



Florida Manasota Chapter

Chapter Newsletter – May 2018

### **Chapter Officers & Directors**

#### **President**

Eileen Sarris – The Field Club

#### **Vice President**

Sharon Litchfield – Laurel Oak

#### **Secretary**

Jesse Carr – River Wilderness

#### **Treasurer**

Ronald Robinson – Heron Creek

#### **Directors**

Adam Balas – Brown & Brown

James Dumas – Bradenton Country Club

Christine Fox – Club Pay

Alison Liska – The Founders Club

Chris VanUs – Stoneybrook

### **Chapter Nominations**



It is time for Chapter nominations for the October – September Chapter year. Alison Liska is the Chair of the nominating committee. If you are interested in serving as an officer (President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer) or a Director, please contact Alison at [aliska@thefoundersgolfclub.com](mailto:aliska@thefoundersgolfclub.com) Descriptions of the officer responsibilities can be found at: [https://www.hftp.org/i/downloads/chapter\\_office\\_r\\_descriptions.pdf](https://www.hftp.org/i/downloads/chapter_office_r_descriptions.pdf)

The nominating committee will present the nominated slate to the membership at the May 29<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting. Additional candidates interested in running may notify the Chapter Secretary by June 15<sup>th</sup>. A ballot will be published and distributed to the Chapter membership on July 1<sup>st</sup> with a July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to return the ballots.

Results will be announced at the August Chapter meeting and the officers and directors will be installed at the September meeting.

## **Chapter Membership Recruitment Spring Campaign**

*Membership offer good through May 31, 2018*

Spring is here and it is a great time to start chapter new member recruitment initiatives.

To assist chapters in growing membership, the spring campaign offers a \$100 USD discount off of the regular HFTP membership non-member rate of \$375 USD (Category 4). Don't forget to remind prospective members to note the chapter affiliation (Florida Manasota) in their membership.

Discount code: **SPRING2018**

Introductory Offer: HFTP membership for \$275

Expires: May 31, 2018

*Please note: Renewing members do not qualify for discount. New members must not have had prior affiliation with HFTP within one year. Discount offers do not apply to the Young Professional, Student, Group or Multi-Year membership options. Cannot be combined with any other offer.*

### **Upcoming Chapter Activities**

May 29, 2018 RSM Trends meeting at Laurel Oak Country Club

June TBA – Florida Regional Committee Meeting at The Westin

June 18-21, 2018 - HITEC Houston & Club & Hotel Controllers Conference – Houston, TX

July 25 – 27, 2018 Florida Regional at The Westin in Sarasota

August 21, 2018 at Tara Golf & Country Club

September 27, 2018 at Venice Golf & Country Club

October 24 – 26, 2018 – HFTP Annual Convention in Louisville, KY



## **Welcome to our Newest Members,**

We look forward to getting to know you!

### **Patrick Wright**

Patrick Wright is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and relocated to Lakewood Ranch, Florida in 2003. Patrick is currently a Vice President with CBIZ Insurance Services. Patrick started his career with CBIZ in August of 2016. He works on larger accounts throughout the country with his business partner Keith Mercier.

Prior to CBIZ he was an executive recruiter for Porter Consulting Services for 17 years. He recruited for large clients throughout the country.

Patrick and his wife Holly have been married for 28 years and have three beautiful daughters, Savanna (age 21), Sydney (age 19), and Payton, who passed away in 2007 at the age of five from a very rare form of brain cancer. Since 2008, Patrick and Holly started The Payton Wright Foundation. The Payton Wright Foundation was established to raise awareness and funds for pediatric brain cancer research and to assist other families, both financially and emotionally, who are caring for a child with brain cancer.

Patrick is on the board of the Lakewood Ranch Hospital and serves as President on The Payton Wright Foundation board.

### **Steven J. Meyer**

Steven J. Meyer is a finance professional who earned his B.A. in Accounting and MBA from Indiana Tech. In his finance career, he has worked for large corporations such as Manheim Auctions, Wyndham Worldwide, and Realogy. He worked as an auditor for 10 years with Realogy, and was honored to be on an international audit team that traveled all over the world to complete audits.

Steven is a Fort Wayne, Indiana native, and has been in Florida since early 2017. He is an avid sports fan, and has coached either baseball, fast pitch softball, or football for the past 11 seasons. He has also volunteered for local softball and baseball not-for-profits, and the Harry Chapin Food Bank. In his free time, Steven enjoys spending time with his wife, 3 kids, and dog named Indy. He also plays basketball and spends hours throwing pitches to his son. He is also a car fanatic, and enjoys tinkering with his old Mustang. You can often find him at local car shows or auctions.

### **Mary Leidecker**

Mary Leidecker grew up in Charlottesville, VA and has been in the hospitality industry since she was in high school. As an adult, she decided to go back to College and double majored in Finance and Accounting from Old Dominion University. She transferred from Food and Beverage to Accounting at Keswick Country Club, where she had been working for over a decade.

Mary moved to Sarasota, Florida in August of 2017, a week before Irma, with her Fiancé. She loves going to the gorgeous beaches on her days off and exploring new areas. She has a great appreciation for fine dining and exquisite wines. She stays busy, whether by catching up with family, friends, or reading about the latest food, health and real estate trends.

## 2018 HFTP Florida Regional Conference

The Manasota Chapter is excited to be hosting the 2018 HFTP Florida Regional Conference at the Westin in Sarasota July 25 – 27, 2018.

