



Region 5 IAVM Director's Message

Another weekend of horrible tragedies in the headlines.

Every shooting feels personal. Each shooting seems closer to home. Those in Orlando last weekend are a strong reminder that each day could be the last for any of those we love or for us. We are also reminded that we are responsible for the type of venues that have become the latest targets.

Like many of us, you probably first reeled from the meet and greet shooting of Christina Grimmie. Although a number of the other shootings have made us all re-examine our security plans, a meet and greet??? Haven't we all had meet and greets in our venues?

The Grimmie shooting was quickly, sadly eclipsed by the Pulse nightclub shooting. As news stories unfurl, we discover more and more about the shooter, his motives. We learn details of the horror, but we also learn about heroism and heartbreak.

In many IAVM conferences or committees, there have been numerous discussions about gun availability, open carry laws, wider use of metal detectors, etc. Safety has long been our primary concern, but it's harder than ever to keep people safe.

Do you remember when people used to declare, "There's safety in numbers"? No more. The terrorists target wherever people congregate in large numbers. How do we meet this challenge when our goal is to provide entertainment or meeting spaces for large groups of people?

Upcoming IAVM conferences offer awareness training, active shooter training and more. In addition, you can contract a specialist to bring the training to your venue. For more info, see: <http://iavm.org/live-training-programs>.

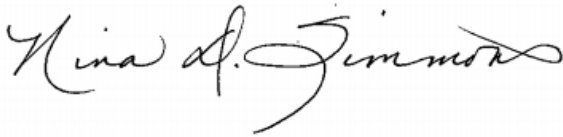
Meanwhile, let's remind our staff: "If you see something, say something."

The IAVM Foundation supports numerous educational programs and scholarships for IAVM. The Annual Giving campaign runs January 1-Dec 31. As you are approached for Foundation donations, please keep in mind that all amounts are welcome.

In more IAVM news, Headquarters is presenting a conference strategy concept to the members in webinars at 1 PM ET June 24 and again at 5:30 PM ET June 28. To register, see your newsletter from June 14 or contact Rosanne Duke at Rosanne.duke@iavm.org

As you make your plans for VenueConnect, note that the Region 5 business meeting is scheduled for Sunday at 8:30 AM. This year we decided to add a continental breakfast to the meeting, so get there early-especially since we aren't certain how many to anticipate. If anyone would like to sponsor the breakfast, it would be greatly appreciated and duly acknowledged.

I hope to see you there!



Region 5 IAVM Job Postings

Greenville, South Carolina

The Peace Center, downtown Greenville's premier performing arts venue is currently seeking qualified applicants for an excellent opportunity as Production Technician. The Production Technician is a hands-on position responsible for lighting, audio, carpenter and rigging, stage manager, and event management at the Peace Center and will act as the stage manager and perform event management related duties for assigned shows.

For a full job description or if you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please send your resume to: The Peace Center, Shelby Wirt - swirt@peacecenter.org.

Richmond, Virginia

The Greater Richmond Convention Center is currently hiring for the following full-time positions:

- Maintenance Laborer
- Lead Housekeeping-Setup Worker

A variety of on-call positions also are available on an event-by-event basis, including the following:

- Event Staff (Ticket Takers, Ushers, Door Monitors, Badge Checkers, Coat-Check Attendants)
- Event Cashiers (Ticket Sellers, Parking Cashiers, Service Desk Attendants)
- Housekeeping / Event Setup Worker
- Maintenance Laborers
- Event Security Guards

For more information and application guidelines, visit richmondcenter.com.

Slidell, Louisiana

The Northshore Harbor Center in Slidell, LA is currently seeking a Sales Manager.

Overview: The ideal candidate for this high profile position located in the Northshore area is an individual with a professional attitude, polished image, and commitment to quality. The ideal representative must be skilled at meeting new people, establishing solid working relationships and possess the ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment. Inside and outside business-to-business sales experience is a must as well as a love of being out in the field developing business relationships, and then turning those relationships into new business.

