



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VENUE MANAGERS REGION 5

## **IAVM Region 5 Director's Message**

October 14, 2016

Dear colleagues,

Last month I noted IAVM Chair Mark Mettes' presentation of the "One Member, One Vote" Initiative at AMC. A webinar presentation on the initiative is planned for all members on Friday, October 21, 2016 at 1 PM ET.

If you are able to watch the presentation live, please do. Registration is available at [iavm.org](http://iavm.org).

Not able to join the live webinar? If you still register, you will receive a link to watch after the recorded version becomes available.

There will be much discussion about this initiative in the upcoming months, as it is presented in various sector and regional conferences, webinars etc. Members are encouraged to offer feedback. As easy feedback option is a survey that you will receive after the webinar.

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, you will be able to address those in the survey. Or if you would rather communicate with a board member directly, please do.

I'd like to hear from you. You can email me at [ndsimmons@uncc.edu](mailto:ndsimmons@uncc.edu).



Nina D. Simmons  
Director, Region 5

## **Region 5 IAVM Job Postings**

### **Richmond, Virginia**

**Assistant Box Office/Parking Manager** - Assists the Box Office / Parking Manager in managing all aspects of box office, parking and utility service operations.

**Event Manager** - Plans and coordinates multiple events, managing every aspect from advance planning, during the event and including post-event follow-up. Coordinates the work of facility event staff and serves as a liaison between facility users and facility staff, service providers, public safety agencies and event attendees.

**Maintenance Manager** - Directs, manages, supervises and coordinates the activities and operations of the Maintenance Department and provides responsible staff assistance to the Director of Operations. Oversees the installation, repair and upkeep of the Greater Richmond Convention Center, including hydraulic, mechanical and electrical systems, buildings, grounds and other structures.

For detailed job descriptions and application procedures, visit  
<http://www.richmondcenter.com/employment/> .

### **Alabama**



**Save the Date**



**Thursday, October 27, 2016  
10am - 4pm**

**ALABAMA CHAPTER MEETING  
& NETWORKING RECEPTION**

**Registration: \$40**

*\*A full meeting schedule will be announced in the coming weeks\**

**HOSTED BY:**



**THE ROCKET CITY -  
HUNTSVILLE  
ALABAMA**

**INDUSTRY PARTNERS**



**For more info: <http://www.iavm5.org/>**

The Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa connected to the Von Braun Center via skywalk has set up a room block for October 27th for the IAVM Region 5 Alabama Chapter Meeting.

The rate is \$119 and the booking code is IAV. You can go to their website or call into reservations to make a reservation for October. Click here for the link: <https://www2.reservationdesk.com> or call [256-539-7373](tel:256-539-7373) to book.

E-mail Marie Arighi at [marighi@vonbrauncenter.com](mailto:marighi@vonbrauncenter.com) for the Registration Form.

**Birmingham** - Legacy Arena celebrated its 40th anniversary Sept. 29 with a big birthday bash featuring music, decorations and food dedicated to the four decades it has served the largest

city in Alabama.

More than 200 dignitaries, elected officials, board members past and present, employees and other stakeholders gathered in the arena to reminisce about favorite artists, sporting events and other memorable shows they've seen there over the years.



John Denver performed the first show at the BJCC coliseum, as it was then known, on September 28, 1976. Since then, the now-renamed Legacy Arena has been a hub of sports and entertainment for 12 million fans attending shows ranging from Elvis Presley to Pink, from Michael Jackson to Jay-Z, Birmingham Bulls Hockey and UAB Blazers Basketball to the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus to Monster Jam.

Construction of the coliseum in 1976 forever changed the entertainment landscape of Birmingham - and its addition in Birmingham was ahead of its time, said BJCC Executive Director Tad Snider. "The foresight of civic, business and political leaders beginning in the mid-60s and into the early 70s in having the vision for such an ambitious project is quite remarkable," he said.

Legacy Arena today continues to provide the Birmingham community with unparalleled entertainment options, including major concert tours, sporting events, family programs, religious events and world-renowned speakers.

