



Inn-Sight



Newsletter of the Mid-Florida Chapter *Since 1973* HFTP Chapter of the Year 2008

Gateway to HFTP <http://www.hftp.org> *Mid-Florida Chapter Web Site* www.midfloridahftp.org March 2009

Officers & Directors

Officers and Executive Committee

President

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The Bay Hill Club & Lodge
407-876-8031
sferguson@bayhill.com

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diana.youngblood@grandcypress.com

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407-418-7729
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407-396-3088
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Orange County National Golf Center
407-905-2251
mobles@ocngolf.com

Lori Schefstad
Caribe Royale Orlando
407-238-8445

HFTP-MID FLORIDA CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING

HFTP. Learn, Connect, Succeed.

Tuesday, March 31st, 2009

The Reunion Resort

*1000 Reunion Way
Reunion Florida*

Directions: From Orlando International Airport
Take Toll Road 417 South to I-4. Merge onto I-4 West toward Tampa. Take exit #58. Turn left onto County Road 532. Go approximately 3/4 of a mile, past our Discovery Center, to the gatehouse on the left. You are going to the HFTP Dinner in the Grande Ballroom.

Speaker and Program

Tom Howard, President ClubPay

Topic: Leveraging social networking to find employment.

Not buying into media hype – staying positive.

Online job searching – what is new?

Promoting your Personal Brand.

This educational session falls under specialized knowledge and applications geared to basic knowledge on the topic and there are no prerequisites for attending.

One CPE credit hour may be earned for participation in each session.

Menu

Salad: Mixed Baby Greens with Walnuts, Roasted Beets, Apricot Compote and Blue Cheese Vinaigrette

Entrée: Pistachio Crusted Atlantic Cod with Horseradish Scented Butter Sauce and Grilled Filet of Sirloin with Charred Tomato-Gorgonzola Cream English Peas, Mashed Potatoes and Sautéed Julienne Vegetables.

Sweet Treat: Belgian Chocolate Triple Threat: Dark Chocolate Raspberry Pate, Milk Chocolate-Caramel Mousse and White Chocolate Ginger Crème Brulee

Reception at 6:00 pm - Dinner at 6:46 pm

Please RSVP on our web-site: www.midfloridahftp.org

or

Patty Geer, CHAE 407-825-1308 or patty.geer@hyatt.com

Reservations and cancellations before 5:01 pm Thursday March 26th, please.

Dinner : Members with RSVP \$35.00, Non-Members or no RSVP \$50.00,

Student Chapter Members \$20.00.

No-shows and late cancellations will be billed.

Please Route to:

GM
HR



The Annual Golf Event to benefit Camp Boggy Creek will be held in the Fall.

President's Corner**By: Susan Ferguson, CHTP**

Fellow HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter Members,

I want to thank Frank Santos, Randall Rickmann, Chad Curtis, & Nora Cameron with the Rosen Hotels and Resorts for hosting us at the Rosen Shingle Creek for our annual joint meeting with the IMA. There was a great turn out with 96 people attending. We feasted on steak and shrimp, in a spectacular venue; it just does not get any better than that.

David Branson, President of the IMA and former HFTP Board Member, lined up our speakers Kim Autrey and Chuck Newman from Newman and Associates. Their topic was International Financial Reporting Standards. They told us about the International Accounting Standards Board and plans that everyone, everywhere should be held to the same standards of financial reporting. Visit www.iasb.org for more information or if you missed the presentation.

This is one of the benefits that belonging to HFTP can give you, educational information you need to be aware of to keep current with the changes coming our way. Another benefit, besides the great dinners and education, is the reciprocal membership. If you have lost your job mid-way through your membership term, you are still a member until your membership year ends. Get to our meetings and network.

Your web servant Steve D'Erasmus is continually updating our local Mid-Florida Chapter <http://www.midfloridahftp.org> website, this time with a Career Connection page where you can anonymously post a resume or a job opening, and if either party is interested we can match you up. Did you also know, as a member of HFTP you can go to the www.hftp.org International website, sign in and go to the Career Center (tab at page top) where you can also post resumes and jobs.