A basic knowledge of developing print materials, branded items, and other marketing strategies is a plus.

Our company offers a competitive salary, full health benefits, and retirement plan with company match, flexible hours and a friendly "family-like" work environment. For a full job description or to send your resume, cover letter, and salary history to: Kathy Lowrey via email. klowrey@harborcenter.org.

Virginia Beach, Virginia

The Virginia Beach Convention Center is hiring an Event Coordinator. All Virginia Beach Convention Center jobs will be posted online at www.vbgovcareers.com and applications are only accepted at this website.

IAVM News

The Region 5 Website is calling for updated photos of all region venues along with a short, promotional blurb highlighting your venue. Send us your best "glamour shot" along with up to 4-5 sentences describing your most notable attributes. These photos will be used throughout the website and cataloged in our Picture Gallery.

Our Region 5 Facebook needs a facelift as well. Let's get caught up with the present by celebrating the past, and send us your best, "Remember When?" photos for a #TBT series. Remember your first region or annual meeting? Sure, you do... But, are there pictures to prove it? We want to see them!

Please send photos and blurbs to Alexis Berggren at aberggren@mccno.com.

Alabama

Submit Your articles for next month!!

Florida

Orlando - Orlando's Camping World Stadium has announced it will be hosting the 2017 NFL Pro Bowl next January - a huge coup for Central Florida considering over the last 35 years it's been hosted at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu for all but two years. The all-star game features the best players in the National Football League as determined by a consensus vote among fans, coaches

and players. Camping World Stadium will be home to the Pro Bowl for at least the next three years.

In related NFL news, Orlando will play host to a preseason game between the Miami Dolphins and the Atlanta Falcons on August 25 at 8pm ET. This is the first neutral-site, preseason game that the NFL has held in Orlando in almost 20 years. The game will be played during week three of the preseason to celebrate Play Football Month.

In an effort to retain its signature annual events and attract new high-profile ones, the stadium underwent a massive reconstruction in 2014. Without the recent modernization, hosting these two NFL games at Camping World Stadium would not be possible. These NFL developments help strengthen Orlando's reputation as one of the top sports destinations in the world.

Orlando - On Monday, June 6, Orlando's Camping World Stadium hosted a Copa America soccer match between Panama and Bolivia while Tropical Storm Colin was bearing down on Central Florida. Despite a deluge of sustained rain, the match went off without a hitch and did not encounter any delays due to lightning or flooding. The Orlando Venues team, its partners and Copa officials began tracking the weather system over the weekend and pulled together to keep patrons updated on the latest developments throughout the day. Social media platforms were continuously utilized to remind fans the match remained on schedule for a 7pm start, umbrellas would not be permitted and the Clear Bag Policy was in effect. A homepage overlay was also placed on CampingWorldStadium.com that prominently announced the game was still on and encouraged patrons to bring a poncho or raincoat instead of umbrellas. Furthermore, communicating with local news outlets helped get the word out that it was game on.



The Latin American championship is celebrating its 100th anniversary and this marks the first time it has been staged outside of South America. Orlando is one of only ten cities to host the 16 national teams in the competition. In two other matches, Camping World Stadium welcomed fans and players from Costa Rica vs. Paraguay (June 4) and Brazil vs. Haiti (June 8).

Georgia

Carrollton - The University of West Georgia has eight core values that it adheres to. From those eight values, two include caring and collaboration.

So when a campus-wide power outage hit the university within hours of its spring graduation ceremonies, relying on these values was instinctive for university students, staff, and faculty members.

In the early morning hours, April 29, UWG faced a series of power failures that left its campus in darkness through Friday night and majority of Saturday morning.

"Employees from across campus - Facilities, Planning & Construction, University Police, Residence Life, Dining Services, ITS, and others - worked through the night with Georgia Power to restore power," said Brendan Bowen, assistant vice president of campus planning and facilities. "These power failures were the result of the aging substation that UWG has relied upon for its power needs since 1964."