And the BJCC is planning for the arena's future. The board recently received an updated master plan that includes improvements and enhancements to Legacy Arena. Conceptual plans include updates to the exterior façade on the outside, improved entrances, improved flow of the concourse areas, enhanced food and beverage locations, a new suite level and club/VIP areas and other amenities to improve the overall guest experience for sporting events, concerts and family oriented programming. Should plans move to execution, the extensive renovation project would position the arena to expand its value to the Birmingham community into the next 40 years and compete with the latest in arena offerings for decades to come.

### **Birmingham**

- Hattiesburg's Rick Taylor was among the top professionals recognized for outstanding work in tourism last week, receiving the Beacon

Leadership award in a 12-state region of the southeastern United States. Taylor accepted the award from the Southeast Tourism Society during its annual Shining Example Awards program, held in Birmingham, Ala. this fall.



According to Southeast Tourism Society's award criteria, the Shining Example Awards salute performance, productivity and professional achievement in more than a dozen categories of tourism activity. Specifically, the Beacon Award recognizes an individual who best exemplifies outstanding leadership in the pursuit of excellence and who has advanced the tourism industry. The recipient of this annual award will also have dedicated many years to tourism. Judges for the award considered accomplishments, innovation, performance, empowerment of others, integrity and respect.

"I am honored to receive this regional recognition for Hattiesburg. Tourism is the front door of our community, and I am passionate about doing my part to grow this sector of our economy. While we have worked diligently to create places and experiences for visitors to enjoy, we are also the beneficiaries of enjoying them ourselves as residents. I am grateful to my peers for recognizing me for our work, and I look forward to continued success in our community," said Taylor.

As executive director, Taylor leads the growth and operations of six Hattiesburg tourism facilities. Under his leadership, the tourism sector in Hattiesburg has experienced continued growth in the last twenty years. Taylor oversees the Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center, the Hattiesburg Zoo, African-American Military History Museum, Historic Saenger Theater, Visitors Center, and the Eureka School.

In addition to Taylor's work at the local level, he has also served in various leadership roles at the state level. Mississippi Tourism Association Executive Director Rochelle Hicks worked with Taylor while he has served as an MTA executive board member.

"I have worked with Rick in his role as the President of Mississippi Tourism Association and as an Executive Board Member for several years. His dedication to the tourism industry and knowledge of Mississippi are unparalleled. It is truly an honor to serve alongside him promoting our great state," said Hicks.

STS focuses on the continued growth and development of tourism in the southeastern U.S. Their forums and professional events share insight and ideas with members to advance the regional tourism economy.

"Tourism work in the Southeast is excellent, and STS Shining Example Awards are great recognition," said STS President and CEO Bill Hardman.

**Huntsville** - Marie Arighi, Director of Sales and Marketing for the Von Braun Center (VBC), was just recently appointed to the national board for Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP). Marie Arighi was part of the charting committee that was responsible for the installation of the Rocket City-Alabama chapter in April of 2009 and has been involved ever since. She has also held several positions within the Rocket City-Alabama SGMP chapter including 4 years as 2nd vice president and 4 years as treasurer. Marie is most excited about the impact and difference she can make nationally in SGMP as a national board member.

Lindsey Hardesty, Sale and Marketing Assistant, was just awarded the Rookie of the Year award from Executive Women International (EWI). She has also recently been appointed to the EWI board as the membership director. As the membership director Lindsey looks forward to meeting new people in the community and growing her chapter.

Brandon White, Arena Operations Supervisor, has officially become a Certified Ice Technician. He is only one of four people in Alabama to receive this certification. It is recognized by the NHL and other accredited organizations nationally. This certification will be put to great use as

hockey season approaches.

Craig Maples, Group/Sponsorship Sales Manager, was chosen to be BNI Alabama's Member of the Week. Craig was chosen due to his installation of a contest that increased membership numbers significantly. Craig currently serves as the secretary and treasurer for the "Rocket City Referrals" chapter in Alabama.



