

SACRAMENTO HOTEL ASSOCIATION

Reader Board

APRIL 2017

25th Annual Hospitality Gala

HONORING THOSE WHO BEST
SYMBOLIZE EXCELLENCE

It was an evening of celebrations at the Sacramento Hotel Association's 25th annual Hospitality Gala. The congenial atmosphere was conducive to recognizing and honoring the contributions of hotel associates and our key supplier.

Kudos to our hosts from the Sacramento Convention Center, Classique Catering and PSAV for their creativity and coordination of SHA's 25th annual Hospitality Gala. The reception and dinner included colorful décor and savory Moroccan food.

Special guests attending the Gala included County Supervisor Sue Frost, City Councilmember Jeff Harris, and City Fire Department Chief Walt White.

Awards were presented to 17 outstanding hotel employees as "2016 Hospitality Employees of the Year."



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Members and guests enjoy the 25th annual Hospitality Gala presented by the Sacramento Convention Center, Classique Catering, and PSAV in late February.

Board Leaders Elected

SHA members elected Liz Tavernese, general manager of the Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown-Arena, as the President of the SHA Board of Directors.

Other Officers elected include:

- Vice President Sami Qureshi, general manager, Hilton Sacramento Arden West
- Secretary Shelly Moranville, general manager, Residence Inn Sacramento Downtown at Capitol Park
- Treasurer Doug Warren, regional director of operations, Courtyard Marriott and Fairfield Inn Cal Expo Hotels
- Scott VandenBerg, general manager, Hyatt Regency Sacramento, is serving as Past President.

Professional Directors elected to two-year terms include:

- Marco Filice, general manager, Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova
- Kathleen Gilbey, general manager, Sheraton Grand Sacramento
- Brent Larkin, general manager, Kimpton Sawyer Hotel
- Lisa Wilson, Director, Hotel Operations, Thunder Valley Resort Casino

Associate Directors appointed to one-year terms include:

- Mark Davis, economic development specialist, Sacramento County Airport System
- Issa Ndiaye, strategic account advisor, SMUD
- Raelene Trumm, general manager, Downtown Commons



Liz Tavernese, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown-Arena, was elected as Board President of the Sacramento Hotel Association. She accepts the gavel from outgoing Board President Scott VandenBerg.

Sacramento Hotel Association

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LIZ TAVERNESE (916) 446-0100
General Manager, Holiday Inn Sacramento
Downtown-Arena

Vice President

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Resort Casino

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Sacramento County Airport System

ISSA NDIAYE (916) 732-5712
Strategic Account Advisor, SMUD

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General Manager, Downtown Commons

STAFF

Executive Director

TERESA STEPHENSON (916) 441-6110

Reader Board is published by the Sacramento Hotel Association, a nonprofit trade organization.

The newsletter is distributed to all members of the Association and to others who have an interest in the Sacramento hospitality industry. Articles and press releases of interest to those who work in the Sacramento hospitality industry are welcome.



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FRIENDLY TOURNAMENT PLAY EXTRAORDINARY FOOD • FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 • RANCHO MURIETA COUNTRY CLUB • 7000 ALAMEDA DRIVE, RANCHO MURIETA

The Sacramento Hospitality Classic will be back at Rancho Murieta Country Club for the 2017 tournament. Mark your calendar now. Plan to join hospitality industry friends and colleagues at SHA's annual golf outing as we raise funds for the association's scholarship program. Golfers of all skill levels are welcome!

Hospitality industry colleagues, clients, and vendors will gather for another fabulous Hospitality Classic golf tournament this year—Monday, October 9. After the tournament enjoy the awards reception featuring savory foods and sweet treats prepared by local hotel chefs. Even if you are not a golfer, register for the awards reception because the Sacramento Hospitality Classic has the best food of any tournament in the region!

Join us at Rancho Murieta Country Club for the 2017 Sacramento Hospitality Classic Golf Tournament. It's the tournament participants look forward to all year!

