



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VENUE MANAGERS REGION 5



## A letter from the director

It's with mixed emotions that I write this, my final column as your Region 5 chair. On June 7 I will assume the role of Chair of the Board of Regents for Venue Management School. Per association bylaws, an individual cannot serve in two board positions simultaneously, so I will tender my resignation as Region Chair on that day. At that time, current vice chair Courtney Dyer will be appointed to complete my term on the board. While Region 5 has always been my home, I feel that I can best serve the association through VMS. I'd like to take this time to thank my family, my staff in Tupelo, the 2012 Region 5 nominating committee who first asked me to serve in the various board roles, and to each of you as members of the best region in IAVM. And a special thank you to my first boss in the venue industry - Terry Butler. Terry understood the importance of IAVM and that by working together we can make our industry stronger. In that spirit, I encourage each of you to find a way to get involved in YOUR association. And if I can ever be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Todd Hunt*

June 1, 2018

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## **Region 5 IAVM Job Postings**

### **Greater Richmond Convention Center (Richmond, VA)**

#### **Sales Manager (Outside Sales)**

The Outside Sales Manager enhances the relationship between users of the convention center and Center staff. An Outside Sales Manager will spend approximately 60% of their time visiting existing and prospective new users of the GRCC in the local and regional marketplace.

#### **Maintenance Laborer (Electrician Helper) (Full-time)**

The Maintenance Laborer (Electrician Helper) assists the Center's Electrician with installing and maintaining electrical/power systems and will assist the Maintenance Technicians on various maintenance related tasks.

#### **Security Guard (Full-time)**

The Security Guard provides general protection of facility property and personnel; monitors facility and protects against fire, damage and theft; provides general information and assistance to facility guests; and serves as the lead for all Base Security systems.

For full job description and application information, visit the employment page at <https://www.richmondcenter.com/employment/>.

**Please submit any job postings to [iavmr5@gmail.com](mailto:iavmr5@gmail.com)**

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## **Alabama**

**Please submit your news to [iavmr5@gmail.com](mailto:iavmr5@gmail.com)**

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## **Puerto Rico**

**COLISEO DE PUERTO RICO** - We had great first trimester numbers and we are very pleased that even after the Hurricane Maria impact, we have been able to reach our usual sales. Although the island economy is not fully reestablished, our guests are still committed to enjoying their time here at our entertainment experiences with good food and cocktails. It is crucial for us to make our greatest effort to sustain our usual sales so we can demonstrate that people are again returning to invest in entertainment, mingling and hanging out. Puerto Rico is falling into place again.



In addition, we are pleased to welcome José Ortiz as the new Finance Manager at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico.

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## Florida

Please submit your news to [iavmr5@gmail.com](mailto:iavmr5@gmail.com)

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## Georgia

**SANDY SPRINGS - Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center Opening/New Hires**



The Spectra team at the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center at City Springs is proud to announce the appointment of several new staff members as it prepares for the opening of the venue this summer.

Andrew Borges was appointed in February to the position of Director of Food and Beverage, having previously served as the Premium Manager at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lisa Crawford was appointed in February to the position of Marketing and Sales Manager. Lisa previously served as the Director of Sales and Marketing at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena in Greenville, South Carolina.

Bria Etinge was recently appointed to the position of Staff Accountant. Bria graduated in December from Albany State University (Albany, Georgia) with an MBA with an emphasis in Accounting.

Courtney Greever-Fries was appointed in April to the position of Assistant Production Manager, having previously served as the Assistant Manager of Show Production at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta.

Teressa Kornegay was appointed in April to the position of Housekeeping Manager, having previously served as the Evening Supervisor for Environmental Services at Wellstar Cobb Hospital in Austell, Georgia.

Rodney Martin was recently appointed to the position of Executive Chef. Rodney previously served as Executive Chef with the Spectra Team at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

Arlene McKinnon was appointed in February to the position of Director of Finance. Arlene previously served as the Director of Finance with the Spectra Team at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Emma Schenkenberger was recently appointed to the position of Event Manager. Emma graduated in May from the University of Alabama, with a dual MBA/MFA in Arts Management.

Carol Willis was appointed in February to the position of Box Office Manager. Carol previously served as the Box Office Manager for the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Sandy Springs team is led by General Manager Michael Enoch, a 38-year industry veteran who previously served with the Spectra team at the Studio City Events Center in Macau, China. Other team members include David Daly, CVP, Director of Programming (formerly with Kennesaw State University); Jack Ligon, Director of Operations (formerly with the Spectra team at the University of South Florida); and Wyanda Garner, Administrative Assistant/Event Coordinator (a recent graduate of Georgia State University).

The performing arts center recently announced the line-up for its inaugural season, which will include performances by a variety of artists, kicked-off by a twelve-day opening celebration in August. In addition to traditional performing arts content, the venue is working with local arts organizations and national concert promoters to book events in the theaters. The robust calendar will feature a wide variety of entertainment options, and the conference center will be a prime space for meeting and banquet events.