## Florida



**Sarasota** - The board of directors for the Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, Inc. (SANCA), the non-profit that manages Sarasota County's Nathan Benderson Park, has announced that veteran event and venue management executive, Robert J. Sullivan, CFE will come on board as the organization's president and CEO. With more than thirty-five years experience, Sullivan will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the park's operations and management. He will officially take the reins on Monday, August 15th.

According to Bill Robinson, chairman of the SANCA board, more than 60 resumes were submitted to SANCA and the board voted unanimously on Sullivan. "Bob's mindset that public venues are designed to provide a variety of events and activities that enhance the quality of life and economic opportunities for the citizens and businesses in the community mirrors our philosophy," said Robinson. "We are confident he is the right person to lead Nathan Benderson Park and the great team we currently have in place."

Sullivan comes to the area from Wichita Falls, Texas, where he managed the Multi-Purpose Events Center (MPEC) consisting of an arena, convention center, horse exhibition center, and memorial auditorium for the past eleven years. In addition to MPEC, Bob was responsible for the management of the Convention & Visitors Bureau. Prior to Wichita Falls, Bob had been in senior management roles in a variety of communities and venues including the Cow Palace in San Francisco, Sheffield Arena in Sheffield, England, Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View,

California and the MetroCentre in Rockford, Illinois.

Throughout his career, Sullivan has managed venues that have staged amateur and professional hockey programs, arena football and indoor soccer, as well as high school, college and professional basketball and hockey programs. Over the years, he has been involved in numerous regional and international sporting activities including the Hotter n' Hell Hundred Bicycle Race in Wichita Falls, the World Student Games in Sheffield, England, and the USA vs. Russia volleyball exhibition in San Francisco, to name just a few. Furthermore, his experience also includes the concert industry, presenting events from Seinfeld to Lollapalooza on stages seating five hundred people to festivals exceeding three hundred thousand attendees. Sullivan received his Certified Facilities Executive designation (CFE) in 1998 from the International Association of Venue Managers.

"Nathan Benderson Park has established itself as a premier rowing center and versatile county park hosting a multitude of community sponsored events," said Sullivan. "I am excited to begin working with the SANCA board, the staff and Sarasota County Government, taking NBP to the next level of excellence locally and on a world stage."

**Tampa** - Following the completion of the initial phase of a \$140-plus million multi phase renovation, Raymond James Stadium, now boasts the most technologically advanced HD video system in use today. It is comprised of two massive 9,600 square-foot boards on the north and south ends of the stadium - and four large 2,300 square-foot HD tower walls. With more than 31,000 square feet of video display space, this system ranks as the third-largest video board system in the NFL.



What sets it apart from the video displays at all other sports venues are the four video tower walls, located in each corner of the stadium, that have the ability to operate collectively or independent of each other to provide fans with a completely immersive and first-of-its-kind viewing experience. Fans will have access to real time fantasy sports statistics, live recaps of action of the day, social media applications such as Twitter and Instagram, and team stats as never seen before.

Raymond James Stadium is managed by the Tampa Sports Authority and is home to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the USF Bulls. This facility will now be the first NFL venue capable of simultaneously presenting up to three separate replay angles. As opposed to most stadium replays available today that are limited to one or possibly two angles, this system will bring fans in all stadium viewing areas closer to the action than ever before. The replays will be displayed on the main end zone boards and both corner tower displays on each end of the field.

The project also included a new, state-of-the-art sound system and the renovation of luxury suites, plus the addition of the Hall of Fame Club- two premium seating concepts featuring all-inclusive food and beverage options, air-conditioned comfort and some of the best views of the game action.



The next phase of renovations - which will be completed in time for the 2017 football season - will include an extensive renovation of the east and west club lounges, expansions of the general concourses, construction of a team store, and other general fan enhancements. "These stadium improvements are a huge win for our community, as fans will be provided an enhanced event experience and Tampa will be uniquely positioned to host future world class events at Raymond James Stadium," said Tampa Sports Authority President/CEO Eric Hart, CFE. "I would like to thank the administrations of both Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa, along with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for their efforts in making this plan a reality."

