



Inn-Sight



Newsletter of the Mid-Florida Chapter *Since 1973* HFTP Chapter of the Year 2009

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

February 2010

Officers & Directors

Officers and Executive Committee

President
Wendy Knippel, CPA, CHAE
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407-876-8031
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Directors

Gregory Wilhelm, CHTP
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Mgt.
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Christina Miller, CAM, CHAE
Reunion Resort & Club
407-396-3088
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Terri Nobles
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407-905-2251
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Lori Schefstad
Caribe Royale Orlando
407-238-8445
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Mark Kressin
Heathrow Country Club
407-333-1450
mkressin@heathrowcc.com

HFTP-MID FLORIDA CHAPTER

HFTP, Learn, Connect, Succeed.

General Meeting

Tuesday, February 23rd, 2010

The Orange County Convention Center, West Concourse That is the "old" section Room West 315-B 9800 International Drive, Orlando, FL

Directions: From Downtown or Disney

I-4 to the Beach-Line Expressway East Bound

Take Beach-Line to Exit 2 and turn Left onto Universal Blvd..

Travel on Universal Blvd. to Convention Way and turn Left: Take Convention Way across I-Drive going back to the West Building. Park in Lot C (the middle parking lot) *Parking is Free*. Enter the facility through the West Entrance Lobby and take the escalator, on your right, to the next level. Turn left and walk across the bridge the exhibit hall to Room West 315-B will be on your right. Bread crumbs are available at the 7-11.

Speaker and Program

Tim Murphy

Topic: "Technology Used to Improve Financial Information"

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.

Reception at 6:00 pm

You may come early if you wish to spend more time networking.

Dinner at 6:45 pm

Menu:

Chef's Choice Tapas plate

Salad

Baby Romaine, Arugula, Yellow & Red Tomato, Blue Cheese, Onion Marmalade Purse, Cucumber & Melon Salsa served with a Rice Wine & Soy Ginger Vinaigrette.

Entrée

Sea Bass Francaise, Mini Filet Mignon, Broccolini and Portabella Mushrooms Garlic Yukon Mashed Potatoe.

Dessert

Chocolate Tres Leche Medallion.

Please RSVP on our web-site:

www.midfloridahftp.org or

Kristopher Shoemaker, CMA, CHAE, CHTP 407-685-9827 or

kristopher.shoemaker@occc.net

Reservations and cancellations before 12:01 pm Thursday February 18th. Please, no walk ins. No-shows and late cancellations will be billed.

Dinner : Members with RSVP \$35.00, Non-Members or no RSVP \$50.00, Student Chapter Members \$20.00. PAYPAL is available on the web-site.

HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter Mini-Educational Program * March 30th 2010 * UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

What - HFTP Mid-Florida Mini-Educational Conference with five speakers! EARN 5 CPE Credits.

When - March 30th 2010. Beginning at 1:00 pm with 5 speakers during the day!

Who - Open to all! • HFTP members with RSVP \$35 • Non-members or no RSVP \$50 • All educational sessions and dinner are included in the cost! The afternoon educational program is FREE to Mid-Florida Chapter Members.



President's Corner**By: Wendy B. Knippel, CPA, CHAE**

Fellow HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter Members,

Thanks to Judy Holcomb and the General Managers of the three hotels for presenting a very informative panel on their views of the Controller/IT professional in the hotel operations. It was great to see the members supporting the chapter as we start off this New Year.

February brings us to our annual joint meeting with the local chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). This meeting topic will be beneficial to both the IT and financial professional, as Tim Murphy, former CFO of Sonny's Restaurants will present on how he used technology to improve the flow of financial information and its positive impact on profitability. Thanks to Kris Shoemaker and David Branson on working together on this event and we hope to see you all out at the Orange County Convention Center for this educational and networking opportunity.

Judy Holcomb and her committee have worked on an outstanding group of speakers for the Spring Mini-Educational Conference on March 30th at the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management. Please see page 1 for the reminder. Speakers include: Larry Robbins; Brown & Brown on Cyber Risk, Steve Freeman; Janus Displays on Integrating Digital Signage Property Wide, W. Todd Russell; McGladrey & Pullen on Strategic Planning for Tough Times and James Lyle; Cintas on Identity Theft and the Red Flag Rules. As always, the afternoon sessions are free to our members.

