

Officers & Directors 2025-'26

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The Mid Florida Chapter presents:

General Membership Meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2026



Menu

Starter:

House Salad

Spring mix, Tomato, Cucumber, Radish,
Goat Cheese, Lemon Thyme vinaigrette

Entrée:

Chicken Piccata

Linguini, Lemon-Caper Sauce

Dessert:

Nutella Donuts

Fudge Sauce, Strawberries

Vegan Rice Bowl Available

Program

Presented By:

Cino Security Solutions

Fred Santarsiere



See more on pg. 3

Location & Parking

Lake Nona Dockside

Free Self Parking

Cost

Members with RSVP \$65

Non-Members & Guests \$75

Student Chapter Members \$35

Additional Information:

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.

**Any opinions expressed in the Mid-Florida Chapter newsletter and web-site are solely those of the editor, web master or author of the article and are not associated with HFTP Global. Additionally, all works and publications are created entirely through volunteer time. Please excuse any mistakes or errors. Please consider volunteering content to be shared with your fellow members by emailing the editor.*

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- Board of Directors pg 5

From Our President

Dear Mid Florida Chapter Members,

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the HHRA organization for their invaluable support in making our recent breakfast meeting such a tremendous success. From the relevance of the topic to the quality of the presentation, every aspect exceeded our expectations. For those who were unable to attend, I encourage you to join us next March to experience firsthand the strong and productive collaboration we have built—and will continue to strengthen in the years ahead.

As the hospitality and finance landscape continues to evolve, our chapter remains committed to serving as a trusted resource for education, professional development, and meaningful connection. I encourage you to stay engaged, ask questions, and draw on the collective expertise within our community.

I am also pleased to announce that our April 28th meeting will be held at The Dockside in Lake Nona. This newer venue offers a fresh atmosphere and a departure from our traditional ballroom setting. In the spirit of “shaking things up,” we hope you will join us and share your feedback afterward. This month’s and every month’s events and initiatives are designed to support your growth and keep you informed about the trends shaping our industry. Your participation and perspective are essential as we continue building a chapter we can all take pride in.

Thank you for your continued support and for the privilege of serving as your president.

Sincerely,

Dennis Villegas
President
Mid-Florida Chapter



2025-26 Committee Assignments

Call for Volunteers

Legislative/ By-Laws

Dennis Villegas– DVillegas@Rosenhotels.com

Membership Relations/ Recruitment

Glen Carr– Glen.Carr@gmail.com

Communications/ Social Media/ Webmaster

Grethel Flores– Grethel.flores@conradhotels.com
Daniel Morris– Demorris504@gmail.com

Newsletter

Jose Santos - Jose.santos@partnersfcu.org

Programs/ Speakers/ Education

Jose Santos - Jose.santos@partnersfcu.com

Locations

Amanda Masilunis– amasilunis@rosenhoteles.com

Scholarship/ Awards

Justin McCann– jmccann@mtg-fl.com

Nominations

Gayle Edwards– GEwards@Profact.com

Daron Sandberg– DSandberg@Rosenhotels.com

Chad Curtis– CCurtis@Rosenhotels.com

Chapter of the Year & Regional Conference

The Board*

Global Liaison

Gayle Edwards* - GEwards@Profact.com

Engagement Committee

Christina Finch* -Christina@FinchSearchPartners.com

Nametags

Nick Seddon– nseddon@cariberoyale.com

Registration Table/ 50/50:

Randy Andersen– RAndersen@Profact.com

Community Service

Gayle Edwards* - GEwards@Profact.com

Charity Golf Event

Camp Bogy 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

Meet Our Presenters

Fred Santarsiere

Fred is the Executive Vice President of Cino Security Solutions. He has over 2 ½ decades of information security experience and has taught a large array of industry security and technical certifications as well. With his deep knowledge of learning and training development processes, he integrates real world examples during lessons as a result of years of extensive experience auditing and assessing the security posture of many hotel environments as well as other organizations both nationally and internationally. Fred's varied experience using standards and frameworks such as ISO27001, PCI DSS, and NIST RMF are reflected in the certification classes he has taught. He has extensive experience in system auditing and is often consulted in the areas of IT risk governance, risk management, disaster recovery, and information security and compliance. He has also lead Forensics and Incident Response Teams (IRT) which adds value to the experience his students receive. Fred's expertise has been frequently sought after by the US military to serve as an instructor of the NIST Risk Management Framework CGRC, CISSP, CISA, CISM, CRISC, CEH (Certified Ethical Hacking) and CHFI (Computer Hacking Forensics Investigator) courses. Physical security assessment and analysis skills have been developed as a result of serving as an NYPD Officer and a U.S. Army Special Operations team member. This experience has been enhanced by his years of audits and advisement in the hospitality space which provides real world examples in the content he teaches.



Our Charity: Camp Boggy Creek

By Jack Griffith

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 JDRE, 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 benefiting 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.....

PRESENTING: YOUR 2025-2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From top left to right: Jose Santos, Daniel Morris, Brittni Rosen, Angelika Balkarran, Amanda Masilunis, Glen Carr.

From bottom left to right: Gayle Edwards, Michael Dryden, Dennis Villegas, Randy Anderson, Justin





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.



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

**postint.com
866.377.2649**



Save the Date

2026 HFTP Florida Regional Conference

August 12 - August 14, 2026

More details to be announced soon.

Connect with industry leaders and gain valuable insights into the latest trends in hospitality finance and technology.



****UPCOMING MEETING****



Tuesday, 5/26/26 6:00PM
Conrad Orlando at Evermore

Menu

Chilled Corn Salad
Short Rib & Rissotto
NY Cheesecake