At the board meeting last night we discussed the number of members, between HFTP and IMA who were between positions at this time. We know times are hard and we want to give back to the members who have supported this chapter. Kris Shoemaker will be sending out a survey monkey to you this week. Please reply honestly and quickly. Our purpose is to incorporate your suggestions, questions and answers into our next presentation.

This month's meeting is going to focus on YOU. Tom Howard from Club Pay will be our speaker and moderator. We will have a panel that will discuss, how to leverage social networking, on line networking, job searches, don't buy into the hype – stay positive & promoting your personal brand. Working or not, you need to attend this presentation. We will be at the Reunion Resort & Club on Tuesday, March 31st. I look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for all your support!

Respectfully,

Susan Ferguson

Susan Ferguson, CHTP

HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter President

*"A hand-out is given to strangers.
A hand up is given to friends."*

By: Steve D'Erasmus, CHTP

In these challenging economic times, many in our industry are facing the loss of employment. Our own members are also dealing with the loss of a job. Now more than ever you need your HFTP membership to mean something. One of the goals of HFTP membership is to provide a networking venue for our members. This point was never illustrated more pointedly than at the February dinner meeting where, during introductions, more than 10% of those in attendance announced they were "in between positions and looking".

To combat this epidemic, your chapter leadership huddled during the days after the meeting to brainstorm ways to offer assistance to our members in their time of need. The chapter is proud to announce a new online tool intended to address this need. A special web page, entitled **Career Connection**, has been created on our chapter website to provide an anonymous forum for members to post their credentials. It is intended to serve as a vehicle to attract potential employers.

Members will have the ability to provide an abbreviated resume to be posted here. The web servant will remove all names, addresses and contact information to protect our member's privacy. An email link will be provided for any employer interested in speaking directly with the candidate. Once an inquiry is received, the member will be provided with the employers contact information. If interested, the member will initiate contact with the prospective employer.

If you are a member looking for that next chapter in your professional career story, check out this newest resource and see if it is right for you. If you are a local employer, and looking for seasoned, well-trained, and dedicated professionals, then this is also an excellent resource for you. Set your browser for http://www.midfloridahftp.org/members_first.htm and take a test drive today.

Whether employers are looking to fill full-time positions or are seeking competent individuals for a few weeks' worth of project work, this online tool is intended to help our members remain productive and employed. Your job is to help spread the word to all your friends and family. Talk with those in your extended network; folks at church, families you see at your child's soccer games, that person sitting next to you on your flight back into Orlando. You never know when you'll meet someone who may be looking for great local talent. Let them know about this web tool. You'll be doing them a favor. And offering a hand up to a fellow member.



*Mid-Florida Chapter
Member Spotlight
Christina Miller, CHAE
Assistant Controller
Reunion Resort*

Christina Miller came to Reunion Resort as the Assistant Controller in July of 2006. Reunion Resort is a 2300-acre luxury resort featuring villas and homes accented by world-class golf and other amenities.

She graduated from Arkansas College with a two year degree in Business. Following the arrivals of her little bundles of joy she continued pursuing her accounting degree at night with courses at the University of Oklahoma, finally graduating from Norman Community College with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Ms. Miller has over 17 years of experience in the accounting and financial arena.

From her career start at Bay Colony Community Association to her expanded experience at numerous private clubs and hotels, Christina has served mostly in the Controller or Assistant Controller capacities. Known by those teams as a star player and someone who has developed a specialty for seeking, setting and implementing best practice standards.

She recently earned her CHAE designation and has been an active member in HFTP serving for 13 years in many different chapter leadership positions throughout her career. She is also a Licensed Community Association Manager in the great state of State of Florida.

Christina currently resides in Davenport, Florida and is the proud mother of two, Stephen, 27 and Stephanie, 25. Stephen just returned last month from a fifteen month jaunt in Iraq and is now stationed in Hawaii. . . we smell a road trip for Mom! Stephanie works as a Manager-In-Training at a bank in Louisiana. Guess numbers runs in the family!

