



HFTP Mid-Florida: Leadership, Scholarship, Participation, Service

Our Mission: To lead and advance the hospitality profession by providing a forum for continuous learning and knowledge sharing

Officers & Directors 2025-'26

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President

Dennis Villegas, CHAE
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Vice President

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407 996-2361

The Mid Florida Chapter presents:

General Membership Meeting Tuesday, November 18, 2025



Menu

House wine will be served

Salad Course:

*Mix Greens,
Cherry Tomatoes, Cucumbers,
Carrots. Italian Dressing*

Entrée Course:

*New York strip and Shrimp with a
beurre blanc sauce, garlic mashed
potatoes, green beans*
*Vegetarian Entrée Eggplant parmesan,
garlic mashed potatoes, green
beans*

For Dessert:

Cheesecake w/ fruit gastrique

Program

*Managing Holiday Stress for
Leaders and Executives*

Presented By Dr. Yarisla Bonet



YB Educational & Wellness Consultants

See Dr. Bonet's bio on pg. 3

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.

Location & Parking

Rosen Inn Lake Buena Vista

Bella Vista ballroom

8442 Palm Parkway, Orlando, FL,
32836

Free Self Parking

Cost

Members with RSVP \$65

Non-Members & Guests \$75

Student Chapter Members \$35

**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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- From our President pg 2
- Slate of Officers pg 4

From Our President

Dear Members,

A lot has happened since my previous communication. The 2025 Annual Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) Convention has successfully concluded.

We extend our sincere congratulations to Jim Bina on assuming the role of Global HFTP President. His congratulatory reception, held at the Grand Helios resort, was well received.

A special thank you is also due to the Rosen Centre for flawlessly hosting the annual convention. The event, from inception to completion, was executed smoothly and effectively. We greatly appreciate the participation and contributions of all individuals involved, as your efforts were integral to its overall success.

We are pleased to announce that our fundraising efforts for Camp Boggy Creek in the past year generated over \$31,000. This achievement is a testament to the collective dedication of our members and very special acknowledgment goes to Jack Griffith for his exceptional commitment and significant role in supporting this outstanding cause.

Lastly, I urge you all to attend our next session which will be held at Rosen Inn Lake Buena Vista where we will discuss a very important topic which affects us all: Managing Holiday Stress for Leaders and Executives. I've personally witnessed our upcoming speaker in action and I promise that she will not disappoint.

Sincerely,

Dennis Villegas

President

Mid-Florida Chapter



2024-25 Committee Assignments

Call for Volunteers

Legislative/ By-Laws

Dennis Villegas - DVillegas@Rosenhotels.com

Membership Relations/ Recruitment

Gayle Edwards - GEdwards@Profact.com

Communications/ Social Media/ Webmaster

Dennis Villegas - DVillegas@RosenHotels.com

Lori Schefstad - LSchefstad@Profact.com

Randy Andersen - RAndersen@Profact.com

Newsletter

Daron Sandberg* - DSandberg@RosenHotels.com

Jose Santos - JSantos@MTG-FL.com

Cody Morash - cody.morash@commscope.com

Admin/ Programs/ Speakers/ Education

Jose Santos - JSantos@MTG-FL.com

Locations

Amanda Masilunis - amasilunis@rosenhoteles.com

Scholarship/ Awards

Michael Dryden* - Michael.Dryden@Hilton.com

Nominations

Gayle Edwards - GEdwards@Profact.com

Daron Sandberg - DSandberg@Rosenhotels.com

Chad Curtis - CCurtis@Rosenhotels.com

Chapter of the Year & Regional Conference

The Board*

Global Liaison

Gayle Edwards* - GEdwards@Profact.com

Engagement Committee

Christina Finch* - Christina@FinchSearchPartners.com

Terri Nobles - Nobles.terri@gmail.com

Member of the Month - Christina@FinchSearchPartners.com

Nametags - Justin McCann - JMcCann@MTG-FL.com

Networking - Randy Andersen - RAndersen@Profact.com

Registration Table/ 50/50: The PAS Team

Community Service

Gayle Edwards* - GEdwards@Profact.com

Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association Ex-Officio Board Member

Charity Golf Event

Camp Boggy Creek - It's all for the kids!

Jack Griffith* - Jack.Griffith@Sodexo.com

Jeff Fernandez - Jeff.Fernandez@Sodexo.com

Gayle Edwards - GEdwards@Profact.com

Calendar

Randy Andersen - RAndersen@Profact.com

Historian/ Photography

Michael Dryden* - Michael.Dryden@Hilton.com

Randy Andersen -- RAndersen@Profact.com

Meet Our Presenter

Dr. Yarisa Bonet

YB Educational & Wellness Consultants, LLC

Dr. Yarisa M. Bonet, Ed.D. holds a Doctorate in Education and a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She is a Certified Health and Wellness Coach, Emotional Intelligence Coach, and Advanced Yoga and Meditation Teacher. With extensive experience facilitating corporate wellness programs and leadership development seminars, Dr. Bonet integrates mindfulness, psychology, and evidence-based wellness strategies to help professionals enhance resilience, balance, and overall well-being.