CLASSIC SCHEDULE

- 8:30 a.m. Registration, hot buffet breakfast and driving range
- 10:00 a.m. Golf Tournament shotgun—best ball scramble, 18 holes
- Tournament contest and prizes: Putting contest, longest drive, closest-to-the-pin
- Raffle prizes
- Reception and award presentations at Rancho Murieta Country Club immediately following the tournament featuring festive food stations hosted by local hotels.

It's time to start thinking about your foursomes for this hospitality event. Enjoy golf, fun, food, and prizes for \$160 per golfer.

Online registration is at www.sacramentohotelassociation.com – click on Events. Sponsorship and Raffle Prize Donation forms are also available on the website.

Holiday Toys for Local Children

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Generous members helped brighten the season for local children by donating toys in conjunction with SHA's annual holiday reception in early December.

For the 9th consecutive year, members donated heaps of toys for the Operation Cratchit gift room, a project of the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center in North Sacramento.

SHA members gathered December 5 at the Courtyard Cal Expo for the annual holiday reception. Special thanks to our reception hosts at Courtyard by Marriott Cal Expo for the holiday décor and tasty savory and sweet treats at this festive annual event.



SHA members donated heaps of toys for the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center in North Sacramento at the December Holiday Reception at the Courtyard by Marriott Cal Expo.



11th Annual Community Service Day

THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY HELPING IN THE COMMUNITY



SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (includes breakfast, work projects, picnic lunch)

Rally your hotel or company team together for the September 9 community service event. Be one of the individuals taking action to tackle critical community needs.

The Association's annual service project brings more than 200 enthusiastic employees and family members from Sacramento's hospitality industry together to offer a day of improvements, donations and community pride at a Sacramento neighborhood each year. Volunteers work at city parks and community centers, elementary schools, libraries, food banks and assist a host of charitable organizations in our community.

Before and after the work, we'll have time to celebrate the support provided to the community—breakfast and picnic lunch provided by sponsoring hotels.

Watch for more details in the next issue of Reader Board and in the event and volunteer-signup posters that will be distributed to SHA-member hotels and vendor companies in late spring/early summer.

Sacramento Tourism Marketing District (STMD)

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

In November 2016, the Sacramento Hotel Association Board of Directors appointed Kathleen Gilbey, general manager at Sheraton Grand Hotel, to complete the balance of an unexpired term as a Sacramento Tourism Marketing District (STMD) Committee member (Zone 1 representative). Gilbey's term runs until December 31, 2018.

The SHA Board of Directors also appointed Steve Young, director of operations at Geweke Hospitality, to complete the balance of an unexpired term as a STMD Committee member (Zone 3 representative). Young's term is until December 31, 2017.

Each member of the Tourism District Committee also becomes a member of the Board of Directors of Visit Sacramento.

The Sacramento Tourism Marketing District was established to provide additional funding to increase the level of sales and marketing activity as it relates to Sacramento as a tourism, meeting and event destination.

The funding, raised by the industry, is directed by the industry. The funds flow directly into sales and marketing activities that are reviewed and monitored by a Tourism District Committee of industry peers—hotel managers appointed by the Sacramento Hotel Association.

Business Travel News

In an article from the Sacramento Business Journal, Sacramento was ranked No. 7 on a list of the 20 "Best U.S. Cities for Business Travel."

Sacramento was the highest-ranking California city on the list. San Francisco was ranked No. 19.

The list, from travel risk-management company On Call International, looks at factors such as on-time flights, hotel prices, reliability of 4G LTE mobile networks and traffic congestion levels.

In a news release, On Call said the list "reveals which major cities throughout the United States are best equipped for hosting productive, seamless business travel experiences."

A recent study by American City Business Journals, parent company of the Sacramento Business Journal, ranked Sacramento International Airport as the 21st best-run airport in the country.

Source: Sacramento Business Journal

Customer Satisfaction with Hotels

The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) has more than two decades of experience analyzing guest satisfaction with major hotel chains serving the U.S. consumer market. Each year, the ACSI interviews hundreds of guests about recent hotel stays, including travel for both leisure and business.