CHAE and CHTP Reviews

By: Kris Shoemaker, CHAE, CHTP, etc.

Any salary survey will tell you that those that have a degree or a certification or both earn more than those without either. Also, in this economy, one of the best ways to stay employed (or get employed) is to make yourself as valuable to the company as possible. As part of our continued effort to provide our members with educational and certification opportunities, we will be offering the CHAE and CHTP exams during the May 19th Mini-Educational. To help you prepare for the exam, we will offer the CHAE review on Tuesday, April 14th and 21st and the CHTP on Thursday, April 23rd and 30th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. This is a \$FREE\$ review to our members (it is also an excellent source of CPE points for those that already have their certification).

If you are interested in the reviews or the exams, please contact Kris Shoemaker at 407-685-9827 or Kristopher.shoemaker@ocfl.net.

Membership News

Please welcome the following new members to the greatest HFTP Chapter in the Universe.

YOUR Chapter currently has 215 members active in a wide range of activities such as; member education at the general meetings and mini-educational seminars, CHAE and CHTP certification test reviews and testing and community service through participation in the Bacchus Bash, JDRF Walks and The Annual Golf event to benefit Camp Boggy Creek.

Embrace the vision, join the fun!

Bob Beliech

Sr. IT Consulting Strategist
Wyndham Vacation Ownership
Sponsor: Joshua Bergen, CHAE, CHTP

Joe Buckman

Reporting Analyst
Wyndham Vacation Ownership
Sponsor: Joshua Bergen, CHAE, CHTP

Lynne Frankos

VP Finance/Controller
Masterlink Club Services, Inc.

Bob Gentry

VP Telecom Services
Wyndham Vacation Ownership
Sponsor: Joshua Bergen, CHAE, CHTP

Ben Payman

Sr. Financial Analyst
Wyndham Vacation Ownership
Sponsor: Joshua Bergen, CHAE, CHTP

Wendy Mertz

Director, Corporate Systems
Hard Rock International



**HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter
Mini-Educational Program**

MAY 19th 2009

**UCF Rosen College of Hospitality
Management**

EARN 5 CPE CREDITS!

**What - HFTP Mid-Florida
Mini-Educational Conference**

When - Tuesday MAY 19th Beginning at 1:00 pm

**Where - Rosen College of Hospitality
Management, UCF**

Who – Open to all!

- **HFTP members with RSVP \$35**
- **Non-members or members with no RSVP \$50**
- **All educational sessions and the dinner are included in the cost!**

Why - Why not! The afternoon educational program is FREE to Mid-Florida Chapter Members.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2009

We need you !!! If you are interested in contributing to any of the committees, please contact the Committee Chairperson *

Education – Mini Ed Conf.

- *Nora Cameron 996-9840
- Patty Geer 825-1308
- Judy Holcomb 903-8181
- Erika Worthen 996-2360

Job Bank/Legislative/By-Laws

- *Susan Ferguson 876-8031
- Mark Roland 418-7792

THE 300 COMMITTEE

Membership Relations/Recruitment

- * Gregory Wilhelm 681-2914
- Mark Roland 418-7792
- Christina Finch 924-9980
- Robert Filebark 828-6652
- Marybel Defillo 581-3582

Communications

- * Steve D’Erasmus 905-0687
- Webmaster:www.midfloridahftp.org
- *Bill Parrish 876-8038
- Newsletter Ed.



Admin/Program/Speakers

- *Patty Geer 825-1308
- Chad Curtis 996-9840
- Susan Ferguson 876-8031

Scholarship Awards

- * Terri Nobles 905-2251
- Wendy Knippel 321-799-2859x4028
- Lori Schefstad 238-8445

Nominations

- *Mark Roland 418-7729
- Chad Curtis 996-9840
- Michael Dryden 238-8049
- Kris Shoemaker 685-9827
- Bill Parrish 876-8038
- Larry McCloskey 239-3962

Chapter of the Year and Regional Conference

- * Judy Holcomb 903-8181
- Michael Dryden 238-8049

Hospitality Committee

- * Terri Nobles 905-2251
- Michael Dryden 238-8049
- Lori Schefstad 238-8445
- Gordon LeBlanc 814-6236

Community Services

- * [CFH&LA Ex-Officio Board Member](#)
- Susan Ferguson 876-8031
- * [Bacchus Bash](#)
- Larry McCloskey 239-3962
- * [JDRF Walks](#)
- Christina Miller 396-3088
- * [Charity Golf Event](#)

It’s all for the kids!