Due to increased interest in corporate sponsorships beyond the newsletter and the golf tournament, the Board has approved the sponsorship of the Mini-educational afternoon breaks for those wishing to show their support of HFTP Mid-Florida and gain name recognition. Please contact either Judy Holcomb for available opportunities for the mini-eds or Kris Shoemaker for the golf tournament.

Thank you for all your support to the Chapter!

Respectfully,

Wendy

Wendy B. Knippel, CPA, CHAE
HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter President

**Membership News**

YOUR Chapter currently has 166 members active in a wide range of activities such as; member education at the general meetings and mini-educational seminars. We provide HFTP CHAE and CHTP certification reviews and testing. We also give back to the community through participation in the Bacchus Bash, JDRF Walks and The Annual Golf event to benefit Camp Boggy Creek.

Embrace the vision, join the fun!

Kim Douglas
Corporate Director IT
Kessler Collection

Welcome New Members

Thomas Hull
Controller
Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando

The 2010 Membership Contest is starting!

You only need to sponsor one new member to win. Back by popular demand, the Membership Drive Contest. For each new member sponsored you will have a chance to win a great prize at the July Chapter's general membership meeting. See list below.

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 (excluding alcoholic), the Hilton Hotel located in the WDW Resort.
Donated by: Praduman Chauhan (Singh), Regional Vice President - Operations Finance
Hilton Hotels Corporation

Bay Hill Club Golfers Grab Bag including shirt, hat , 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 charging pad from Sharper Image, that allows for the charging of a variety of battery driven devices by just setting them on the pad. See the link below for a photo and details.
<http://www.sharperimage.com/Electronics/Powermat+Home+and+Office+Mat.axd>
Donated by James E Bina, CHTP, CHAE, President, Millennium Technology Group

Yes, 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

Foursome of golf at Orange County National Golf Center and Lodge
Donated by Terri Nobles, Controller, Orange County National Golf Center and Lodge

Dinner for 2 at the Caribe Royale Resorts Suites's Venetian Room restaurant
Donated by Michael Dryden, CHAE, Assistant Controller, Caribe Royale Orlando

Dinner for 2 at either Zen, David's Club or Trevi's in the Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate
Donated by Darla Bole, Manager, Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate

Dinner for two at Mama Della's at the Loews Portofino Bay Hotel.
Donated by: Kelly Montgomery, Controller, Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando

Introducing your 2010 membership committee

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
(321) 948-7727 or joshua.bergen@wyndhamvo.com

Marybel Defillo, CPA, CHAE
Audit Manager
McGladrey & Pullen, CPA's

Kelly Montgomery
Controller
Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando

Sean Meder
Director of Major Accounts
Copy Tronics Information Systems

Robert Reading
Account Manager
KForceProfessional Staffing



Mid-Florida Chapter
Member Spotlight
Laurence Barron

Laurence Barron is Chief Digital/Technology Office with the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Barron is responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction for the organization's technological efforts supporting business objectives including network systems, e-commerce, the internet and Web sites.

Barron was previously vice president and chief information officer for the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AH&LA), where he was responsible for providing information technology planning, strategic guidance and direction for AH&LA, the Educational Institute and the American Hotel & Lodging Education Foundation, while being a liaison for committees and state associations.

His experience and background includes: initiating policy and direction for data and hardware infrastructure, web initiatives, e-commerce directives, telecommunications, e-security guidance and overall collaboration of technology with associations and corporate companies.

Barron brings a strong background in technology and telecommunications across multiple industries. In addition, he has provided policy, direction, international data and industry solutions in Europe and the Asia Pacific region. His career spans over twenty five years in telecommunications, the insurance sector, disaster recovery and the health-care industry.

A native to Illinois, Laurence holds a Bachelor's Degree from National Louis University in Wheaton, Illinois and a Master's Degree in Strategic Leadership from Mountain State University, WV. His background includes multiple certifications across telecommunication, server technologies, infrastructure and client services.

Laurence and his wife Michelle who is a Kindergarten teacher along with their two daughters (Lauren and Leia) live in Apopka and enjoy cruises and family vacations. His most recent personal challenge has been to start to learn to play the piano.