HOTEL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE BENCHMARKS

Unique to the hotel industry, the ACSI captures customer opinions about critical elements of the guest experience, including:

- Ease of reservations
- Check-in process
- Room cleanliness and comfort
- Food services
- In-room entertainment options
- Amenities
- In-room Internet service
- Staff courtesy and helpfulness
- Loyalty programs
- Call center
- Website

The American Customer Satisfaction Index released "ACSI Travel Report 2017" on April 25. In the hotel industry, the major hotel companies – Marriott, Hilton and Hyatt – ranked closely together at the top with little change while customer satisfaction with hotels was higher in general, driven by smaller operators.

25TH ANNUAL HOSPITALITY GALA

Continued from page 1

AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO THE FOLLOWING OUTSTANDING HOTEL EMPLOYEES AS "2016 HOSPITALITY EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR."



The Citizen Hotel General Manager David Shipman (far right), Assistant Restaurant Manager Scott Kemper (second from left), Director of Rooms Travis Lott (third from right), and SHA Board President Liz Tavernese (far left) honor Engineer Ted Alexis III (second from right), Assistant Executive Housekeeper Lillian Piamonte (center), and Grange Bartender Sara Schmunk (third from left), as the hotel's Employees of the Year.



Regional Director of Operations Doug Warren congratulates Laundry Attendant Maria Del Carmen Cordero as Marriott Courtyard Cal Expo's Employee of the Year.



Director of Operations Royce Pollard (far left), Banquet Manager Vickie Pershing (third from right), and Executive Chef Charlie Connell (second from right), from the DoubleTree by Hilton and SHA Board President Liz Tavernese (far right), congratulate Banquet Cook Chanthalack Chanthala (second from left), and Banquet Captain Jamal Saleh (third far left), as DoubleTree's Employees of the Year.



Embassy Suites Hotel General Manager Steve Mammert (second from right), Food & Beverage Director Anthony Jorge (second from left), SHA Board President Liz Tavernese (far right), and the honoree's spouse, Sergio Ascencio (far left), honor Breakfast Attendant Betty Greene as the hotel's Employee of the Year.

- The Citizen Hotel**
Ted Alexis III, Engineer
Lillian Piamonte, Assistant Executive Housekeeper
Sara Schmunk, Grange Bartender
- Courtyard by Marriott Cal Expo**
Maria Del Carmen Cordero, Laundry Attendant
- DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento**
Chanthalack Chanthala, Banquet Cook
Jamal Saleh, Banquet Captain
- Embassy Suites Sacramento**
Betty Greene, Breakfast Attendant
- Hilton Sacramento Arden West**
Dante Spurlock, Guest Service Agent
- Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown-Arena**
Zac De La Rosa, Valet Attendant
Melissa Vinalon, Bartender

- Hyatt Regency Sacramento**
Rosalba Gutierrez, Room Attendant
- Lions Gate Hotel/O'Club Event Center**
Connie Montrose, Bartender/Server
- Residence Inn Downtown at Capitol Park**
Desiree Parsons, Guestroom Attendant
- Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova**
Ashlee Young, Accounts Receivable
- Sheraton Grand Sacramento**
Lili Guardado, Banquet Server
John Roberts, A/P Clerk-Payroll Master
- The Westin Sacramento**
Zachary Stephens, Bellman

*Hospitality Gala images courtesy of Eye Connoisseur Photography
www.eyecconnoisseur.com*



General Manager Sami Qureshi (right) and Front Office Manager Summer Alvarado from the Hilton Sacramento Arden West present the hotel's Employee of the Year award to Guest Service Agent Dante Spurlock.



Hyatt Regency General Manager Scott Vandenberg (third from right), Director of Operations Ernesto Fernandez (far left), Assistant Executive Housekeeper Sara Biondi (far right), and Executive Housekeeper Scott Gross (second from right), and awardee's spouse, Jose Gutierrez, (second from left), honor Room Attendant Rosalba Gutierrez as the hotel's Employee of the Year.



