



## Orlando



### *Message from the President*

*Fellow Skål Orlando Members*, as I write this first message for our newsletter as President of Skål International Orlando, I would like to thank all of you for your support as we take our Orlando SKAL Club to new levels of excellence in 2012 and beyond. This year we have the opportunity to grow our membership and to achieve the distinction of largest club in North America. As of last week we were ranked number two in membership just two members shy of Boston's 151 members. I would like to throw out the challenge to all of our members to reach out to colleagues in the industry who qualify as potential members and get them to an upcoming meeting. Together we can achieve this goal.

A key component of our recent growth, and a critical part of keeping our club vibrant and moving forward is our Young Skål initiative. In

our April meeting at the Rosen School of Hospitality, we initiated our six young Skålleagues and the program is well underway. Special thanks to Barbara Kenney, Tom White and Wilfried Iskat for their leadership in putting this program together. Please reach out to these newest Skål members, and network with them to insure the ongoing success of this initiative.

As we celebrate the success of our Young Skål program, it is appropriate that we acknowledge Gary Sain and his vision and leadership in this program. The recent and unexpected loss of Gary Sain from our club and our community has been deeply felt. At our board meeting in May, we authorized a donation of \$1,000 to the scholarship fund set up in Gary's honor at the Rosen School of Hospitality.

Congratulations to Tom White on his recent election as Vice President of Administration of SIUSA. I know that Tom will bring the same attention to detail and outstanding administration to SIUSA that he has brought to our Skål Club over the last several years.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their dedication and leadership to our club. One of the great strengths of this Orlando club over the years has been the strong and active board. I look forward to working with all of my fellow Skål members to make this our best year ever.

—*Carlton Hudson*

### Gary C. Sain, In Memoriam

Gary C. Sain, President & CEO of Visit Orlando, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly last month. Gary was a loving son, husband and father. As the leader of Visit Orlando, Gary served as the community's brand ambassador working tirelessly on behalf of Orlando and the entire travel and tourism industry. He spent his entire career working in hospitality and was honored numerous times for his contributions.

Gary held a special place in our hearts here at Skål Orlando. He always stepped up and took an active part in all that we did. He was our club president in 2006 when we were recognized as International Club of the Year. He was excited to see our Young Skål program underway. His unique enthusiasm and charisma will truly be missed. Our thoughts go out to his family during this difficult time.



### Officers & Directors

President - Carlton Hudson

Vice President - Scott Tripoli

Secretary - Richard Scinta

Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
Tom White

SIUSA Representative  
Grant Bannen

SIUSA Representative  
Barbara Kenney

### Immediate Past President

Brian Peters

### Directors

Jeff Chase  
Lissa Curtin  
Jeff Ingram  
Jennifer Montague  
Mark Reid  
Carla Ritthamel  
Laura Sherman  
Steve Vinciguerra

### Membership Development Officer

Dennis Bement

### Ex Officio Directors

Mike Dyrland  
Fred Corrigan

### Auditors

Chris Reynolds (Sr.)  
Bill Pullen (Jr.)



## Memorial Day and the “Buddy Poppy”

On Memorial Weekend, literally thousands of Orlando area hospitality industry employees saluted the memory of those who gave their lives for our country, as they participated in the second Memorial Day weekend “Buddy Poppy” program, endorsed by Skål Orlando and CFHLA. All together, more than \$10,000 in donations was raised. The money received will go to help area disabled and needy veterans, and the surviving families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

The tradition of providing citizens a “Buddy Poppy” as a symbol of remembrance for those who gave their lives in war for the United States began in 1922 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The movement originated three years earlier in the British Commonwealth during World War I and is celebrated there, as well as Canada, France, Belgium and a host of other countries, each November 11th on “Remembrance Day,” when those nations pause to remember their war dead.

The idea for this special hospitality industry salute was generated by Fred Corrigan, former Skål Orlando president and SIUSA representative, and a veteran of the US Army Military Police, along with his long-time friend James Romand, a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel. Romand is also an official with a local VFW Post. Fred notes that some 52 area hospitality attractions, hotels and business participated this year and the hope is this event will continue to grow. He asks that all Skål members consider participating next year and that they include a donation to this program in their respective annual budget.

“There are many great causes to which we can donate,” says Fred. “But without the sacrifice of those remembered on Memorial Day, the way we celebrate Thanksgiving, July 4th, and any other holidays, would literally not be the same.”