- Kris Shoemaker 685-9827

Publications /Publicity

- * Patty Geer 825-1308

Chapter Calendar

- * Wendy Knippel 799-4099x4028

Fun Committee

- * Judy Holcomb 903-8181

2009 HFTP Mid-Florida CALENDAR

Note: fees for 2009 are \$35 Regular member, \$20 Student and \$50 guest, \$50 Non-Member and \$50 failed to RSVP.

March 2009

5th, THURSDAY Board Meeting, 6 pm, OCCC
 31st, Dinner Meeting, 6 pm, The Reunion Resort
 7th, JDRF Walk at UCF
 21st, JDRF Walk at Cocoa Beach
 16-17 HFTP Club & Hotel Controller Conf, Westin Tampa Harbour Island

April 2009

3rd Bacchus Bash, Premium Outlet Mall
 7th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, The Reunion Resort
 28th, Dinner Meeting, 6 pm, International Plaza Resort & Spa

May 2009

5th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
 19th, Mini-ed, Rosen College– UCF

June 2009

4th, THURSDAY Board Meeting, 6 pm, Hyatt Regency OIA
 30th, Dinner Meeting, 6 pm, Hyatt Regency OIA

July 2009

7th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, The Bay Hill Club
 28th, Dinner Meeting, 6 pm, Orlando Metropolitan Resort

August 2009

6th, THURSDAY Board Meeting, 6 pm, OPEN
 25th, Dinner Meeting, 6 pm, Holiday Inn– UCF

For more Chapter news visit the Universally acclaimed Chapter Web Site at: www.midfloridahftp.org

The opinions expressed in the Mid-Florida Chapter newsletter and web-site are solely those of the editor, web master or author of the article and have nothing to do with HFTP Global and /or in some cases reality, political correctness or good hygiene.

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P.O. Box 1430
Orlando FL 32802-1430



Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International 2009

THIS WAS US! Except for cameramen Michael (Flash) Dryden and Steve (Magic Fingers) D'Erasmus. The rest: Patty Geer, Christina Miller, Arthur Kasper, Judy Holcomb, Dan Perez, Bill Parrish, Christina Finch Diane Vega, Nora Cameron, Marie Berube, Mark Kressin, Yomara (Yomi) Gonzalez, Kris Shoemaker, Diana Youngblood. The "Big Cheese" Scot Aurelius the JDRF coordinator is seated, of course. Thank you all "Volunteers of America".

The Orlando Walk news:

Good Morning, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for volunteering your time this past Saturday for the JDRF count room. Call me partial, but I believe we had the BEST team ever!

Although Martin, Kendra and Scot will provide us final totals at the 31st general meeting, preliminary totals for this past Saturday are that we counted approximately \$67,000 on Saturday not including a \$40,000 check. The preliminary grand total, including sneaker sales, sponsorships and online donations is approximately \$400,000.

Now the sales pitch: The JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes AT Lori Wilson Park in Cocoa Beach approaches.

We now have 4 definite volunteers for Coco Beach I know we had 2 that were on the fence but we need a few more, so please let me know if you can volunteer for the walk on the 21st.

The Chapter supports JDRF, and will be handling the cash consolidation on Saturday March 21st in Cocoa Beach. Your assistance is requested. Your association is calling you to duty! We need people to work in the count room, doing whatever is needed. Call Christina Miller at 407-396-3088 or cmiller@reunionresort.com

March 21st at the beach, do it for the kids do it for yourself .You will feel your heart grow.



Benefiting the CFHLA Educational Trust Fund -for hospitality student scholarships and hospitality school grants.

We need Cashiers, please contact Larry!