Valet Attendant Zac De La Rosa (second from left) and Bartender Melissa Vinalon (second from right) are honored by General Manager Liz Tavernese (center), Assistant General Manager of Food & Beverage Dan Clarizio (far right), and Assistant Guest Services Manager Jeremy Bostick (far left), as the Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown-Arena's Employees of the Year.



Lions Gate Hotel/O'Club Event Center Executive Chef John Carrier honors Connie Montrose, Bartender/Server at Lions Gate's O'Club, as the outstanding Employee of the Year.



Guestroom Attendant Desiree Parsons is the Employee of the Year from the Residence Inn Downtown at Capitol Park.



Director of Human Resources Rebecca Dawes (far right), Food & Beverage Director Mia Ruano (far left), and Controller Leo Gomez (second from right), at the Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova, congratulate Ashlee Young, Accounts Receivable, as the hotel's Employee of the Year.



Sheraton Grand Hotel General Manager Kathleen Gilbey (second from right), Director of Operations Norbert Hurka (second from left), Sous Chef Jennifer Padilla (far right), and Director of Human Resources Nicholas Van Paemel (third from right), honor Sheraton Grand's Employees of the Year – Banquet Server Lili Guardado (far left) and A/P Clerk-Payroll Master John Roberts (third from left).



The Westin Sacramento General Manager Brandon Frates (second from right), Front Office Manager David Gladieux (far right), and Guest Service Supervisor Robert Clark (far left), present the Employee of the Year award to Bellman Zachary Stephens.

Supplier of the Year Award

The Sacramento Hotel Association presented its Supplier of the Year award to Associate member Republic Services.

Republic Services provides non-hazardous solid waste and recycling services for commercial, industrial, municipal and residential customers.

The company is an active corporate member and sponsor at SHA's annual golf tournament, which is SHA's scholarship fundraising event, and at the annual toy collection that benefits the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center in North Sacramento. The company has also participated at the Association's annual community service day.

In addition, Ryan Becker from Republic Services served two years as an Associate Director on the SHA Board of Directors.



SHA Board President Liz Tavernese (left) presents the Supplier of the Year Award to Republic Services Sales Representative Ryan Becker and Account Manager Julianne Owens.

Local Students Awarded Scholarships

The Sacramento Hotel Association announced two scholarship recipients during SHA's 25th annual Hospitality Gala in late February at the Sacramento Convention Center. SHA sponsored a \$1,000 tuition scholarship for each student. A portion of the proceeds from the association's annual golf tournament funds the scholarship program.

Scholarship recipient Riley Ashen is a student at California State University, Sacramento, majoring in Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration. Ashen has had the opportunity to study abroad in Budapest, Croatia and Austria, to name a few. She just returned to California after an internship at the Royal Lahaina Resort in Hawaii where she was an assistant in the banquets/wedding department. Ashen has a passion for working in the hospitality industry and has applied for the Recreation Administration graduate program at Sac State to pursue her master's degree.

Scholarship recipient Lauren Shlee is a student at California State University, Chico, majoring in Recreation, with a focus on Resort and Lodging Management and Events Management. Shlee is a member of the International Festivals and Events Association and volunteers her time to the Boys and Girls Club and Love Your Melon, a club that provides hats to children battling cancer. She has completed an internship with Marriott Vacations Club in Palm Desert and upon graduation would like to work for a beachfront property with the goal of becoming a general manager.

Congratulations to SHA's scholarship recipients.



During the 2017 SHA Hospitality Gala, SHA Board President Liz Tavernese congratulates scholarship recipient Riley Ashen, a student at CSU, Sacramento.



SHA scholarship recipient Lauren Shlee, a student at CSU, Chico, accepts her scholarship certificate from SHA Board President Liz Tavernese at the 2017 SHA Hospitality Gala.