## Join us in St. Augustine for SIUSA Region IV Summer Conference August 10-12

Renaissance World Golf Village Resort  
Accommodations:

\$125.00 per night, single/double plus tax

For reservations call:  
888.789.3090

Conference Registration:  
\$100 per adult

\$45 per child (under 12yr)  
Includes cocktail receptions Fri-Sat evenings, Sat evening dinner at The Golf Hall of Fame, Continental Breakfast Sat-Sun & parking.

Golf Tournament at Slammer and Squire:  
\$100 per golfer

## Green Globe - The Premier Global Certification for Sustainability

Green Globe provides sustainable services since 1993 for the tourism and hospitality industry. Partly owned by WTTC and an Af-filiate Member of UNWTO, Green Globe offers a wide variety of benefits to Skål members. The Green Globe Membership includes...

- Immediate access to the Green Globe Certification System
- A copy of the Green Globe certification criteria
- The Green Globe benchmarking tool: Green Globe Index
- The Green Globe Environmental Training Program
- Updated Certification Criteria
- Listings as “Green Globe Member” on all Green Globe websites
- Access to accredited Green Globe Consultants and Auditors to pursue certification
- Marketing Services provided by Green Globe Marketing

For more info, visit [www.greenglobe.com](http://www.greenglobe.com) or specifically [www.greenglobe.com/member](http://www.greenglobe.com/member). Skål Members are eligible for discounts on the annual Green Globe Membership.



## Our Young Skål Experience

by Megan Joyce and Nicole Cutrufo

*This past April we* had the honor of being inducted as Young Skål Members. To be officially welcomed among an international network of hospitality industry professionals was a great honor. It has not only been an honor but a very important milestone in our lives and careers. We consider this a unique opportunity to be introduced to the leading experts in our field and to have the chance to be mentored by these great examples.

We represent different programs of our university, but we all aspire to be life-long advocates of the Rosen College’s values – professionalism, leadership and service – in our careers. To be a member of Young Skål is a unique opportunity to learn from some inspiring personalities.

We hope to promote our involvement in Young Skål, which has allowed us to link our academic environment with our business network.

As founding members of the Orlando Chapter of Young Skål, we are proud to uphold the precedent set by Skål Orlando. So far we have attended two dinner meetings, giving us just a glimpse into the vast network that Orlando offers as a top tourism destination in the world.

Among our favorite experiences has been the Skål toast. At the beginning and end of every event all members stand up in honor of fellow Skålleagues everywhere. This gesture represents the union of a global family of which we are proud to be a part. We know this is just the beginning of many occasions together, and so we raise our glasses to: Happiness! Good Health! Friendship! Long Life! Skål!

# Highlights from the NAASC Congress

by Grant Bannen, SIUSA Representative

## Success for Skål Orlando at North American Association of Skål Clubs (NAASC)

Skål International Orlando achieved 100% success in all of the initiatives and candidates it sponsored in the Skål International USA ('SIUSA') portion of the NAASC International Congress in Bermuda April 12-14, 2012.

As is often the case in regional international associations, the bulk of business conducted occurred in the various national caucuses, with the floor functions of the larger international organization being more ceremonial.

## Orlando's Influence

Within the NAASC framework, SIUSA is the largest single national organization and the Orlando club is generally considered the most influential. This influence was reflected in the fact that the entire slate of candidates for SIUSA office, supported by Orlando, was successful in their election efforts, and a sweeping regional reorganization was defeated soundly. The Orlando delegation- SIUSA representatives, Barbara Kenney and Grant Bannen- spearheaded this effort.

## Organizational Change Proposed by Previous SIUSA Officers

This organizational change was initiated by a group of previous SIUSA officers, all of whom were defeated for reelection. Two proposals were put forth, both of which would have reduced the number of regional vice presidents, thereby expanding RVP responsibilities.

The Orlando club successfully pointed out that 1.) The pro-forma numbers projecting cost reductions were inaccurate and actually represented cost increases and 2.) RVPs are volunteer positions and- as currently organized- have difficulties handling their existing responsibilities; adding more clubs to their portfolios would result in "burn out."

SIUSA also approved a switch in reporting years to coincide with calendar years.

