



FROM THE

PRESIDENT



JANUARY 2023

Welcome all to 2023! As you read this newsletter we are very close to our first Monthly Meeting of the year on January 9th. Michael Dominquez, CEO of Associated Luxury Hotels International, will present on "The Need to Be Decisively Indecisive: Understanding Behavioral Changes for the Meetings & Events Industry." Michael is a premier leader in the hotel business, and a very sought-after speaker on where the industry has been and where it is going. He spent several years as Sr. Vice President of MGM Resorts International with oversight of all global sales strategy and execution, and we are very pleased that he has agreed to present our keynote program, an especially timely topic as we come out of what has proven to be a challenging holiday travel season. Prior to the evening event, the Professional Development Session will feature a panel from BDO on "M&A Trends, Valuation and Tax Considerations." Both topics are well-timed for January programming and registration is strong for this meeting.

Winter and spring are busy times for FEI Dallas social events. We have three great annual events coming up in February (Winter Social), March (Wine Tasting & Dinner), and May (Golf Outing) that chapter members and sponsors won't want to miss!

Dust off that felt hat, starch those Wranglers, and shine those boots, we are going to honky tonk Dallas business style at the Winter Social on February 25th at Gilley's! "All Hat, No Cattle" is the theme for this dinner party where partygoers will flow throughout the space for dining, dancing, and games instead of our traditional seated dinner. Dinner and dancing will be in the upstairs Loft with its

view of downtown Dallas. The Bonnie & Clyde room with its speakeasy style will be open for mixing & mingling in comfort. The Saloon downstairs is earmarked for fun and games – the Entertainment Corral – which includes the mechanical bull of Urban Cowboy movie fame from the original Gilley's Pasadena location. Invitations come with an optional +1 but singles should not be deterred, it will be a great time for all!

Our planning committees are in the final push to plan our annual wine tasting event on March 30th at the Dallas Arboretum and our annual Golf Outing on May 8th at Cowboy's Golf Club in Grapevine. They are shaping up to be great events, details to come!

Given the recent upticks in various illnesses across the Metroplex, we are continuing to monitor state and local guidance for COVID protocols. Our Professional Development and Program Committees are working hard to bring great presentations the rest of the year. Plans are being finalized for upcoming meetings: February 13, March 6, and April 10. We'll publicize these events as soon as possible. Until then, please participate in as many Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings as possible. The sponsor groups for these events always present great programs and networking opportunities.

I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday season. And I look forward to seeing you all at an upcoming 2023 event!

Jay Smith
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