SHA Calendar of Events

Online registration at
www.sacramentohotelassociation.com
– click on Events.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017

SHA Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Presentation: *Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management Program at American River College & Outreach with Local Hotels*

Speaker: Brian Knirk, Ed.D.,
Department Chair, Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management,
American River College

Location: Sheraton Grand Hotel

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2017

SHA Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Presentation: *How Doing Good Can Be Good for Your Bottom Line: Trends in Corporate Citizenship*

Speaker: Erica Manuel, Manager of Community, Economic Development & Education, SMUD

Location: Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

SHA Community Service Project

The Hospitality Industry Helping in the Community

Location/Neighborhood: TBA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

Farm-to-Fork Fall Fundraiser

Fundraiser for Local Charities

Location: Sheraton Grand Hotel

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2017

Sacramento Hospitality Classic Golf Tournament

Fundraiser for SHA's Scholarship Program

Location: Rancho Murieta Country Club

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017

SHA Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Presentation: *Hotel Industry Trends and Projections*

Speaker: CBRE Hotels Representative

Location: Lions Gate Hotel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

SHA Holiday Reception,

Toy Collection and Board Election

Location: Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown-Arena

Chefs Predict “What’s Hot” for Menu Trends in 2017

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION SURVEYS AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION CHEFS

Each year, the National Restaurant Association surveys nearly 1,300 professional chefs – members of the American Culinary Federation (ACF) – to explore food and beverage trends at restaurants in the coming year. The annual “What’s Hot” list gives a peak into which food, beverages and culinary themes will be the new items on restaurant menus that everyone is talking about in 2017.

According to the survey, menu trends that will be heating up in 2017 include poke, house-made charcuterie, street food, food halls and ramen. Trends that are cooling down include quinoa, black rice, and vegetarian and vegan cuisines.

TOP 20 FOOD TRENDS

1. New cuts of meat (e.g., shoulder tender, oyster steak, Vegas Strip Steak, Merlot cut)
2. Street food-inspired dishes (e.g., tempura, kabobs, dumplings, pupusas)
3. Healthful kids’ meals
4. House-made charcuterie
5. Sustainable seafood
6. Ethnic-inspired breakfast items (e.g., chorizo scrambled eggs, coconut milk pancakes)
7. House-made condiments
8. Authentic ethnic cuisine
9. Heirloom fruit and vegetables
10. African flavors
11. Ethnic spices (e.g., harissa, curry, peri peri, ras el hanout, shichimi)
12. House-made sausage
13. House-made pickles
14. Ancient grains (e.g., kamut, spelt, amaranth, lupin)
15. House-made/artisan ice cream
16. Whole grain items in kids’ meals
17. Protein-rich grains/seeds (e.g., hemp, chia, quinoa, flax)
18. Artisan cheeses
19. Savory desserts
20. Gourmet items in kids’ meals

TOP 10 CONCEPT TRENDS

1. Hyper-local sourcing (e.g., restaurant gardens, onsite beer brewing, house-made items)
2. Chef-driven fast-casual concepts
3. Natural ingredients/clean menus
4. Environmental sustainability
5. Locally sourced produce
6. Locally sourced meat and seafood
7. Food waste reduction
8. Meal kits (e.g., pre-measured/prepped raw ingredients for home preparation)
9. Simplicity/back to basics
10. Nutrition

“Chefs are on an endless quest to redefine how consumers eat,” commented ACF National President Thomas Macrina, CEC, CCA, AAC. “By masterfully transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary, culinary professionals are at the forefront of changing the culinary landscape.”

The National Restaurant Association surveyed 1,298 American Culinary Federation members in October 2016, asking them to rate 169 items as a “hot trend,” “yesterday’s news,” or “perennial favorite” on menus in 2017.

For complete survey results, additional trends to watch, video and downloadable graphics, visit www.restaurant.org/foodtrends.



People Column

Lisa Burge has rejoined the **DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento** as director of sales and marketing after spending five years as director of sales and marketing at The Westin Sacramento. Before that she spent five years as sales manager at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza (now Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown-Arena) and the previous three years as sales manager at the DoubleTree Hotel.