Around 6 a.m. on the morning of UWG's spring graduation, the decision to move the first of two ceremonies from the Coliseum to the University Stadium was made. This decision left several university employees less than three hours to change venues for approximately 600 students and 5,000 guests.

"We knew that the commencement ceremonies were set to begin at 9 am on Saturday, so we

raced the clock to ensure that our graduates and their families would be able to celebrate this special day," said Bowen. "At about 5:30 Saturday morning, we suffered a setback, and it became clear that we would have to make other plans for commencement. So we made plans to GO WEST to the Stadium."

After the decision to move the ceremonies to the University Stadium was made, staff members from the Coliseum, facilities and grounds, student affairs, and athletics worked together to move necessary pieces of equipment to the University Stadium for the first of two ceremonies.

"We realized that the transformer would not be fixed in time for the ceremony," said Trent Ross, director of the Coliseum at UWG. "Many decisions were made quickly, like where to seat the graduates, whether or not to use the stage, and what equipment we wanted to leave in place at the Coliseum should power get restored on campus."

Along with the decisions that were made quickly were those concerning the university's communication efforts. University employees were tasked with finding ways to communicate the changes with students, faculty, staff, and guests who would be arriving in a short period of time. "University Police communicated through Wolf Alert," said Elizabeth Smith, associate director of auxiliary services. "The Registrar's office sent notices out to students. Campus leadership communicated with the incoming faculty, while staff and volunteers stayed behind in the University Stadium to direct and ensure accurate communication with guests and students when they arrived."

The first ceremony was delayed for nearly 20 minutes due to the high volume of traffic surrounding the University Stadium. After guests were directed to their designated seating areas, the ceremony commenced regularly. However, unbothered by the change of setting, first ceremony graduates walked proudly receive their degrees.

The Coliseum's arrangement was left intact in the event that the power was restored. That decision turned out to be a good one, since the power was recovered on campus around 9 a.m. After a morning ceremony to remember, senior directors decided the second ceremony would go on as planned in the Coliseum.



On that day, UWG awarded 1,204 degrees, which stands as the most degrees given in a semester for the university. The morning ceremony highlighted graduates from the College of Education and Richards College of Business. The afternoon graduation highlighted graduates from the College of Arts and Humanities, Tanner Health School of Nursing, the College of Social Sciences and the College of Science and Mathematics.

The university's Commencement Committee hopes to have a contingency plan ready should it experience another incident like this one in the future.

"The Commencement Committee will be working to complete a Stadium Set Up Plan that will outline the scope of the contingency set up and the locations for necessary items," said Smith.

"We will also be printing contingency directional signage that can be quickly placed along the campus roadways and parking lots in the event of a move in the future."

Undeterred by the flurry of activities, both ceremonies moved forward without any drawbacks thanks to the dedication and teamwork of UWG faculty and staff.

"Despite the challenging loss of power on our main campus, our record-setting graduation ceremonies went off without a hitch, providing the backdrop for memories our graduates and their families will cherish for years to come," said UWG President Kyle Marrero. "I am proud to be part of such an engaged, committed, and compassionate team that always goes the extra mile to ensure our students - and their families - are cared for."

Atlanta - Central Atlanta Progress (CAP), the primary organization focused on Downtown Atlanta's continued growth, honored Centennial Olympic Park with its Marcus Downtown Economic Impact Award in April 2016, recognizing the profound impact the Park has had on the development of downtown Atlanta and the tourism industry. In 2008, CAP introduced the Downtown Economic Impact Award to recognize individuals, companies or projects that have stimulated revitalization efforts that strengthen and advance the community at large.

The Marcus Downtown Economic Impact Award is one of CAP's most prestigious awards and is publicly presented every March during the CAP/ADID Annual Meeting. The Park, built as part of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, has been an enduring part of the Games' legacy, as well as a catalyst for economic development around it.