## **Georgia**

**Atlanta** - From Steve Harvey's Neighborhood Awards to film shoots, athletic tournaments and Walker Stalker Con to Donald Trump's presidential rally, the Georgia World Congress Center's Exhibition Hall A3 has hosted a wide variety of events in recent times - but on Friday and Saturday (Sept. 9-10) the 105,000-square foot space was transformed into a two-night sold-out rave featuring red-hot electronic dance music (EDM) artist Bassnectar, drawing a combined 20,000 devoted Bassheads.

Bassnectar, which is the stage name for American deejay/record producer Lorin Ashton, has scored three No. 1s on Billboard's Top Dance/Electronic Albums chart, including his latest, "Unlimited."

The two-night stand was the first of its kind for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority's downtown Atlanta campus, which also includes the Georgia Dome, Centennial Olympic Park, and the under-construction Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and a prime example for showcasing the complex's versatility.





Conventions, meetings, expos, sporting events, graduation ceremonies and trade shows are the norm for convention centers - EDM concerts are not. "It's all about non-traditional events and revenue in traditional spaces - and doing different things that we haven't done before. We want to show people what these spaces can do. It definitely leads to further opportunities for development," said Julia Karrenbauer, Sr. Director of Business Development for the GWCCA.

"We are welcoming in a new audience - as the Authority has a reputation for the last 40 years of being a gathering spot for all kinds of culture and ideals for downtown Atlanta, this is a great way to open ourselves up and be that nexus for the next generation," said Karrenbauer. "This all goes back to our mantle of being the No. 1 convention, sports and entertainment destination in the world - you can't be that if you're not doing all kinds of different things."



**Atlanta** - Frank Poe, Executive Director of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, will receive the International Association of Venue Managers' (IAVM) prestigious 2016 Convention Center Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 International Convention Center Conference held in October in Pasadena, Calif.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have had a significant impact on the convention center industry and the IAVM community.

"Frank is an iconic leader in our industry who has influenced so many of our current and future leaders," said Carol Wallace, the 2015 Convention Center Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. "It is wonderful that he will be recognized for his achievements."

**Atlanta** - As part of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority's sustainability initiatives, construction of a new solar canopy system designed to accommodate vehicle parking underneath its sizable array of solar panels is now complete in a section of As part of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority's sustainability initiatives, construction of a new solar canopy system designed to accommodate vehicle parking underneath its sizable array of solar panels is now complete in a section of the GWCCA's Marshalling Yard.

Located off of Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., the project features 1,900 solar panels and approximately 200 parking spaces, and is expected to generate 890,000 kilowatt hours of electricity in its first year. The solar power generated ties into Georgia Power's electricity grid for redistribution. The project broke ground in early July.

The solar panels and electronics were fabricated off-site then relocated and installed.

The new solar array - in conjunction with panels installed on the recently-constructed Mangum Deck - are components of a greater sustainability effort outlined for the new \$1.5 billion state-of-the-art stadium Mercedes-Benz Stadium - set to open in 2017 - in order to attain LEED Platinum designation.



LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council and is a rating system for the design, operation and maintenance of environmentally-friendly facilities. LEED Platinum is the highest level of certification.

**Atlanta** - When feeding the masses, mitigating the waste materials is always top of mind for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority (GWCCA), a leader in sustainability and owner/operator of the largest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified convention center in the world.

With a gigantic food order looming - including approximately 92,000 box lunches served across five days - for the Microsoft Ignite conference, Sept. 26-30 on GWCCA's downtown Atlanta campus, members of the Authority's sustainability, building services, engineering and food services teams put their heads together to come up with a creative solution for recycling the meals' plastic packaging.

"We asked ourselves, what can we do to both recycle as much as possible and also make Building Services' job of collecting the material as easy as possible?" said Tim Trefzer, GWCCA's Sustainability Manager.



