HFTP MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER

INN SIGHT

July 2026



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026

Menu

Salad - NF, GF, V

The Villages Grown Baby Bib Lettuce and Lolla Rosa Stack, Charred Jumbo Asparagus, Long Stem Artichoke Hearts, Watermelon Radish, Crispy Chickpeas, Red Pepper Vinaigrette

Entrée (choice of)

Seared Rosemary Airline Chicken Breast, Fingerling Potato Sauté, Kalamata Olives, Caramelized Onions, Green Pea Puree, Garlic Broccolini, Tomato Relish (GF, NF)

Seared Vegan Scallops, Parsnip Puree, Wild Mushroom Risotto, Roasted Cauliflower Florets, Wilted Kale, Caramelized Onions, Oven-Dried Heirloom Cherry tomatoes, Champagne Vinaigrette (Vegen)

Dessert

Fig Cheesecake, Kalamansi Curd, Honey Ice Cream (NF, V)

Location & Parking

Loews Royal Pacific

Free self parking

Cost

Members with RSVP $65
Non-Members & Guests $75
Student Chapter Members $35

Program presented By:
Dr Mehmet Altin



R.S.V.P. is required. Please visit our website midfloridahftp.org or respond to your personal e-vite from the chapter Secretary. Please RSVP or cancel no later than 5:01 PM, Friday prior to the event. Unfortunately, we cannot accept walk-ins, or credit any no-shows or late cancellations.

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Daron Sandberg– DSandberg@Rosenhotels.com
Chad Curtis– CCurtis@Rosenhotels.com

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Nick Seddon—nseddon@cariberoyale.com

Registration Table/ 50/50
Randy Andersen– RAndersen@Profact.com

Community Service
Gayle Edwards* - GEdwards@Profact.com

Charity Golf Event
Camp Boggy Creek - It's all for the kids!
Jack Griffith* - Jack.Griffith@Sodexo.com

Historian/ Photography
Michael Dryden* - Michael.Dryden@Hilton.com

Job Board
Dennis Villegas– DVillegas@Rosenhotels.com

Keeper of the Calendar
Justin McCann—jmccann@mtg-fl.com

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow members,
The countdown is officially on! Next month, we will be gathering for the HFTP 2026 Florida Regional event this August. Our leadership team and committees have been working tirelessly to ensure this year's regional conference delivers top-tier educational sessions, explores cutting-edge industry trends, and offers unparalleled networking opportunities.Whether you are looking to master evolving financial regulations, discover the latest in hospitality tech, or simply catch up with colleagues from across the state, this is an event you cannot afford to miss. If you haven't already registered, I strongly encourage you to secure your spot today and join us in making this regional our most impactful one yet. Early bird registration will expire before you know.

I also want to stress that some of our sponsorship tiers are still available for those vendors who wish to get some recognition at our regional event. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like additional information on becoming a sponsor.

Beyond our upcoming events, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each of you. The Mid-Florida Chapter succeeds because of the dedication, expertise, and collaborative spirit of our members. From volunteering on committees to engaging in our monthly education sessions, your active participation drives our industry forward.

As we push through the remaining summer months, let's continue to lean on one another as a resource, mentor the next generation of hospitality leaders, and keep pushing the boundaries of what our chapter can achieve.



Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and leadership. I look forward to seeing many of you face-to-face at the Florida Regional next month!

Sincerely,
Dennis Villegas
President, Mid-Florida Chapter

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Register now at https://hftpfloridaregional.org/

HFTP FLORIDA REGIONAL

August 12-14, 2026
Caribe Royale
Orlando, FL

- Explore key topics in hospitality finance.
- Network with industry professionals.
- Engage in insightful discussions on trends.



HFTP
MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER



AI, AGENTS, AND DIGITAL COWORKERS: WHAT LEADERS NEED TO KNOW

DR. MEHMET ALTIN

This presentation provides a practical introduction to modern AI, including large and small language models, local and cloud deployment, agentic AI, and the emerging role of physical AI. It examines where AI creates business value, where it can fail, and how leaders should evaluate model choice, cost, autonomy, data access, and workflow design. The session helps executives identify meaningful use cases while maintaining human accountability, governance, and control.

About Dr. Altin: Dr. Mehmet Altin is an Associate Professor and HFTP Professor for Hospitality Financial Management and Technology at the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, University of Central Florida. His research focuses on performance analytics, strategic and revenue management, business analytics and intelligence, and entrepreneurship, with particular attention to how organizations make strategic decisions and improve performance through data-informed approaches. He has authored or co-authored more than 80 scholarly outputs, including refereed journal articles, conference papers, book chapters, industry reports, and encyclopedia entries.
Dr. Altin serves as Senior Associate Editor for the International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management and has held editorial and advisory roles for several academic journals. His teaching includes hospitality intelligence and analytics, applied revenue management, strategic management, and hospitality information systems. His work primarily uses econometric models, time-series analyses, and other quantitative methods, while also incorporating mixed-method approaches when appropriate.