Kendall Arch, the director of events at the **Hyatt Regency Sacramento**, married **Kris Erlenbusch**, executive steward at the **Hyatt Regency**

in November 2016 and they are now known as the hotel's "Hyatt Power Couple" for these reasons: **Kris Erlenbusch** was named "Manager of the Year 2016" at the Hyatt Regency's January 2017 awards banquet for his outstanding efforts in running the hotel's Stewarding Department since June 2016. Prior to this, Erlenbusch was the Dawson's Steakhouse Manager, running the hotel's AAA Four Diamond restaurant. According to General Manager Scott VandenBerg, Erlenbusch has always shown excellent customer service skills along with true caring for his associates. In early April, Kendall Erlenbusch was named "Director of Events of the Year" for Hyatt Hotels Corporation Worldwide, top honors for "mid-sized" Hyatt's Worldwide. The Hyatt Regency Sacramento team is very proud of her for winning this distinct honor within the company. She has a very hardworking team, so one of her personal goals this past year was to instill a healthier work-life balance for all of her managers. She encouraged her team to take time for an exercise class, a lunchtime walk around the park, or other team activities to de-stress from the day. Erlenbusch also encouraged flex scheduling for team members while still producing quality work and making their quotas. In June 2016, Kendall Erlenbusch gained both the Event Services and Event Set-Up teams in addition to her Event Sales and Convention Services teams. She was listening to her new team's feedback about what works and what doesn't work as well as addressing

equipment needs and staffing patterns. Erlenbusch strived to have the teams work more cohesively by closing the gaps in the communication flow. Now, the Hyatt Regency has one Events team. Erlenbusch and her team had excellent customer service scores in 2016 and they found many new ways to increase revenue year-over-year. The Hyatt Regency Sacramento is proud to recognize both individuals as the hotel's "Hyatt Power Couple."



In November 2016 **Kathleen Gilbey** was appointed general manager of the **Sheraton Grand Sacramento**. Gilbey has

been a member of the Starwood family since 1987 when she began working at the Westin Peachtree Plaza as the assistant director of housekeeping. During her career, she has held a variety of positions. In 2005, she was promoted from the director of operations at the Westin Galleria Dallas to the general manager of the Sheraton Suites Market Center. Since then, Gilbey has been the general manager of the Four Points Denver Southeast, the Westin Waltham Boston, and the Westin Cincinnati. Most recently she worked as the task force general manager at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa in Tucson as well as the Sheraton Sacramento.



The **Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown-Arena** has welcomed **Jamie Landicho** as director of human resources.

Landicho has been in the hospitality industry more than 20 years, primarily with Hyatt Hotels. The last decade of which has been in human resources holding dual-property roles at Hyatt Regency Monterey/Hyatt Carmel Highlands and Hyatt Regency Long Beach/Hyatt The Pike Long Beach. Her most recent position was director of HR for HEI Hotels & Resorts at the Hyatt Centric Santa Barbara property.

David Shipman has officially joined **The Citizen Hotel** as its general manager as of late March. Prior to joining The Citizen

Hotel, Shipman was the general manager for Las Alcobas in Napa Valley and previously at Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa in Southern California, which was named a Five-Star Resort in 2014 by Forbes Travel Guide. He spent several years as managing director of the Vintage Inn and Villagio Inn & Spa, two of Napa Valley's most highly successful, privately owned luxury properties.



The **Westin Sacramento** has appointed **Stephanie Singleton** as the hotel's new director of sales. Singleton brings 10

years of hotel sales expertise to the job, having worked for Hilton Hotels in Florida. After graduating from college, she started her career as a sales manager for upscale resort properties in St. Augustine and Daytona Beach. Singleton recently relocated to California where she joined the Brighton Management family. During her time at the DoubleTree Sacramento she worked as a sales manager for the business transient and corporate group market.

The California Hotel & Lodging Association (CH&LA) elected **Scott VandenBerg**, general manager of the **Hyatt Regency Sacramento**, as Vice Chair of the CH&LA Board of Directors for 2017.

Greig Best has been named general manager of **Yellow Cab Company of Sacramento**. Originally from New York City, Best moved to California and began serving his community as a police officer. Within a few years he was promoted to sergeant, serving as supervisor of many divisions including the traffic division. Best joined Yellow Cab Company of Sacramento as a lease driver in 2001 while attending the University of California, Davis. He obtained a bachelor's degree in political science from behind the wheel of a taxi. In many ways it was a New York dream come true! When Metro Cars acquired Yellow Cab Company of Sacramento, Best was selected to serve as the fleet manager and, within a year, was promoted to operations manager and shortly thereafter general manager. In this position, he oversees all operations including the driver services staff, maintenance shop and dispatch department.

