard Johnstone Jr.**, president and CEO of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, was awarded the CEO Award of Excellence. **Wilmer Stoneman**, associate director of governmental relations at the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, was awarded the Association Staff Award of Excellence. And **Lisa MacArthur**, convention sales manager of the Virginia Beach (Virginia) Convention & Visitors Bureau, was awarded the Associate Member Award of Excellence.

• The New York City-based **American Society of Mechanical Engineers** has promoted **Jeff Patterson** to chief operating officer, a newly created position. Patterson previously served as the organization's associate executive director of marketing and sales. Prior to starting at the association in January 2016, Patterson served as president of the insurance division of ALM Media, an information and intelligence company based in New York City. He also served as chief executive officer of Mile 21 LLC in Santa Rosa, California, and Safari Books Online in Sebastopol, California.

• The **American Pet Products Association**, based in Greenwich, Connecticut, has promoted **Edith Martignetti** to associate vice-president of human resources and **Alexandra Simonfay** to the position of associate manager of industry relations. Martignetti was formerly the organization's general man-

*continued on page 33*

*continued from page 15*

Teton Lodge Company in Moran, Wyoming, and as hotel director of operations and acting general manager at Hotel Jerome in Aspen, Colorado.

**Peggy Trott** has been appointed general manager of the Stella Hotel, which is scheduled to open in March in Bryan, Texas. Trott has previous experience serving as general manager of the Inn at Laguna Beach in Southern California and as general manager of the Kimpton Hotel Palomar/Philadelphia.



*Peggy Trott*

**Kate Grattan** has been appointed general manager of the Lodge at Vail in Vail, Colorado. Grattan has been with Vail Resorts for 17 years, serving in various management positions. She also served as general manager of One Ski Hill Place in Breckenridge, Colorado.

**Justin Simpson** has been named general manager of the Kimpton Shorebreak Hotel in Huntington Beach, California. He most recently served as director of operations at the Westin/San Diego. Prior to that, he spent three years at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort & Spa in Dana Point, California, most recently as director of front office operations.

**Mark Karbotly** has been named general manager of the Hotel Indigo/Tuscaloosa Downtown in Alabama. He previously served as director of operations at the Houston Marriott North.

The Residence Inn/Breckenridge in Colorado has hired **Scott Lypson** as general manager and **Pamela Brown** as director of sales and marketing. Lypson previously was director of services at Marriott's Timber Lodge in South Lake Tahoe, California. Brown most recently worked at Robert Half, an international staffing firm. The property opened in December with 129 guest suites and nearly 3,000 square feet of meeting space.

Hotel Becket, which recently opened in South Lake Tahoe, California, has named **Gregg Harper** as gen-

eral manager and **Kate Brown** as regional director of sales and marketing. Harper most recently was general manager of the Salishan Spa & Golf Resort in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. Brown has worked at properties including Northstar and the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada.

In Irvine, California, Hotel Irvine has hired **Joe Martino** as director of sales and marketing and **John Cullinane** as director of sales. Martino most recently served as director of sales and marketing at the Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa in Dana Point, California. Cullinane most recently was associate director of sales for the Hyatt Regency/Jersey City in New Jersey.

## CONSTRUCTION & EXPANSION

The **International Convention Centre Sydney** (ICC Sydney) has opened in the heart of its own harbor waterfront pre-



*International Convention Centre Sydney*

cinct. ICC Sydney features more than 375,000 square feet of exhibition space, more than 85,000 square feet of meeting space and a theater.

The **Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Spa** recently opened as the first Andaz property in Scottsdale, Arizona. The 201-room resort offers 10,000 square feet of indoor meeting space and more than 36,000 square feet of outdoor event space. A more secluded option is "The Retreat," located on the southern portion of the resort; it features 22 guest rooms and several outdoor dining and event spaces.

*continued on page 33*