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

Friday, April 9, 2010
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!!

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2010

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

Education – Mini Ed Conf.

*Patty Geer 825-1308
Judy Holcomb 903-8181
Nora Cameron 996-9840
Susan Ferguson 876-8031

Job Bank/Legislative/By-Laws

*Wendy Knippel 321-799-4099x4028
Susan Ferguson 876-8031
Bill Parrish 876-8038

THE 195.5 COMMITTEE

Membership Relations/Recruitment

* Gregory Wilhelm 681-2914

Christina Finch 924-9980
Kelly Montgomery 503-9215
Joshua Bergen 321-948-7727
Marybel Defillo 581-3582
Sean Meder 321-527-2013
Robert Reading 650-4112

Communications

* Steve D'Erasmo 905-0687
Webmaster: www.midfloridahftp.org
Lori Schefstad 238-8445
*Bill Parrish 876-8038
Newsletter Ed.

Admin/Program/Speakers

* Wendy Knippel 321-799-2859x4028
Susan Ferguson 876-8031
Kelly Montgomery 503-9215
Gregory Wilhelm 681-2914
Patty Geer 825-1308

Scholarship Awards

* Terri Nobles 905-2251
Diana Youngblood 239-1979
Michael Dryden 238-8049

Nominations

*Susan Ferguson 876-8031
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
Lori Schefstad 238-8445
Diana Youngblood 239-1979

Community Services

[CFH&LA Ex-Officio Board Member](#)
Wendy Knippel 321-799-4099x4028
[Bacchus Bash](#)

Larry McCloskey 239-3962
Judy Holcomb 903-8181

JDRF Walks

Christina Miller 396-3088
Michael Dryden 238-8049

Charity Golf Event

It's all for the kids!

* Kris Shoemaker 685-9827
Diana Youngblood 239-1979

Publications /Publicity

* Mark Kressin 333-1450
Patty Geer 825-1308

Chapter Calendar

Diana Youngblood 239-1979

Fun Committee

* Judy Holcomb 903-8181



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MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 692004
Orlando, FL 32869-2004

2010 HFTP Mid-Florida CALENDAR

Note: fees for 2010 are \$35 Regular member, \$20 Student, \$50 all guests, Non-Members and failed to RSVP. A prepaid meeting plan is available.

- February 4th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, OCCC
- February 23rd, General Meeting, 6 pm, OCCC, Joint meeting with IMA
- February 14th, Buy Flowers
- March 4th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, Heathrow CC
- March 6th JDRF Walk at UCF
- March 20th, JDRF Walk, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach Campus
- March 27th JDRF Walk, Cocoa Beach
- March 30th, Mini-Educational, 1 pm, UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management
- April 6th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
- April 9th, Bacchus Bash, Orlando Premium Outlets
- April 24th, Cattle Baron's Ball, Rosen Shingle Creek
- April 27th, General Meeting, 6 pm, Double Tree Resort
- May 4th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, OCCC
- May 9th, Call Mom
- May 25th, General Meeting, 6 pm, Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek



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.

The Year was 1994

Known then as the **I**nternational **A**ssociation of **H**ospitality **A**ccountants

A nice way to start the new year: Congratulations to Steve LeBruto for graduating from UCF with a “Doctor of Education” degree. Congrats “**Dr.**” Steve LeBruto. Also let’s not forget to congratulate Audra Slavin for being chosen “Manager of the Year 1993”. Audra was the Accounting Manager at the Orlando Airport Marriott property.

A “Professional Development Seminar” sponsored by IAHA was held at the Clarion Plaza Hotel on February 18th.

Who says accountants and IT people are all work and no play? At the February General Business Meeting, held at the Buena Vista Palace, Roberta “Bobbe” Lyon M.A. (Humorologist and Mirth Dispenser) provided an evening of laughs just for the hospitality troupe.

While discussing the upcoming Bacchus Bash at the February board meeting, it was noted that “Russ was appointed as the Hooters coordinator.” Who is Russ and what happened to Hooters and the Bacchus Bash? The Bacchus Bash was held on April 29th at the Mercado Shopping Plaza.