Detailed Conference information and the registration flyer is available on the Conference website:

[https://www.hftp.org/hospitality\\_conferences/florida\\_regional/](https://www.hftp.org/hospitality_conferences/florida_regional/)

**Make sure to register by May 31, 2018 before the late registration rate goes into effect!**

Hotel reservations may be made in our block for \$148/night.

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/hftp>

The cutoff date to reserve in our room block is June 19, 2018.

If you are considering taking the CHAE or CHTP certification exams, we will be having review sessions on Wednesday morning July 25 and proctoring the exams in the afternoon. Anyone needing additional hours for certification maintenance is welcome to attend these sessions as well.

We have a fun opening session planned for Wednesday afternoon. Join us as we kickoff the conference with a comedy performance by the Bermuda Mavericks, **sponsored by USI**. Les McCurdy and Ken Sons team up to provide a perfect combination of standup comedy, improvisation, and audience participation, while incorporating hospitality issues and hot topics. Their razor sharp timing, along with tailored, clean comedy material will be sure to entertain and lead us into the Opening Reception, sponsored by HFTP Global. Our Opening Reception and Vendor Exhibits will provide attendees with their first chance to interact with our exhibitors, as well as network with other attendees. CMAA members are invited to register for the Opening Reception at no cost (if CMAA members want to attend any other part of

the conference, regular conference registration rates apply).

We have full days of education planned on Thursday and Friday. We are finalizing the last few speakers and topics, but you can view the agenda and topics at: <https://www.hftp.org/i/downloads/18FLRegSchedule.pdf> Our **Education Presenting Sponsor** is RSM US LLP, and **Educational Session Sponsors** include: Gasparilla Inn, FifthThird Bank, and VGM Club (confirmed as of 5/7/18).

You won't want to miss our Thursday evening Lido Casino Night event, **sponsored by Northstar**, to benefit our Chapter Charity – The Loveland Center. Get ready to gamble the night away at the poker, blackjack, craps, and roulette tables. Your purchase of additional chips will go to The Loveland Center. Should you tire of gambling or if you aren't a gambler, don't worry, we have a DJ and photo booth to provide additional entertainment during the evening. The Manasota Chapter is proud to be involved with this wonderful charity. For more information, visit their website: [www.lovelandcenter.org](http://www.lovelandcenter.org).

Thank you to our **Breakfast Sponsors**: Schnitzel Hospitality Consulting and SouthTech and to our **Lunch Sponsors**: Post Integrations and Suplee, Shea, Cramer & Rocklein, PA., and to our **Refreshment Break Sponsors**: Lawman Benefits Consulting, Inc, ClubPay, and Baldwin, Krystyn Sherman.

Make sure to visit our **Exhibitor Booths** (confirmed as of 5/7/18) during the opening reception, lunches, and casino night: Post Integrations, Certipay, Pabian Law, Club Pay, EZ Links, VGM Club, FifthThird Bank, CSI/Global VCard, pas, and Northstar.

If your organization would like to be a sponsor or exhibitor, or if you know a company that would be interested, we still have opportunities available for Educational Session sponsorships or Exhibitors. You can download the sponsorship form at: <https://www.hftp.org/i/downloads/18FLRegSponsorApp.pdf>

## May 29, 2018 Chapter Meeting

### “Private Club Trends”



Please invite your General Managers and Board members to attend our May Chapter meeting. You can RSVP at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hftp-may-29-2017-chapter-meeting-rsm-private-club-trends-presentation-tickets-45567728302>



**Phil Newman**  
Partner, National  
Industry Leader -  
Private Clubs

Phil Newman has more than 25 years of experience in public accounting, predominantly serving the private club industry. As a Partner with RSM, Philip is responsible for hospitality projects throughout the United States, including internal control and governance reviews, operational consulting, benchmarking studies, strategic planning and the development and delivery of educational products and tools for club boards of directors, CEO's and CFO's.

Philip is a former member of the Global Board for Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) and a frequent speaker at regional and national conferences of HFTP, the Club Manager's Association of America (CMAA), and the National Club Association (NCA).

A regular contributor to industry publications, Philip was a member of the CPA sub-committee involved in the preparation of the Uniform System of Financial Reporting for Clubs and is a contributing editor to the NCA publications “Club Governance Guidelines: A Path to Organizational Excellence.” He was also a contributor to the HFTP/CMAA publication “Understanding Club Finances.”

HFTP committees and councils provide guidance and leadership to the association assuring that HFTP remains at the top of its league.

The councils & committees are organized into two engagement levels.

**Engagement Level I:** Requires members to attend a face to face meeting, participate in numerous conference calls throughout the year, and provides the potential for public speaking opportunities. This is our highest level of engagement and will require that your schedule and resources allow you to fully participate.

**Engagement Level II:** Requires members to participate in numerous conference calls and to communicate via email a few times a year to achieve the goals and objectives of the council or committee.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, visit the following website: [https://www.hftp.org/hospitality\\_organization\\_governance/get\\_involved/committee/](https://www.hftp.org/hospitality_organization_governance/get_involved/committee/)

We have members currently serving on several committees:

**Katerina Berezina** – CHTP Advisory Council and HITEC Advisory Council

**Sharon Litchfield** – Education Advisory Council and Membership Concierge Advisory Council

**Glenn Price** – CHTP Advisory Council

**Eileen Sarris** – Club Advisory Council and Annual Convention Education Advisory Council

**The Nominating Committee and Awards/Recognition Committee members are not announced due to the nature of the committees, however, we may have member(s) serving on one or both of these committees**