Caption L to R: AJ Robinson (President, Central Atlanta Progress), Frank Poe (Executive Director, GWCCA), Dave Stockert (Chair, Central Atlanta Progress Board of Directors)

"We're extremely pleased Centennial Olympic Park has received this high honor, and grateful for Central Atlanta Progress' recognition," said Frank Poe, executive director of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, which owns and operates Centennial Olympic Park. "It is validation of our commitment to preserve the Park's heritage of the '96 Olympics, as well as our strategic initiatives to spur investment and development surrounding the Park. What was once underutilized parcels of land is now a thriving urban oasis - the crown jewel of downtown Atlanta."

Since the 1996 Olympic Games, Centennial Olympic Park has attracted \$2.2 billion of new development to Downtown Atlanta - including nine hotels, seven residential towers, and attractions such as the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca-Cola, Center for Civil and Human Rights, the College Football Hall of Fame, and SkyView Atlanta- with an additional \$1.5 billion of development planned for the future.

Atlanta - During the last 10 years, the International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE) has had an economic impact of \$562 million on the State of Georgia. On Tuesday, April 26, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association Chairman, Paul Hill and President, John Starkey, along with other members of the organization who spearhead IPPE, were presented the Governor's Commendation in recognition of their contributions to the state. Lee Hunter, Chairman of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority Board of Governors and Mark Zimmerman, Georgia World Congress Center General Manager, presented the honor. The estimated economic impact for the 2016 show is \$61 million, with 37,000 hotel rooms booked and an estimated \$1.6 million in states sales tax collected.



Caption L to R: Larry Brown (IPPE), John Starkey (U.S. Poultry and Egg Association President), Lee Hunter (GWCCA Board of Governors Chairman), Paul Hill (U.S. Poultry and Egg Association Chairman), Nath Morris (IPPE), Mark Zimmerman (GWCC General Manager)

In 1977, the International Poultry Expo, which began in Atlanta at the Ansley Hotel in 1949, relocated from the Atlanta Civic Center to the then-new Georgia World Congress Center. The International Poultry Expo was sponsored by Southeastern Poultry & Egg Association which was renamed U.S. Poultry & Egg Association in 1993. The American Feed Industry Association and the North American Meat Institute subsequently joined the event in 2007 and 2013, respectively, to form what is today the International Production & Processing Expo, or IPPE.

The first show held at the GWCC welcomed 10,500 attendees, 302 exhibitors and occupied 150,000 square feet of exhibit space. In its 40th year the show welcomed 30,277 attendees, 1,301 exhibitors and occupied almost 465,000 square feet of exhibit space. Included in the number of attendees 7,280 were international visitors representing 141 countries.

"It has been a pleasure being the home of IPPE for the last 40 years and to see such tremendous growth. Everyone in the organization has been great to work with and we look forward to many more years of hosting the show," said Zimmerman.

Atlanta - After rising through the ranks during a 33-year career with the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, James "Jim" Ridgway retired in April.

Ridgway began working at the Georgia World Congress Center in 1983 as a member of the convention center's security team, and he retired as GWCC's Director of Event Services, a position he was appointed to in 2012.

Known for providing excellent service to GWCCA's customers, internally Ridgway was also valued for his institutional knowledge. An Atlanta native and Georgia State University graduate, Ridgway joined GWCC's event services department in 1986 as an event coordinator and was promoted to senior event coordinator three years later. In 1993, Ridgway was promoted to assistant director of event services.



Ridgway served as the event coordinator for many high-profile events and tradeshow at the GWCC, the nation's fourth largest convention center. These include: the 1988 Democratic National Convention, the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, the American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session, the International Home Builders' Show and the National Business Aviation Association Meeting and Convention.

Since retiring from the GWCC, Ridgway has joined Dupree Security Group as V.P. of Sales.

Atlanta - Repositioned for future growth, decommissioning of the Georgia Dome, the addition of Mercedes-Benz Stadium and other major projects, the Georgia World Congress Center Authority has initiated the first phase of a strategic reorganization plan that includes the appointment of key leaders in new roles.