SHA Presents Grant Checks to Local Charities

FUNDS RAISED AT SHA'S 2016 FARM-TO-FORK FALL FUNDRAISER

In late September 2016, the Sacramento Hotel Association expanded its community service activities by sponsoring a new fundraiser as part of its program of “The Hospitality Industry Helping in the Community.” SHA’s Farm-to-Fork Fall Fundraiser featured festive Farm-to-Fork food stations from local hotels, craft beer tastings from local brewers, wine tastings from area vintners, a silent auction, musical entertainment and a selfie photo booth.

The 2016 Farm-to-Fork Fall Fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency benefited two local organizations that work with youth in our community—SkateMD and Sheriff’s Toy Project. During SHA’s Holiday Reception in early December, a check for \$2,800 was presented to each organization.

SkateMD is a nonprofit with a mission to heal hearts by spreading kindness and skateboarding to special populations of children facing developmental, physical, emotional or family challenges. SkateMD serves special populations of children who may not otherwise be able to pursue skateboarding, who may not have easy access to skateboard equipment or facilities, and/or who just need some extra kindness in their lives.

www.skatemdhh.org

The Sheriff’s Toy Project functions as the charitable arm of the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department. The Toy Project is a year-round program supporting the less fortunate children and families in the Sacramento area. The project supports area schools with after-school programs, school supplies, computers, clothing, shoes, bikes for transportation, summer kids’ camps and support scholarships for college-bound students. www.toyproject.org



Outgoing SHA Board President Scott Vandenberg (Hyatt Regency) presents a grant check to Andrea Bibelheimer from SkateMD at SHA’s December Holiday Reception. The funds were raised at SHA’s September 2016 Farm-to-Fork Fall Fundraiser, which featured festive food stations from local hotels, craft beer and wine tastings, a silent auction, musical entertainment and a selfie photo booth.



Miguel Arias and Cindy Garcia, from the Sheriff’s Toy Project, accept a SHA grant check from outgoing SHA Board President Scott Vandenberg (Hyatt Regency), at SHA’s December Holiday Reception.

Member News

The **Hyatt Regency Sacramento** and the **Sheraton Grand Sacramento** have each received another Four Diamond award from AAA, two of only three Four Diamond hotels in the city. At the **Hyatt Regency**, Dawson’s is listed as one of only two Four Diamond restaurants in the city.

Southern Wine & Spirits is now **Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits**. The company website is www.southernglazers.com

New Members

PROFESSIONALS (HOTELS)

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS ELK GROVE

9175 West Stockton Boulevard
Elk Grove, CA 95758
(916) 478-9000
www.ihg.com

Number of Rooms: 116

Sean Woo, Managing Director
Karri Rivard, Regional Sales Director
Tiffany Kintanar, Sales Manager

KIMPTON SAWYER HOTEL

500 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 545-7100
www.kimptonhotels.com

Number of Rooms: 250

Brent Larkin, General Manager
Gavin Hamano, Director of Sales

LIONS GATE HOTEL

(new ownership)
3410 Westover Street
Sacramento/McClellan, CA 95652
(916) 643-6222
www.lionsgatehotel.com

Number of Rooms: 112

Desiree Alferes, Director of Sales
Dustan Schilinski, Director
of Operations

ASSOCIATES (VENDORS)

FOLIATE PLANT DOMAINE

2386 Fair Oaks Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 979-1984
www.foliatplantdomaine.com

Steven Menconi, Owner
Max Shkodnik, Regional Manager
Desiree Randall, Executive Assistant

Services: Our clients include offices, malls, hotels, residences and a wide range of building interiors and exteriors. We take great pride in our customer service with a premium placed on detail. From horticultural design and installation, to weekly landscape maintenance, we are committed to excellence at all stages of a project.