## Tom White sworn in as SIUSA VP, Administration

Orlando's Tom White was installed as SIUSA Vice President of Administration and participated in the conducting of the SIUSA board of directors and general meetings.

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# Membership . . . Quality Prevails

by Dennis BeMent, Membership Development Officer

As we approach the mid-point of the calendar year there is much to report in the membership arena. First off, the quick stats on membership... (1) Boston at 151, (2) Orlando at 149, (3) NYC at 146 and (4) Miami at 86. Great news for Orlando as our numbers keep increasing while NYC has fallen behind us, and Miami has lost almost 100 members in the last three years. Miami is a good example of quantity over quality, and the result of what happens when the foundation of membership is not solid. We have always focused on the "quality" component and have been more resilient during these challenging few years with our membership renewals.

That being said, the economy is now rebounding and this provides us the opportunity to build our membership. We have a wonderful slate of officers in line for the next few years and our foundation remains solid.

This is where we need the assistance of you, our members, to look around our vast travel industry in Central Florida, and recommend other leaders in our market to both visit and consider membership in Skål Orlando. Remember, the general criteria is general manager, DOS or higher in a senior leadership position. Again, if you are not clear regarding qualifications then a quick call or email to myself or Tom White is all it takes for a quick decision if the candidate would qualify for membership.

So look around at your various industry affiliations and provide us with some leads on possible new members, and we will be solid as the largest club in the United States. After all, it is quality that made us both the North America and International Club of the Year in 2007. Thanks in advance for your contribution to our continued growth.

# Advisory Council

Mark Brown  
Executive Vice President  
AAA, National Office

Bill Davis  
President & COO  
Universal Orlando Resort

Carolyn Fennell  
Director of Public Affairs  
Orlando International Airport

Randy Garfield  
EVP Worldwide Sales  
& Travel Operations  
Disney Destinations

Peter Kacheris  
Managing Director  
Waldorf Astoria Orlando,  
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek

Richard J. Maladecki  
President & CEO  
Central Florida Hotel/  
Lodging Association

Mark McHugh  
President & CEO  
Gatorland

Abe Pizam  
Dean  
University of Central Florida  
Rosen College of Hospitality

Terry Prather  
Park President  
SeaWorld Orlando

Peter Yesawich  
Vice Chairman  
MMGY Global

## NEW MEMBERS

Beatriz Alvarez, Young Skål  
Student, Event Management  
UCF, Rosen College of Hospitality Management

Nicole Cutrufo, Young Skål  
Student, Hospitality Management  
UCF, Rosen College of Hospitality Management

Carol Evans  
Director  
Kid's Nite Out

Kathy Hernandez  
President  
Kathy Hernandez & Assoc Public Relations

Wilfried Iskat  
Hospitality Administrator  
UCF, Rosen College of Hospitality Management

Megan Joyce, Young Skål  
Student, Event Management  
UCF, Rosen College of Hospitality Management

Monika Krauthahn  
Owner/CEO  
Krauthahn Consulting

Jed Miciak, Young Skål  
Student, Hospitality Management  
UCF, Rosen College of Hospitality Management

Guillermo Muñoz  
Vice President Marketing  
Wyndham Vacation Ownership

Terry Prather  
Park President  
SeaWorld Orlando

Aaron Rask, Young Skål  
Student, Hospitality Management  
UCF, Rosen College of Hospitality Management

Antonio Rodriguez  
Manager  
Booking.com

Rich Williams  
North Florida Area Director  
Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group

David Woodstein, Young Skål  
Student, Hospitality Management  
UCF, Rosen College of Hospitality Management

## CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES

For more info go to [www.skål.org](http://www.skål.org)

**Region IV Annual Summer Congress**  
will be at the Renaissance World Golf  
Village Resort in St. Augustine, FL.  
This year the event will be held in  
conjunction with the SIUSA summer  
board meeting and SIUSA National  
Committee Meeting. Dates are  
10-12 August, 2012.

For more information contact  
Michael Cunningham at  
[mcunningham746@yahoo.com](mailto:mcunningham746@yahoo.com)

**73rd Skål International World Congress**  
Seoul/Incheon, Korea  
2-7 October, 2012  
[www.skalkorea2012.org](http://www.skalkorea2012.org)

**52nd Annual NAASC Congress**  
Sacramento, California  
10 - 14 April 2013  
URL TBA

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