The result: 26 rolling 4-foot-high plywood carts affectionately dubbed "BLuRCs" (Boxed Lunch Recycling Collection), designed by Harry Duncan, a carpenter with the GWCCA's engineering department.

"We realized that there would be approximately 15,000 box lunches every day during Microsoft Ignite," said Trefzer. "The boxes that they're coming in are plastic and recyclable - but if we allowed

attendees to just throw them out, as they normally would, the volume of that would cause all sorts of backups with Building Services, because they'd fill up trash cans and recycling bins really quickly."

Instead, the box lunch containers, prepared by GWCCA food services partner Levy Restaurants, were separated from the rest of the waste stream via the newly-designed collection carts, thus streamlining the recycling process. Each cart can hold up to 1,000 box lunch containers.

The new collection units, flanked by trashcans and regular recycling bins, were spread throughout the campus for Microsoft Ignite, including several at the outdoor lounge-like area on West Plaza between Georgia World Congress Center Building C and the Georgia Dome.

Painted light grey and adorned with recycling decals, the process for attendees utilizing the carts is simple, as spelled out on the accompanying signage: "1) Empty container of food waste into appropriate receptacle 2) Place containers face up in slot on either side of cross beam." Provided a rough sketch of the concept that featured four compartments, Duncan said the design of the units immediately popped into his head and he went to work.

"I tried to make the design simple so it would be easy to assemble," said Duncan, who has a background in cabinetry.

Duncan and his engineering colleagues Phillip Haynes, Ben Cadore, Tim Smith, David Howard, Daniel Johnson and Terry Causey, logged 193.5 man hours building the fleet of recyclable collection carts, utilizing 52 sheets of plywood, 1,560 screws, 104 casters, 416 nuts, bolts and washers, and 20 gallons of paint.

Trefzer and GWCCA Recycling Specialist Ima Otudor believe the units can be used for other events on the GWCCA campus, and the project represents a creative collaboration between several departments and a commitment to innovation. "This is a great opportunity for Levy to showcase their collaboration and innovative efforts to work with clients," he said. "As they continue to use those same clamshell boxes, we should be able to use these collection carts frequently."

And the customer - which is the focus of everything the Authority does - was pleased.

"They were impressed that we even thought that far ahead and created something like this," said Trefzer. "Because Microsoft is really sustainability-oriented, they wanted us to find a way to recycle them anyway."

**Atlanta** - On November 1, the Georgia World Congress Center Authority will be honored by the Georgia Historical Society with a historical marker honoring the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. Each year, the Georgia Historical Society selects iconic companies in the state to be honored through the Georgia Business History Initiative. Elevating Atlanta to international status and recognition, the 1996 Summer Olympics united the world in friendship and peace while providing avenues for significant growth in the city, with Centennial Olympic Park being the lasting legacy of the Games in Atlanta.

## **Louisiana**

**New Orleans** - Employees of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center rallied behind police officers on "Geaux Blue NOLA Day" by donning all shades of blue clothing to show their support. The Convention Center also turned its building lights blue and displayed a message on the marquee outside of the building. The New Orleans City Council declared September 7, 2016 as "Geaux Blue NOLA Day," in support of police officers who serve and protect the community. Everyone who lives, works and plays in New Orleans was asked to support the New Orleans Police Department and their families by wearing blue clothing, blue ribbons on lapels, tying blue bows on trees, or turning their home and business lights blue.

"Geaux Blue NOLA Day is an occasion for us to express our appreciation for law enforcement officers, and work collaboratively to improve their practices and increase public safety," said Bob Johnson, president and general manager of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.



## **Mississippi**

**Submit Your Articles for Next Month!**

## **North Carolina**

**Submit Your Articles for Next Month!**

## **South Carolina**

**Greenville** - The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament will return to Greenville, South Carolina, in March of 2017, the NCAA announced today.

Furman University and the Southern Conference will serve as co-hosts of NCAA Tournament First/Second Round games, scheduled for March 17 & 19, 2017, at the 14,000-seat Bon Secours Wellness Arena in downtown Greenville.