At the June BOD meeting, it was decided to raise the dinner dues In January 1995 from \$16.00 to \$20.00 and from \$20.00 to \$25.00 for non-members. Prepays will still be a deal at \$135.00 per year. Chapter dues were set at \$40.00 per year.

The cost of mailing the monthly newsletter was \$0.29

When opportunity knocks.....with a chance to advance her career, Olive Brubaker-Barth had to resign as President of our chapter in June as her new position was outside of the Central Florida area – Jim Bina stepped up from VP and assumed the duties as President for the remainder of the 1993/1994 term.

HITEC was held in Dallas from June 21st thru 23rd. The Annual Florida Regional was held from August 11th thru 14th at the Harmonious Sheraton Inn Tampa & Conference Center by the Suncoast Chapter. The Annual Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas from September 24th – 28th.

In a never-ending quest to provide our membership with the much needed knowledge to be beneficial in the office, Dr. Steve LeBruto, CPA, CHAE offered a “Managerial Accounting for the Hospitality Industry” starting on January 18, 1995. The only cost to the IAHA members would be for the books and materials – about \$75.00. For non-members, the charge would be \$195.00 – which not only includes the course fee and books & materials, but you would also receive membership for one year in the Mid Florida Chapter.

The following Officers and Board of Directors were installed at the Clarion Plaza Hotel on August 30, 1994. The installation was complemented by a fantastic dinner and *magical entertainment*.

Officers for the 1994/1995 year:

Chairman of the Board: Ken Kruse Buena Vista Palace
 President: Jim Bina Tamar Inns
 Vice President: Linda Elerick Linda Elerick & Company
 Treasurer: Jeff Weinland Night Auditors of America
 Secretary: Bob Slappey KPMG Peat Marwick

Board of Directors:

Steve LeBruto 2-year term University of Central Florida
 Russ Finton 2-year term Nationwide Insurance
 Larry McCloskey 2-year term Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
 German Plazas 1-year term Sheraton World Resort
 Desmond Lee Hue 1-year term Peabody Hotel
 Sylvia Sebrowski 2nd yr of 2yr term NSJ Corporation

The December Social was held on the 13th at Sleuth’s Mystery Dinner Theater, the cost was set at \$25.00 per person, which included unlimited soda, beer, and wine.

Michael Dryden, CHAE

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES “*your chance to Give Back*”

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
Count Room Volunteers - Call Christina Miller 407-396-3088 Today.
March 6th at UCF in Orlando
March 20th at Embry Riddle Campus, Daytona Beach
March 27th at the beach.

The **JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes** approaches. You can obtain your pledge form and register a walk team on the web at www.centralflorida@jdf.org. Please contact as many people as possible to obtain pledges and note HFTP Mid-Florida as the sponsor.

The Chapter supports JDRF, and will be handling the cash consolidation on Saturday the 6th of March in Orlando and also helping Saturday March 20th in Daytona Beach and Saturday March 27th in Cocoa Beach. Your assistance is requested. Your association is calling you to duty! We need 15 people to work in the count rooms, doing whatever is needed, at each location on the day of each walk. Call Christina Miller at 407-396-3088 or Wendy (Beach Walk) Knippel at 321-799-4099 x4028 or any board member for count room details, Walk details or for a pledge card. You can also sign up for duty at the Chapter's general meetings.

This is a wonderful family oriented event! It is a 5k walk, which equates to 3.2 miles. The Orlando walk is at the University of Central Florida main campus at 8:00 am. The Cocoa Beach walk is at the Lori Wilson Park (Beach Walk) at 8:00 am. And the Daytona Beach Walk is at the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. You can walk, run, bring the kids and have some fun. As a team, we think we can raise \$6,000. At 200 members, that's only \$30.00 in pledges from each member. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.



You've Been Lassoed!



10 Check-Out Volunteers Needed For The
American Cancer Society's
Cattle Baron's Ball!

Saturday, April 24, 2010, 6:00pm to 12:00am
Rosen Shingle Creek Resort
9939 Universal Blvd

Various Shifts Also Needed For Friday & Saturday

If interested, please contact
Kris Shoemaker at Kristopher.Shoemaker@ocfl.net or 407-685-9827, or
Chad Curtis at Ccurtis@rosenhoteles.com or 407.996.9840 ext 3501.