



MINUTES

**Date/Time: Thursday, September 19 (3:30-5:00pm)
Courtyard by Marriott Downtown**

MISSION

Our mission is to provide Kent County hospitality-related businesses an opportunity to meet professionally with a common interest to better serve our industry and community while furthering the overall tourism landscape of our region.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Welcome & Introductions: Kyle Holst-President

Approval of April 2019 Minutes: 1st-Elizabeth 2nd-Rachel

Approval of April 2019 Financials: 1st-Elizabeth 2nd Rachel

Topic of Discussion: Active Shooter & Security Concerns with Russ Aubil, Director of Security & Safety, Amway Hotel Corporation-This will be re-scheduled.

Monthly Reports

- Experience Grand Rapids: Kate is back from Maternity Leave. WAVE Awards are November 21. Nominations were due 9/30 but has been extended to 10/4. Pure MI hosting a seminar on International Travel October 19 at Frederick Meijer Gardens.
- Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA): It is renewal time. CTA's can get extra points for submitting WAVE nominations.
- West Michigan Sports Commission: Jamie is no longer working at WMSC. They will be moving offices soon located by Calder Plaza. Katy will be going on Maternity leave at the beginning of October.
- Grand Rapids Diversity & Inclusion: Grand Welcome Event in November. For details go to grandwelcome.com.
- West Michigan Tourist Association-Working on 2020 Travel Guide. If you are a partner, please make sure to update your information and fill out the survey. Annual Meeting on Mackinac Island on October 21.
- Women in Leadership: Grand Rapids Amazing Race Hospitality edition at the CY on October 17 geared toward students. Volunteers needed.
- Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association: MRLA asking for additional funding for Work Force Development and Pure Michigan. There is one more Culinary lab at GRCC on 9/23. The trade show is October 15 & 16. Uncon HR event at Embassy Suites November 7-8. This is an event geared toward HR in Hospitality.
- Michigan Cares for Tourism: Awesome event in Leelanau with over 300 volunteers. Raised \$50,000 in donations to give back. Second largest turnout. Completed over 32 projects with equates to 5 years of work for the DNR. Fun events. Huge success. Next event will be announced earlier than the conference. Roughly the same time frame as this year in September. Feedback for this year's event is always welcome.
- Grand Valley State University: Paul Stansbie is back overseeing the Hospitality Department. Scott is now Chairman and Kristy is Assistant Chairman. Please attend the Uncon HR event. The Academy at Ottawa Hills is primarily African American Students. Trying show them what Hospitality has to offer by touching different areas of the industry throughout the community. Currently 18-19 students. Putting an Advisory Board together working with the school system.
- Ferris State University: Bulldogs for Business event coming up on 11/4 at FSU Campus. Space is still available. Hoping to do the Alumni Gala once again in conjunction with the WAVE Awards.
- Michigan Hospitality Educators Alliance: No report.
- Golf Outing: Looking at second Monday of June.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- May 5-11 – National Tourism Week
- May 12-18 – Grand Rapids Cider Week
- May 21 – West Michigan Sports Commission Luncheon @ JW Marriott
- June 10 – Golf Outing @ Sunnybrook Country Club (NOTE Changes in Date & Course)
- August 15 – Monthly Meeting & Volunteer Activities at Kids Food Basket Farm

Round Table Discussion

- Future discussions about speakers, venues and topics.
- Need volunteers for Wine & Food Show in November.
- December 12th will be the Holiday Party at the Hyatt Place. Ugly Sweater competition and food drive for Ronald McDonald house once again.
- Where can we use funds to help within the community?

Adjournment-1st Elizabeth and 2nd Rachel

Kent County Hospitality Association

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