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HFTP
MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER

HFTP Mid-Florida and You

Leadership

Your chapter provides you a vehicle to grow in your personal and professional life through serving on chapter committees and the Board of Directors. Learn how to run a small business and lead the greatest HFTP chapter in the Universe. You will learn public speaking skills and gain confidence in your expertise. You can get the opportunity to develop and execute chapter programs developing valuable leadership skills.

Scholarship

Your chapter provides the HFTP CHAE and CHTP reviews and the testing for those two HFTP certifications in accounting and technology. We need you to help yourself and get certified. This should be a normal progression in your professional career. Your Chapter also provides Continuing Professional Education seminars at the General Meetings and Mini-Education events.

Participation

Your chapter provides a chance for you to give back to your community by assisting at the chapter golf event to benefit the kids at Camp Boggy Creek. Don't shy away, the chapter needs your time and talent. It also gives you the unique opportunity for chapter leadership at these events, being part of the solution.

Service

Your chapter provides the avenue for you to give of yourself in serving your fellow members and your community. We encourage you to get involved in your Mid-Florida HFTP Chapter. We need places to hold the monthly general membership meetings. We need our members to support the chapter events by supplying prizes and helping make these events successful. We need speakers for the General Meetings and the Mini-Educational.

POST
INTEGRATIONS

Hotels are Us.
Credit Cards are Us.
Nuff said.

postint.com
866.377.2649

PRESENTING YOUR 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top row, left to right: Jose Santos, Daniel Morris, Brittni Rosen, Angelika Balkarran, Amanda Masilunis, Glen Carr.
Bottom row, left to right: Gayle Edwards, Michael Dryden, Dennis Villegas, Randy Anderson, Justin McCann

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OUR CHARITY | CAMP BOGGY CREEK

In 2002, then President Randall Rickmann and Vice President Diana Hull, along with other leaders of our Chapter met with representatives of about a handful of local charities. The objective of this endeavor was to choose the Chapter's charity. Three (3) of the charities were JDRF, Give Kids the World, and Camp Boggy Creek. As the story goes there was a personal relationship between someone connected to our Chapter and the Camp that swayed the vote. That's how Camp Boggy Creek became the charity of our Chapter.

The Camp was relatively new as it had been founded in 1996, born out of the experience of a seriously ill child who had spent time at one of Paul Newman's "Hole in the Wall" camps for kids. Upon returning home to Central Florida, she asked her parents why there wasn't a camp like that in Central Florida. The Camp's literature refers to a poem written by Jennifer Masi, a South Florida teenager undergoing treatment for cancer. It was this poem that inspired many, including founders Actor Paul Newman and General Norman Schwarzkopf, Jennifer's parents Nick and Wendy Masi, and David Horvitz just to name a few.

Here is her poem, The Dolphin:
A dolphin swimming through an endless sea,
Struggling through each new obstacle….
Scared, worried, unsure of what's to come.
Tough though.
Fighting, fighting.
Until one day she just couldn't anymore.
She wished to be in a place where she didn't have to fight for every inch.
And her wish was granted.

Before she died at the young age of 14, she enlisted neighbors, community leaders, and her parents to rally behind building a camp that would be a respite for other children facing serious medical illness just like her who were facing a serious medical illness.

The 232-acre plot of land in Eustis, Florida on which the camp is now located had been willed to Florida Hospital by a former patient of who in turn donated it to The Boggy Creek Gang- the actual name of the non-profit organization that runs the camp. The camp serves children ages 7 – 16 who have been diagnosed with a serious illness. As a year-round retreat, since 1996 the camp has provided over 90,000 campers with a serious illness and their families a FREE, life-changing camp experience.

For those of you who want to learn more about the camp and its deep history, go to boggycreek.org and be ready to smile and laugh. Also, view "The Healer" on Netflix for a very enjoyable family movie inspired by the Hole In The Wall Camps.

The BIG question next on the minds of our Chapter's leaders at that time was how best to fund our new Charity. They decided to host a golf tournament in conjunction with our General Meeting / Spring Social on June 13, 2003- our 1st Annual Golf Tournament benefitting The Boggy Creek Gang was born. It was held at Mystic Dunes Golf Club – The Wyndham Palms Resort in Kissimmee, Florida. The Committee Chairs were none other than Rod Bitterling and David Branson.

The proceeds of that first tournament given to the Camp were $11,000!!!

To be continued……

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