"We are thrilled the NCAA has entrusted us to host one of its most celebrated championships and look forward to welcoming the student-athletes, coaches, and fans of competing schools to our home next March," said Furman Director of Athletics Mike Buddie. "It's great to be back in the business of hosting NCAA Championships in our community and state, and we are dedicated along with our Main Street Area, Bon Secours Wellness Arena, and VisitGreenvilleSC partners to provide an unparalleled, first-rate championship experience."

The NCAA opened the bid process for the championships following an August decision by its

Board of Governors to relocate events originally awarded to cities in North Carolina. The board made the decision because of the cumulative actions taken by the state concerning civil rights protections.

"Our community as a whole, but especially the business community, has been tremendously supportive and encouraging of our efforts to host NCAA events since the ban was lifted last year," says Beth Paul, General Manager at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena General. "This announcement is another example of how Greenville continues to move in a forward direction. We are honored to host such a prestigious tournament at Bon Secours Wellness Arena and will continue to uphold values of respect and inclusion for all guests and student athletes."

"The sports committees were pleased with the quantity and quality of the bids received and are confident the selected sites will host championships that provide an outstanding experience for student-athletes, membership and fans," said Joni Comstock, NCAA interim executive vice president of championships and alliances.

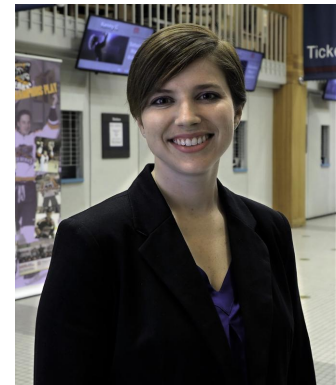
Furman, the Southern Conference, and Greenville last served as host of NCAA Basketball Tournament First/Second Round action in 2002 at the BI-LO Center (now Bon Secours Wellness Arena).

The 2017 NCAA Tournament Selection Show announcing the 68-team tournament field is scheduled for Sunday, March 12 and will be streamed live on NCAA.com and broadcast nationally.

## **Tennessee**

**Knoxville** - Jamie Cunningham, office manager for the Knoxville Civic Auditorium and Coliseum, has been named statewide "Tourism Employee of the Year" by the Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association (TnHTA) at its annual "Stars of the Industry" awards gala.

The "Tourism Employee of the Year" award recognizes exemplary professionalism and service by an employee whose outstanding performance goes above and beyond normal job responsibilities to provide excellent service to the property, guests and community. The "Stars of the Industry Awards" are presented to individuals, companies and industry partners whose commitment to hospitality and tourism has improved the overall industry statewide.



"Hospitality and tourism make up the state's second largest industry," TnHTA President and CEO Greg Adkins said. "The winners were selected to receive these honors by people who truly understand the level of commitment that is required to provide excellent service to customers on a daily basis - their peers. We're honored to have them as part of our membership, and we congratulate them on a job well done."

Cunningham received the 2016 Service/Supplier Employee of the Year Pauly Award from the Greater Knoxville Hospitality Association (GKHA) in May, which qualified her for the state award.

Both the GKHA and TnHTA awards recognized Cunningham for her initiative and ownership of any task assigned to her - even if they fell outside her job. Kristy Todd, human resources manager at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium and Coliseum, said Cunningham "walks into work with a smile and a positive attitude every day."

"Jamie is an exceptional employee and well-deserving of this statewide recognition," said Mary Bogert, general manager of the Knoxville Civic Auditorium and Coliseum. "Jamie always goes above and beyond with every task she is assigned and completes it with a smile. Our facility

has the best employees and customer service, and it's wonderful that the state association has recognized our team's efforts."