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 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 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: OUR 2025-2026

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Dennis Villegas
CHAE Rosen Hotels & Resorts

Secretary: Justin McCann
CHTP
Millennium Technology Group

Treasurer: Randy Andersen Jr., CHAE PAS

Chairman: Gayle Edwards
PAS

2nd year Directors (not on the ballot)

Jose Santos
Millennium Technology Group

Angelika Balkarran
Arnold Palmer Group

Directors

Amanda Masilunis
Rosen Hotels & Resorts

Brittni Rosen
Caribe Royale Resort

Daniel Morris
Gaylord Palms

Glen Carr
Loews Universal Hotels

Grethel Hernandez
Conrad Hilton

Nick Seddon
Caribe Royale Resort





Congratulations, Jim Bina!

A huge congratulations to Vice President Jim Bina, the newly elected global president of the Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) for 2025-2026.

This honor comes after more than four decades as an active member of HFTP, during which he contributed to various committees including the HITEC Advisory Council, Global Finance Committee and Nominating Committee. His extensive involvement demonstrates a long-standing commitment to advancing hospitality finance and technology professionals worldwide.



**HFTP President's Letter: 42-Year
Member and Ready to Lead Us on
Our Collective Journey**



Written by James Bina

As I commence my position as 2025–26 HFTP Global President, I would like to first express that I am truly humbled and honored to serve in this role. When I first became involved with HFTP 42 years ago, I was inspired by the passion and commitment of its members, and I never imagined that this journey would lead me to this opportunity.

As many know, my path in this industry has been shaped by the opportunities and connections that HFTP provides. It is an organization that doesn't just advance careers, it builds people. And I would not be here today without the guidance of so many who invested their time and wisdom in me. Their positive impact has been significant and because of this, I would like to recognize these individuals.

First, to my first hospitality mentors Steve and Marilyn Ward who challenged me to aim higher and showed me what true leadership looks like. Steve was the general manager at Wilson World Hotel, in Kissimmee, Fla. and he is the one who encouraged me to join HFTP, which at the time was IAHA. Steve and Marilyn, a husband-and-wife management team, were instrumental in teaching me the basics of hospitality management. They also demonstrated these important essentials: enjoy your work, work hard, be dedicated, and above all, have fun.

Much of my career has been with Rosen Hotels and Resorts – 34 years – and I would like to recognize my Rosen colleagues, what a journey of support and camaraderie this has given me. It is an absolute pleasure to work with such a dedicated team of professionals.

I particularly want to recognize Frank Santos, HFTP Past President and President and CEO of Rosen Hotels and Resorts, who has been a mentor, coworker, fellow HFTP member, friend, and community leader. His guidance, confidence in me, and leadership have prepared me for this very moment.

Also, a very special mention of Harris Rosen who, after decades with this amazing company, not only shaped me as a professional, but most of all as a person.

And thank you to my colleagues on the HFTP Global Board and the councils and committees who I have served with and whose collaboration and support are invaluable. I especially want to recognize my predecessors on the Executive Committee, Stephanie Anderson and Justin Taillon.

For over 70 years, HFTP has been at the forefront of innovation in hospitality finance and technology. We have built a legacy by empowering professionals, connecting a global community, and providing the cutting-edge resources and education our industry needs.

As we look to the future, the hospitality landscape is evolving faster than ever. My focus as your president will be guided by the HFTP 2025–2030 Strategic Plan which clearly defines a new vision statement, mission statement, strategic goals, and objectives that will guide the association's priorities and initiatives over the next five years.

After a busy September and October when HFTP Global leaders prepare for the upcoming fiscal year, I am looking forward to another productive year for HFTP. One initiative of note is our newly-appointed Bylaws Taskforce. Led by Global Past President Michael Levie, the group has been asked to review our association's bylaws and prepare recommendations to modernize the governing statutes.



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**



****UPCOMING MEETING****



Tuesday, 12/16 Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport

Hosted cash bar and passed hors d'oeuvres

House wine will be served with dinner

Salad - Mixed Winter Greens with Spiced Sweet Potatoes, Candied Pecans, Golden Raisins, Goat Cheese, Raspberry Vinaigrette

Entrée - Petite Filet Mignon, Boursin Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Baby Carrot, Broccolini, with Blue cheese Demi

Vegetarian/Vegan Entrée - Creamy Rosemary Polenta with Asiago, Roasted Wild Mushrooms, Fresh Tomato, Extra Virgin

Dessert - Chocolate Mousse with Raspberry Compote, Raspberry Syphon Cake, Chocolate Pearls and Whipped Cream

The hotel has extended discounted self-parking for \$11.00 and valet parking for \$14.00