These appointments include:

Dome General Manager Carl Adkins was named the Authority's Chief Commercial Officer, presiding over Convention Business Development, Sales and Marketing, Event Development, Customer Analytics and Revenue Management, and all contracted service agreements.

Kevin Duvall remains the Authority's Chief Operating Officer, but is taking on the Dome's decommissioning and day-to-day operations as well as heading up the Authority's headquarter hotel project.

An eight-year Authority veteran, Jennifer LeMaster, was named Chief Administration Officer, responsible for Finance, Human Resources and Corporate Communications.

Former Chief Financial Officer Sherrie Spinks was named General Manager of the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. (Under a multi-year agreement, the Authority began managing the SITCC on April 1, 2014.)



The reorganization plan is a result of GWCCA Executive Director Frank Poe's original vision of expanding the Authority's brand and footprint throughout the state. That vision was crystalized in the 2020 Vision strategic plan:www.gwcc.com/about/2020vision.aspx.

Renowned consultants Convention Sports and Leisure International and executive search firm Heidrick & Struggles were contracted to help the Authority work through the details and implementation of the organizational structure.

"Restructuring an organization with a history like ours must be done carefully and deliberately and we engaged the industry's best consultants to help us develop a structure that would serve the enterprise well into the future," said Poe.

The goal is for the Authority to more closely resemble the private sector, with the focus shifting to increased revenue generation, while maintaining the Authority's reputation for superior customer service in the events industry.



Atlanta - On March 10, a Georgia World Congress Center Authority delegation picked up a prestigious AMY (Atlanta Marketer of the Year) Award for the Authority's "Vibe Bus" project, winning in the "Event Marketing - Over \$100k Investment" category. The creative marketing efforts from Team Dome inspired a collaboration with Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)-Atlanta students to design the "Vibe Bus" to promote Kenny Chesney's Big Revival Tour.

The crux of the project was to mimic Chesney's iconic "American Kids" psychedelic bus and document the grassroots marketing efforts centered on the bus. Three students painted an old school bus on the field of the Dome while a Motion Media class documented the transformation and journey of this piece of art, creating a 15-minute video chronicling the non-traditional marketing strategies.

Dubbed the "Vibe Bus," the vehicle and Dome staff - and SCAD students - hit the road, traveling across the Southeast: Greenville, S.C.; Savannah, Ga.; Talladega, Ala. and multiple stops across metro-Atlanta, including the Atlanta Dogwood Festival where the bus was presented as an art

instillation.

The team also created a mobile box office to go along with the bus, which included working with our IT Services Department and Ticketmaster to sell concert tickets on the spot via iPads when the #VibeBus was on location.

Louisiana

Lafayette - On Monday, May 23rd the CAJUNDOME arena started its first major renovation in thirty-one (31) years. Ground breaking took place at 12 noon in the CAJUNDOME arena. Arena operations will cease for approximately six (6) months. The targeted reopening date is December 1st.

The CAJUNDOME opened November 1, 1985. It is owned by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL). Over the 31 year history of the CAJUNDOME, UL has enjoyed a great partnership with Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) on the CAJUNDOME Commission. LCG has provided valuable financial support to the CAJUNDOME for all 31 years. Their support has been a significant contribution to the daily operations and to capital repairs and replacements. Ragin' Cajun Facilities Incorporated provided the funding mechanism for this \$22 million dollar improvement. The locally owned general contractor, J. B. Mouton LLC, was awarded the construction contract. The Sellers Group and James Broussard & Associates are the architects. They partnered with Populous, one of the leading arena design firms in the industry. The CAJUNDOME is fortunate to have such top professionals leading this significant and most important renovation.



The arena interior will be completely transformed. The thirty-one (31) year old telescopic seats will be removed. They are far beyond their life expectancy. A permanent seating structure will be constructed to allow lower level access from underneath the seats through vomitories. Lower level seating capacity will increase by a thousand (1,000). Basketball configurations will be more intimate. The first row of seats will be right next to the basketball floor instead of 14 feet away as they are now. They will also be higher by eight (8) inches creating much improved sight lines. New courtside seats will be available on a newly resurfaced basketball court.

The lower level arena bowl will no longer have large gaps. From center court, the basketball team will see a completely enveloped lower bowl with an expanded NBA quality Electro Voice sound system that covers all of the new basketball seating sections.

All of the seats in the upper and lower levels will be replaced. The color scheme will be black with various shades of gray. All seats will be black and the arena surfaces will vary from an iron ore gray, to a grizzle gray, to a cityscape gray. Hand rails will be installed in all aisles up the stairways in the upper bowl of the arena.

The original arena bowl lights were installed in 1985. They are being replaced with LED lights that will be fully automated with instant on and off capability. The new LED lights will focus on the performance areas and sporting event areas of the arena and will not bleed into the seating areas as lighting currently does. The dark color scheme will supplement this affect. This feature will create a theatrical experience for concerts, WWE, sporting events, family shows and other live performances. The new LED lights will also meet the standards for nationally broadcast NCAA basketball events. Four new spotlights will supplement this newly created theatrical experience. The main entrance into the arena will see a major facelift. All south lobby concession stands are being renovated and upgraded. Concessions will be enlarged to install cooking equipment. Concession menus will be enhanced to include indigenous foods and greater quality. Points of sale will increase by 50% for faster service. WOW Wingery, the CAJUNDOME's most popular food item, will double in size.



The south lobby ceiling is being raised to create a more appealing area for social interaction and food services. A state of the art beer distribution system will be installed for draft beers giving us the ability to offer faster service times and greater varieties at a perfectly chilled temperature. All ground level restrooms are being renovated. The tile floors and ceiling tiles are being replaced, new counter tops installed with new plumbing, toilets, urinals and partitions.

Three storage areas will be enclosed that are located underneath the pedestrian ramps. Equipment will now be protected from the elements. Storage can now be strategically organized to allow for greater operational efficiencies. A new fire alarm system is being installed throughout the arena. The First Aid Room is being renovated and enlarged. It will now accommodate an ambulance gurney.

Patrons will have a new way to access restrooms from the arena. Instead of walking all the way to the south lobby, they will access restrooms on the east and west side of the arena through a newly constructed access corridor. The east access corridor will also take you to a 3,000 square foot clubhouse for UL season tickets holders and national touring events.

The CAJUNDOME roof desperately needs re-sealing. This work should have been done three (3) years ago. Funds were not available then. The roof repairs will begin in June and the original color will be restored before reopening.

A new wayfinding signage system will be installed along with a graphics package that includes

characteristics to make the arena feel like the home of UL Basketball. The CAJUNDOME and UL Athletics are currently researching basketball archives to use in the graphics package. The package will tell the story of UL basketball, both men and women, from their origin through today. The CAJUNDOME Commission is excited to finally start this renovation of Acadiana's marquee facility. We look forward to a grand reopening on December 1st. When the work is finished we will invite the citizens of Acadiana on a tour of their newly renovated arena.

New Orleans - The Sales, Tradeshows, and Communications departments of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center participated in "Red Nose Day," on May 26, 2016.

Through the power of entertainment, the non-profit organization "Comic Relief" raises awareness and money to help lift children out of poverty. The day's events will culminate in a two-hour entertainment TV special on NBC, featuring the country's favorite comedians, musicians and Hollywood stars.

Through June 4, Walgreens and Duane Reade locations nationwide will sell Red Noses for \$1 each. Proceeds from Red Nose purchases benefit the Red Nose Day Fund which supports charities with domestic and international reach aimed at fighting childhood poverty, including Boys & Girls Clubs of America; charity:water; Children's Health Fund; Covenant House; Feeding America; Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance; National Council of La Raza; National Urban League; Oxfam America; Save the Children; and The Global Fund.