## Virginia



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016**

## **VIRGINIA CHAPTER MEETING**

*Mark your calendar now. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable industry insight and network with your colleagues.*

*A full meeting schedule and registration information will be announced in the coming weeks.*



**Richmond** - The Greater Richmond Convention Center, managed by Spectra Venue Management, closed out the fiscal year ending June 30 with record results. "It no doubt was a busy and outstanding year for us," said General Manager Michael Meyers. The center's attendance reached 390,201, and operating income, not including sales for food and beverage, came in at \$3,383,794 - an 11.18% increase over record results set in FY2014. "We hit a record in 2014 and were fortunate to hold onto it in 2015," Meyers said. "Events come and go. You are always trying to find more than you lose while generating as much revenue as you can. We were extremely successful, and the staff at the facility has done a great job keeping up with the increased business."

## **Allied Member News**

**Mark Sonder Productions** - Mark Sonder, MM, CSEP and the Chief Entertainment Officer at Mark Sonder Productions Entertainment Agency is proud to announce that in the middle of the Salt-n-Pepa tour Sonder has the ability, knowhow, and expertise to procure DJ Spinderella for the opening night festivities at SportsTravel Magazine's TEAMS '16 Conference and Expo at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, NJ.



Sonder also scheduled her for a meet & greet at the Mark Sonder Productions Entertainment Agency's exposition booth the following morning after her performance to present her one on one to her fans for autographs and photos.

"Spin' puts out there many different types of tunes that she know will work wonderfully for her audiences," exclaimed Sonder. "I expect that all the attendees will be dancing through her entire performance," Sonder continued.

TEAMS '16 is the world's leading conference and expo for the sports-travel industry, presented by SportsTravel magazine and Schneider Publishing. The one thousand attendees will include sports organizations as well as representatives from sports commissions and convention bureaus.

**Mark Sonder Productions** - Mark Sonder, MM, CSEP and the Chief Entertainment Officer at Mark Sonder Productions Entertainment Agency is proud to announce his continued association with The George Washington University's Event Management Certificate Program in Washington DC.

Last weekend Sonder taught, "Starting, Growing, Your Own Event Management Company," This weekend Sonder is teaching a course eponymous with the name of his book, "Event Entertainment and Production." He continues next month to teach, "Event Marketing."

"Preparing students for a career in tourism and event management is but one way I enjoy giving back," says Sonder at his 31 year old entertainment agency headquartered in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. "These fine people are the leaders in this industry for tomorrow," continues Sonder.

Mark Sonder has been teaching for this program since 1999 and has also been a Lecturer for the Master's Tourism Administration also at this esteemed university.

**Venue Solutions Group** - Venue Solutions Group is pleased to announce we have been awarded a Facility Condition Assessment for Nashville's Bridgestone Arena (NHL Nashville Predators) and Nissan Stadium (NFL Tennessee Titans). The project will evaluate the physical condition of each facility's infrastructure, such as interior finishes, technology, foodservice equipment, electronic systems, and mechanical/plumbing/electrical systems, and allow the city to prepare for future expenses. The project will commence in November and be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

## **Newsletter Guidelines**

Please submit information by the 15th of each month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. If your submission is received after the 15th it will be published in the next newsletter.

Entries are published as received with little editing and cutting. Please send entries as you would like them in the newsletter. Please send in a word doc. format with pictures attached separately as a jpeg.

As you think about things to share, please keep in mind that we are looking for news items. Some newsworthy items of note include (but are not limited to):

- Expansions, renovations, new buildings
- New contracts
- Incidents or event surprises that occur at your building you think others should know about (heads up')
- How you handle/handled hot button topics
- Looking for suggestions on how others handle a concern
- RFP's
- Newly hired or promoted staff
- Certifications or awards for facilities and staff
- Notice of PAFMS grads, etc.
- Job Postings, searches for jobs
- Photos (not all can be used). Please identify all people in photo.

Because most of our members are employed in event buildings, event schedules and articles which list upcoming or past events will not be included in the newsletters. On the other hand, events which have led to some unexpected situations requiring fast thought and master handling could be considered newsworthy.

Submit to: [nhcmarketing@harborcenter.org](mailto:nhcmarketing@harborcenter.org)

IAVM Region 5 | 635 Fritz, Dr. Suite 100, Coppell, TX 75019

STAY CONNECTED:

