



Board Members

as of Sept 23, 2026

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Gary R. Hernbroth (BA '79)

Chief Motivating Officer, Training for Winners

PRESIDENT

Martha Zehnder Kaczynski (BA '03)

Vice President/Owner, Bavarian Inn Lodge

VICE PRESIDENT

Blair Wills (BA '02)

President & CEO, StepStone Hospitality

TREASURER

David DuBois (BA '78)

President, The DuBois Group

SECRETARY

Kevin Swanquist (BA '08)

Executive Recruiter, Harper Associates

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Karthik Namasivayam

Director, The School of Hospitality Business

BOARD MEMBERS

Andre Alexandre (BA '00)

Senior Vice President, NEXDINE
Hospitality

Jeff Anderson (BA '90)

Club Manager, Chicago Club Charlevoix

James F. Anhut (MBA '85)

Retired, The School of Hospitality Business

Ed Ansbro (BA '79)

Managing Director, Fairwood Capital

Richard A. Bruner (MLRHR '77)

Professor of Practice, The School
of Hospitality Business

Carol Campbell (BA '98)*

Head of Consumer Experience, Ascension

Bradley N. Cance (BA '89)

GM, The Ritz-Carlton Bacara Hotel

Marc L. Cassier, Jr. (BA '89)

Vice President, Private Events, City Clubs
Division, Invited Clubs

Joe Crean (BA '88)

Vice President, Marketing & Creative
Services, AVMedia, Inc.

Art Davis (BA '88)

Director of Finance, The Drake Hotel

Brian DeMeester (BA '98)

Executive Housekeeper, Firekeepers Casino
Hotel

Hans Desai (BA '79)

Retired, Xanterra Parks & Resorts

Jacob Dondzila (BA '12)

General Manager, Shinola Detroit

Chris Durso (BA '82)

Retired

Jesse Eisenhuth (BA '00)

District Sales Manager, Gordon Food Services

Gary Finnell (BA '79)

Senior Director, Development SE Region,
Hilton

Paul Finstad (BA '13)

SVP, Hotel Acquisitions & Asset
Management, Aparium Hotel Group

Meredith Flanagan (BA '02)

Workplace Experience Manager, Gensler

Jeffrey R. Gillett (BA '86)

Executive Vice President, The Elliot Group

Jennifer Hajduk (BA '98)

Complex Director, Catering & Events
Hilton O'Hare & Rosemont

Joel A. Halperin (BA '07)

Director of Operations, Heirloom Hospitality

Jason Hilliard (BA '95)

District Manager, Business Dining, Aramark

Aaron Ide (BA '98)

General Manager, Hotel Drover,
Autograph Collection

Lauren Johnson (BA '19)

Travel Industry & Entertainment Sales
Manager, Four Seasons Hotel – Boston

Erica Kaschalk (BA '18)

Global Project Manager, ConferenceDirect

Andrew J. Kern

Sr. Managing Director, Marcus & Millichap

Stephen E. LaHaie (MBA '77)

Retired, Shaw's Crab House, LEYE

Kurt Lefler (BA '88)

General Manager, Compass Group
USA – Eurest

Emily MacIntyre (BA '10)

Area Director of Sales, Graduate Hotels

Kevin Maul (BA '96)

Regional Director, Revenue Strategy
Aimbridge Hospitality

Adam McGaughy (BA '90)

Senior Managing Director, JLL Hotels &
Hospitality Group

James McHenry (BA '14)

Director, Sales, Widgeteer, Inc

Russ Melaragni (BA '79)

President, Melaragni Consulting Group

Michael Moriarty (BA '11)

Senior Vice President, Eastdil Secured

Jeremy J. Mourey (BA '00)

Owner/Producer, Mourey Insurance Services,
Michigan Farm Bureau

Jake Olsman (BA '08)

Real Estate Services Solutions Company

Jason C. Rabidoux (BA '04)

EVP, Acquisitions & Business Development,
Davidson Hospitality Group

Geoff Ryskamp (BA '06)

Vice President, ReadyOn

Grant Sabroff (BA '84)

Sr. Vice President of Business Development,
Concord Hospitality

Amy Schmidt (BA '18)

Manager of Feasibility & Development, Hyatt

Caiti Smendzuik (BA '14)

Director of Human Resources, Mainstreet
Ventures

Joshua Smith (BA '00)

Senior Vice President, HREC Investment
Advisors

Mikaela Smith (BA '18)

Product Sales Manager – North America
Foodservice, General Mills

Matthew A. Sparks (BA '84)*

*Executive Vice President & Chief Development
Officer, Hilton Grand Vacations*

Rose Spickler (BA '12)

Director of Statewide Engagement, West
Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

Italicized, non-voting members*

Scott Steilen (BA '91)*
*President & Chief Executive Officer
The Sea Island Company*

Steven B. Thompson (BA '87)*
*Director of Catering & Events, The Waldorf
Astoria Chicago*

Alison Wallace (BA '97)
Director of Sales, Hilton

Kurt B. Wisniewski (BA '94)
*National Account Executive, Travel
Starbucks Coffee Company*

Fred Wurster (BA '12)
Director of Food & Beverage, Hotel Greystone

Philip Zeller (BA '96)
*CEO/Owner/Master Trainer, Dale Carnegie
Training by Ralph Nichols Group, Inc.*

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mark C. Auerbach (BA '65)
President, Auerbach Hotel Associates

Neil F. Barnhart (BA '64, MBA '65)*
Retired, Harrah's Entertainment

John A. Belden (BA '85)*
Chairman/CEO, Davidson Hospitality Group

Kevin J. Brown (BA '77)*
Executive Chairman, LEYE

James E. Burba (BA '77)*
Co-Founder, Burba Hotel Network

Ronald F. Cichy (BA '72, MBA '77)*
*Professor Emeritus, The School of
Hospitality Business*

Richard C. Conti (MBA '76)*
Sr. Managing Director, The Plasencia Group

Jay Dee Cutting (BA '61)*
Retired, Choice Hotels International

John Flood (BA '80)*
*Partner & Managing Director, Executive
Stream Solutions*

Philip J. Hickey, Jr. (BA '77)*
Chairman, Miller's Ale House Restaurants

Jon Kennedy (BA '73)*
Senior Vice President, Grandstay Hospitality

John M. O'Donnell (BA '69)*
GM & COO, St. Clair Golf Club

Zoe P. Slagle (BA '59, MA '64)
Retired, Slagle Consulting

Houston Striggow (BA '75)*
*Chief Development Officer & Co-Founder,
SusieCakes Bakery*

Lou Weckstein (BA '58)*
President, Windsor Capital Group, Inc

Peter J. Weien (BA '81)*
*Senior Vice President & Chief Operating
Officer, Opryland Entertainment*

Robert A. Wills (BA '70)*
Retired, HDS Services/Morrison/Compass

Stu Wolff (BA '82)*
Business Coach, Wolff Leadership

EMERITI CHAIRS

Dan E. Burdakin (BA '81)*
Retired, PMG Hotels

Chuck Day (BA '91)
Retired, IHG

Billy Downs (BA '88)
President, Ford's Garage

Richard Farrar (BA '73)
Principal, Farrar Consulting Group

Michael H. Getto (BA '56)*
Retired

Marc J. Gordon (MBA '73)*
Retired, IL Hotel & Lodging Association

John P. Hawes (BA '73)*
Senior Partner, LucasGroup

Allegra Johnson (BA '91)
Managing Director, CMAA – GA Chapter

James Kauffman (BA '75)*
Retired, Marriott International

J. Bruce Lange (BA '78)*
Retired, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa

Curtis Lease (BA '91)
*Regional Vice President, Dining Services,
American Dining Creations*

Dan H. Mathews, Jr. (BA '66)*
President & CEO, VisionQuest Associates

Michael W. Murray (BA '81)
Retired, HHM

Mary Ann Ramsey (BA '75)
Owner/President, Betty Maclean Travel, Inc.

Mike Rice (BA '91)
*Business Development Director, Hotel
Contracting Services, Inc.*

Susan K. Smith (BA '59)
President, Food Technologies, Inc.

John Theuer (BA '83, MBA '83)
*Investor/Board Member, Eureka
Restaurants and Bottega Louie*

Ken Weber (BA '77)
President, Weber's Hotel & Restaurant

Terri Woodin (BA '88)
*Senior National Sales Manager, Hotel
Alpenrock Breckenridge*

Bill Zehnder (BA '71)*
*Chairman, Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn
Restaurant*

AMBASSADOR MEMBERS

Madison (Skornicka) Cloran (BA '19)
*On-Premise Sales Director
Johnson Brothers of Indiana*

Kariann Fifer (BA '05)*
Wine Director, Oak & Reel

Rhett Hirko (BA '90)*
*SVP, Revenue Optimization & Distribution
Preferred Travel Group*

Kevin Martin (BA '03)*
*General Manager, Marriott's Harbour Point
& Marriott's Sunset Point*

Caiti Darish Smendzuik (BA '16, MA '20)
*Director of Human Resources, Mainstreet
Ventures Restaurant Group, LLC*

Todd Tekiele (BA '90)*
*Founder & Chief Executive Officer
City of Hospitality*

Will Wiest (BA '96)*
*Hotel Manager, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel,
Amelia Island*

Lauren Zehnder (BA '12)*
*Leadership Development Manager
Zehnders of Frankenmuth*