New Orleans - For the second year in a row, the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center has been selected as one of the city's Top Workplaces by The Times-Picayune and Nola.com.

The Top Workplaces are determined based solely on the results of an employee feedback survey administered by Workplace Dynamics, LLC, a leading research firm that specializes in organizational health and workplace improvement. Several aspects of the workplace culture were measured, including Alignment, Execution, and Connection, just to name a few. WorkplaceDynamics conducts regional Top Workplaces programs with 45 major publishing partners and more than 6,000 organizations across the United States.



"It's a testament to our employees' satisfaction that the Convention Center has been honored as a Top Workplace. When we implemented the SPICE Customer Service Program seven years ago, one of the goals was to make the Convention Center a place where employees would sincerely feel good about doing their jobs, and in turn create a positive experience for our guests," said Bob Johnson, President/General Manager of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. "And, our employees truly understand and appreciate the role they play in impacting the state and local economy."

The acronym SPICE stands for:

- S - Serve with flexibility and a sense of urgency;
- P - Perform with pride and passion;
- I - Identify issues and provide solutions;
- C - Convey a positive attitude;
- E - Exceed expectations always.

All 500 full-time and part-time employees are required to attend regular training on the five Customer Service Standards that are the guiding philosophy of the program. These standards are reinforced during a daily "SPICE Rack" meeting. During the Spice Rack, employees are encouraged to recognize fellow employees for exceptional acts of service. The Convention Center also holds motivational, educational and teambuilding events for employees during the year, to reinforce the program.

"Our efforts have been successful, and the guests, our clients, have taken notice. The Convention Center has received numerous industry awards and letters from clients praising the heightened level of service. Our employees truly make a difference in our success," Johnson added.



The Times-Picayune and Nola.com published the complete list of Top Workplaces on May 22, 2016. For more information about the Top Workplaces lists and WorkplaceDynamics, please visit www.topworkplaces.com and www.workplacedynamics.com.

For more information about job opportunities at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, or to apply online, please visit the Careers section of our website: <http://www.mccno.com/careers/>.



New Orleans - The SMG Managed Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Smoothie King Center and Champions Square's marketing team won the award for Best Trade Ad-Venue Produced at the annual SMG Marketing Summit for their ad "Our Stages Shine" in the Pollstar Concert Venue Directory.

New Orleans - The Mercedes-Benz Superdome is currently undergoing major renovations to its 400 Level Suites and the installation of new, state-of-the-art HD LED end zone video boards. The renovations are on schedule to be completed prior to the start of the 2016 NFL season. 64 freshly renovated 400-level suites will offer the highest levels of luxury, refinement and class. The new video boards will be 333ft wide x 38ft high, a 900% increase from the previous boards, offering a substantial improvement to the fan experience.





Mississippi

Submit Your articles for next month!!

North Carolina

Charlotte - Odell has been selected to design the expansions to the Florence Civic Center in South Carolina. The expansion is primarily to expand their meeting rooms and convention space so that the Civic Center will have state-of-the-art convention space in addition to their existing 10,000-seat arena.

Charlotte - Selena Gomez to Donate Proceeds from North Carolina Concert to Local LGBT Organization. Selena Gomez is killing 'em with kindness. The singer and actress will be donating a portion of the proceeds from her North Carolina stop on her Revival tour to a local LGBT organization, her rep confirms to PEOPLE. Read the full article <http://www.people.com/article/selena-gomez-donates-revival-proceeds-north-carolina>

Charlotte - Donna Julian, Senior Vice President of Arena and Event Operations and General Manager of Time Warner Cable Arena to receive - Charlotte Business Journal announces 2016 class of Women in Business Awards winners <http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/news/2016/05/12/cbj-announces-2016-class-of-women-in-business.html>



