

Officers & Directors 2025-'26

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The Mid Florida Chapter presents:
General Membership Meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2026



Menu

Cash bar will be available

Salad Course:

Cesar Salad

Entrée Course:

Filet of Beef Tenderloin and Shrimp

Vegetarian option TBD

For Dessert:

Mango Cheesecake

Program

2026 Tax Update

Presented By:

Stephen Vinarub

Brittany Perez-Trepichio



See more on pg. 3 and 4

Location & Parking

**Embassy Suites by Hilton
Orlando Lake Buena Vista
South**

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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From Our President

Dear Members,

Happy February! As we move deeper into the first quarter of the year, it is incredible to see the momentum our chapter is already building. We have a couple of exciting announcements as we set forth the pace for the remainder of the year. First and foremost, we are gathering to ensure our members stay ahead of the curve regarding the ever-changing financial landscape with our upcoming Tax Update from Withum. Please mark your calendar, as we are hosting this event on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee Florida. This session is critical for navigating the new year's regulatory changes and offers a prime opportunity to network with fellow finance and tech leaders in the region. I am also happy to announce that preparations for regional conference are underway. The board has agreed on a location which we will announce at our next Dinner Event.

Now, having chosen the location, the foundation is set for the regional team to get started on all else that comes along with it. HFTP Mid-Florida members should expect to see and hear about further ongoing progress on a more consistent basis. To our members: thank you for your continued engagement. If there is a specific topic you'd like us to cover or a way we can better support your professional journey, my door is always open.



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

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@rosenhotels.com

Scholarship/ Awards

Justin McCann– jmccann@mtg-fl.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

Nametags

Nick Seddon

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

Meet Our Presenters

Brittany Perez-Trepichio, CPA, MBA *Tax Senior Manager*

Professional Experience

- Over a decade of experience in the public accounting industry.
- Specializes in flow-through taxation and consulting services within the hospitality, real estate and technology and emerging growth industries.
- Expertise in complex partnership concepts including mergers and acquisitions, transfers, redemptions and liquidations of partnership interests.
- In-depth knowledge and experience in understanding and implementing key tax provisions in partnership operating agreements including income allocations, built-in gains contributions, and step-up/(down) provisions related to section 754 elections.

Credentials/Education

- Licensed Certified Public Accountant in the State of Florida
- Master of Business Administration, University of Central Florida
- BS, Accounting and BS, Hospitality Management University of Central Florida Memberships
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA)



MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER



Meet Our Presenters

Stephen Vinarub, CPA, MBA *Tax Manager*

Professional Experience

- Seasoned Tax Specialist with over 7 years of experience in tax compliance, focusing on complex structures including flow-through entities, multi-tiered partnerships, C-Corporations, and foreign transactions.
- Industry Expertise in professional services, hospitality, and commercial/residential real estate, delivering tailored tax strategies that align with sector-specific needs.
- Comprehensive Tax Knowledge spanning federal, state, and local income tax compliance, ensuring accuracy and strategic planning for diverse client portfolios.

Credentials/Education

- Certified Public Accountant in the State of Florida
- MBA, Accounting, Florida Gulf Coast University
- BS, Accounting, University of Central Florida

Memberships

- Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA)

Community Involvement

- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
 - Prior involvement with Give Kids the World Foundation
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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



Your New Year's Assignment: Add HFTP to Your To-Do List



Written by James Bina

The start of a new year always imbues us with a renewed sense to accomplish personal and professional goals. When January is boldly written at the top of the calendar, my plans for the coming months are highly ambitious. But often, we lead strongly and eventually slow the pace as the realities of day-to-day life take over.

Knowing this, I want to use this space to outline what to expect from HFTP in the next year. Hopefully this overview will provide something to include on your to-do list. And fortunately, HFTP offers a range of events, resources and connections for you to fit in where there is room.

New Chapters on Board

Networking and professional connections are one of the association's primary reasons to be a member. The value of industry ties is unquantifiable over the span of your career. Hitting a jag is softened when you can turn to someone for a lead, advice or new job opportunity. And alternatively, it's a great satisfaction to be the one providing that support. Some of the strongest connections made within the HFTP network are through our chapters. We have 50+ chapters going strong and I am so pleased to report that the association is continuing to build those connections globally with new chapters to charter in 2026. Several are in the works and will be announced soon.

If all this chapter talk is a reminder that you have not participated in your local chapter's events, then take it as a push to do so in 2026. Track chapter events on the HFTP Global website.

Keeping Current with a Bylaw Review

While HFTP is a legacy association nearing its 75th anniversary, it has remained relevant to its stakeholders by continuously evaluating its organizational structure. The association's leadership is once again taking a look this year via a Bylaws Taskforce. I am taking part in this exercise, with several planned meetings in the first half of the year. Our goal is to make recommendations in late-Spring. Be on the lookout on HFTP News for a report on our findings.

CHAE® and CHTP® Refresh

HFTP Academy's cornerstone certifications — CHAE and CHTP — are nearing the conclusion to the programs' revisions. In their final stages, their respective councils have reviewed the new organization of the exams which will be updated to meet changes in both the finance and technology professions. Then during the first quarter, the Academy team will be building the new courses and exams for the councils to review with the goal to have them available for purchase in the second quarter of 2026.

If you are curious about whether you are ready to take embark on the certification process, I recommend taking the initial step via the CHAE and CHTP qualification calculators.

Learning Never Stops with Plenty of Educational Events Scheduled

Our educational event programs are well-established and available year-round, either in-person or virtually. There are opportunities for professionals at multiple career levels. And the most impressive part is, because of the strength of HFTP's network, session development is planned by in-the-know, expert member volunteers and presented by knowledgeable, industry-experienced speakers.



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



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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, 3/24/26 7:00AM
Orange County Convention Center
Joint meeting with HHRA!
Menu
Breakfast Buffet