Friday, April 3, 2009
Orlando Premium Outlets
5pm - 10pm

HFTP Volunteer Information

Shifts run: 4:00pm – 7:00pm or 7:00pm – 10:00pm

First Shift Check-in time: 3:00pm

Attire: Remember to wear comfortable shoes and arrive early as parking is always a challenge!!

Parking: Using the International Drive entrance, please park at the former Dixie Stampede or at Mary Queen of the Universe Shrine.

Check In: H.F.T.P. volunteers must check in at the Orlando Premium Outlets Mgmt. Office. From the parking lot, use the entrance between “Mikasa” and “Bass”. Turn left in front of the Food Court. The Mgmt. Office is located on the left, next to “Samsonite”.

At check in, you will be given your assignment.

Please contact Larry McCloskey by Tuesday, March 31st with your volunteers and with shift selection information larry.mccloskey@hyatt.com or (407) 239-3962

Your HFTP Mid-Florida Board of Directors thanks you for Volunteering your time and talent to this event!!

The 2009 HFTP Mid-Florida NEW MEMBER CONTEST is IN PROGRESS!

You only need to sponsor one new member to win. Back by popular demand, the New Member Drive Contest is underway. For each new member sponsored you will have a chance to win one of the following great prizes at the July Chapter's general membership meeting. So far, we have in PLAY:

Dinner for 2 in Hemingway's at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

Donated by: E. Lawrence McCloskey, Jr., CHAE, Senior Controller, Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

Dinner for 2 at the Hyatt Regency Orland International Airport

Donated by: Patricia Geer, CHAE, Controller, Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport

Dinner for two in Andiamos, at the Hilton Hotel located in the WDW Resort.

Donated by: Praduman Chauhan (Singh), Regional Vice President - Operations Finance, Hilton Hotels Corporation

Dinner for two in Villa de Flora at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center.

Donated by Richard Zarth, Chief Information Officer, Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center.

Bay Hill Club Golfers Grab Bag including Shirt, Etc.

Donated by: William Parrish, CPA, CHAE, Controller, Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge

\$100 Visa Gift Card

Donated by Stephen M. Doherty, CHAE, CHTP, Senior Client Relations Manager, POST Integrations, Inc.

A Plantronics Bluetooth enable phone headset with electronic receiver filter.

Donated by James E Bina, CHTP, CHAE, President, Millennium Technology Group

Dinner for 2 at Everglades in the Rosen Centre

Donated by Frank Santos, CHAE, CHA. Chief Financial Officer, Rosen Hotels & Resorts

\$100 cash prize

Donated by Don Hay, President, Digital Alchemy, LLC

Dinner for 2 at the Zen's in the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate

Donated by Darla Bole, Manager, Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate

Four (4) rounds of golf at Orange County National on the Tooth, 9 hole Executive Course

Four (4) rounds of golf at Orange County National on the Tooth, 9 hole Executive Course

Four (4) rounds of golf at Orange County National on the Tooth, 9 hole Executive Course

Four (4) rounds of golf at Orange County National on the Tooth, 9 hole Executive Course

Donated by Terri Nobles, Controller, Orange County National Golf Center and Lodge

One Round of Golf for four on any of the Reunion Resort's signature golf courses.

Donated by Christina Miller, CHAE, Assistant Controller, Reunion Resort & Club

Dinner for 2 at the Caribe Royale Resorts Suite's Venetian Room Restaurant

Donated by Michael Dryden, CHAE Assistant Controller, Caribe Royale Orlando

**I WANT YOU**

Be a New Member Sponsor and win **BIG!**

Introducing your 2009 membership committee below . Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Chairman**Gregory Wilhelm**

Solution Sales Manager, Hospitality Solutions, Agilysys
407 681 2914 or greg.wilhelm@agilysys.com

Christina J. Finch

Principal, Smart Professional Resources, LLC
(407) 924-9980 or cfinch@smartprosource.com

Joshua Bergen, CHAE, CHTP

Director of Accounting, Wyndham Vacation Ownership
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Marybel Defillo, CPA, CHAE, McGladrey & Pullen, CPAs
407- 581-3582 or marybel.defillo@rsmi.com