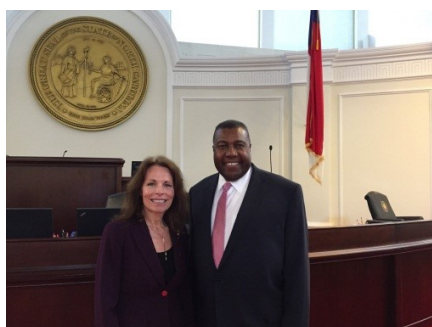
Charlotte - Time Warner Cable Arena hosted the IAVM student Interns of Western Kentucky University. "We at WKU just want to thank you for your time and insight yesterday in touring Time Warner Arena and taking the time to answer students questions on career development. The industry is better because of people like you all who don't mind taking the time to invest in students. Thanks for your time and the gift bags much appreciated! Please let us know if we at Western Kentucky can ever be of any assistance to the Charlotte Hornets or the CRVA." Please feel free to check out our students blog post about the trip! <http://www.wkusportfacilitiesymposium.com/>



Greensboro - Construction on The Fieldhouse (formerly The Pavilion) is in full swing at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. The Fieldhouse will debut in November, 2016.

The newly renovated, state-of-the-art structure will be the home of the Charlotte Hornets' NBA Development League franchise, the Greensboro Swarm. The Fieldhouse will feature a 30,000-square-foot, column-free area along with 8,500 square feet of support space that will include locker rooms, dressing rooms and its own box office.

In addition to 24 annual Swarm home basketball games, the Fieldhouse will also host other events.



Raleigh - May is Foster Care Awareness Month and Perkins was honored in the NC Senate with a Senatorial Proclamation by Senator Tamara Barringer (R), for his work in support of foster, kinship, abandoned and abused children. Senator Barringer as part of the honoring process, instead of reading the proclamation, she read from his book, *Buck Seventy-Two, A Destiny of Will (Escaping Death; The Shooting)*. After reading, she said, "After all that he has been through, he still works hard, giving back, inspiring others. We are so proud that Larry Bernard Perkins is a

native of North Carolina", she continued.

"I was completely caught off-guard when Senator Barringer read from my book; I had not expected that", he said. "There are passages that I glance over (cant' read), even today."

"While I am so honored; I accepted the proclamation on behalf of so many men and women out there working hard, every day to bring about change and who are personally caring for fosters, kinship, abused and abandoned children. In many ways, my work and life is pale in comparison to so many children that I have seen, and there is so much work yet to be done and thank goodness for Senator Barringer, who continues to champion the cause; passing bills and pushing these issues forward.", Perkins said.

In addition to being the VP and Assistant General Manager at the PNC Arena, Perkins serves on the Board of Directors at Wake Technology College, Fostering Brighter Futures, has own initiatives Foster-A-Voice, and has purchased a building in his hometown of Enfield NC to help others.

Raleigh - Doug Grissom, CFE, was appointed director of the Raleigh Convention and Performing Arts Complex in June, 2016. The complex includes the Raleigh Convention Center, Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Red Hat Amphitheater and the Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek. Mr. Grissom has worked at the Convention & Performing Arts Complex for the past 28 years and recently completed his Certified Facility Executive designation at the Senior Executive Symposium at Cornell University.



South Carolina



Columbia - Though considered a "boutique" convention center by size, the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC is committed to customer service and operational excellence to continually "fit 10 pounds in a 5 pound bag" in the memorable words of our General Manager, Mack Stone. Though always pursuing new opportunities that are a good fit for our facility, we are fortunate to book approximately 80% repeat business, so one of our strongest sales strategies is simply to ensure that their experience here with us is extraordinary, so that we have the opportunity to work with them year after year.

We operate under the philosophy that our product is not only our facility, but also the service and experience that our team provides each event, so we are constantly raising the bar to make each event better. Though the facility is only 11 years old, the organization was structured to set aside a certain amount of funding each year for technology and furniture fixtures and equipment (FF&E), to allow us to continually make improvements to keep the building feeling fresh, and keep us at the front of the industry on advancements. In the last six months, our facility has replaced all of the carpet with a custom