City Springs is a 14-acre mixed-use development located in Sandy Springs, Georgia, featuring multiple offerings including a performing arts center, conference center, four-acre green space, residential, retail, and city offices. The performing arts center features the 1,075-seat Byers Theatre and 350-seat Studio Theatre, and the conference center features 8,000 square feet of meeting and banquet facilities. Spectra Venue Management and Food Services & Hospitality oversee management of the performing arts center, conference center, and City Green. For more information about City Springs and the Performing Arts Center, visit [citysprings.com](http://citysprings.com).

## Louisiana

### **NEW ORLEANS - The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Receives LWCC "Safest 70" Award**



*Left to right: Brett Slocum, Assistant Director of Public Safety; Tim Tumminello, Director of Human Resources; Tanya Smith, Human Resources Coordinator; Darren J. Kimball, Lead Safety Services Consultant, LWCC; Susan Paisant, Client Relations Representative, LWCC; Mark Kaufman, Director of Public Safety.*

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center has received a "Safest 70" award from the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation (LWCC), the largest workers' compensation carrier in the state. The award acknowledges excellence, outstanding performance, and commitment to workplace safety, and is given to the top 70 of over 16,000 entities insured by LWCC.

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center was recognized based on the effectiveness of their safety efforts in preventing injuries and maintaining a consistent workplace safety history in 2017.

"It is an honor for our facility to be recognized by LWCC," said Michael J. Sawaya, President and General Manager of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. "Providing a safe work environment is our highest priority and is a team effort. We consider our employees internal customers and value their input while collaborating on ways to continuously improve our facility. Philosophically, this in turn results in a safer environment for our patrons/external customers as well."

### **NEW ORLEANS - Exhibition Hall Authority Board Adopts Five-Year Convention Center Capital Improvement Plan**

The Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority ("the Authority") adopted a \$557

million five-year capital improvement plan that includes renovations of the 34-year old Morial Convention Center ("Center"), as well as lays the foundation for development of new facilities that include a Convention Center Headquarters Hotel with a physical connection to the Center.

Other major capital improvement projects approved by the Authority Board at Wednesday's meeting include development of a 7.5 acre pedestrian park that spans the length of the Center along Convention Center Boulevard, creating a safer and more diverse experience for both visitors and residents. The pedestrian park project scope includes creation of a transportation center connected to the Center via a covered walkway as well as outdoor entertainment spaces, seating areas, public art and water features. Construction on Convention Center Boulevard is scheduled to begin this summer with expected completion in 2020.

Additional enhancements to the facility include meeting room and public area renovations to modernize the Center using a more contemporary design commensurate with newer facilities developed around the U.S. The five-year capital improvement plan includes annual capital investments to ensure the Center is maintained to a first-class facility standard.

"These critical investments in the New Orleans community and in the Convention Center are in complete alignment with our vision to be a leading-edge organization known for innovative delivery of exceptional event experiences in a world-class destination," says Michael Sawaya, President and General Manager of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. "The Authority is committed to ensuring that the Convention Center remains viable as a strong economic engine for New Orleans and the State of Louisiana."

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## **Mississippi**

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## **North Carolina**

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## **South Carolina**

**COLUMBIA - Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center**



The Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC debuted a new rooftop aeroponic herb tower in April. We are growing various herbs such as cilantro, thyme, chives, parsley and rosemary and staff rotates in shifts to assist with the structure's care. Chef Tommy Kasperski with Spectra, our in-house catering company, is harvesting these herbs for use in the kitchen.



The idea for this sustainability initiative stemmed from the Don't Waste Food SC Summit in a neighboring city, which a couple of our staff members attended.

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## Tennessee

### **NASHVILLE - Music City Center Celebrates Five Years**

The Music City Center celebrated its fifth anniversary this weekend. Since opening its doors on May 20, 2013, the Music City Center has served the community by attracting regional and national events that generate significant economic benefit for the citizens of Nashville.

In its first five years, the Music City Center hosted 1,500 events, bringing 2.8 million people to Nashville and generating over \$1.5 billion dollars in direct economic impact. The equates to about \$950,000 of direct economic impact generated every single day. Tax collections and operating results have continued to exceed expectations, and each year the Music City Center portion of tax collections have seen double digit year over year growth.

The Music City Center also achieved 47.9 percent DBE participation in its first five years, spending \$10.8 million with minority, women-owned and small businesses. Additionally, the Music City Center has hosted 300 local nonprofit events since opening.

"I'm not sure anyone fully anticipated what a success our first five years would be and we do not see that slowing at all. Future bookings are at an all-time high and the feedback from our customers is overwhelmingly positive," said Charles Starks, President/CEO of Music City Center. "There is no doubt in my mind that we could not do what we do without the people of Nashville and we are so grateful for their support."

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### **Virginia / Washington / Maryland**

**Please submit your news to [iavmr5@gmail.com](mailto:iavmr5@gmail.com)**

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### **Allied Member News**

**Please submit your news to [iavmr5@gmail.com](mailto:iavmr5@gmail.com)**

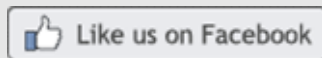
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## **Our Facebook Got A Facelift!**

Check out the newly-updated IAVM Region 5 Facebook page! While the newsletter is sent once a month, our Facebook page will be updated throughout the month with exciting news, pictures, job opportunities and more. Click the "Like us on Facebook" button below or go to [Facebook.com/IAVMRegion5](https://Facebook.com/IAVMRegion5) and "Like" us now!

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