

Next Meeting:
February 18th
Jonathan Club

www.hftp-la.org

 **HFTP**

LOS ANGELES

Hospitality Financial and
Technology Professionals

FEBRUARY 1999 ISSUE

President's Message



January's
meeting

was hosted by
Anthony
Tarakdjian,

Controller, who recently joined The Regent Beverly Wilshire (Anthony relocated from Chicago where he was with Fairmont ... I guess he was smart, coming to Southern California for the winter!) and Kathy Wilbourn, Assistant Controller, also at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Thanks go out to them and the hotel for an excellent dinner and superb service. Speaker Jack Medina gave an enlightening talk on Stress Management. We received pointers that can help us all in our professional and personal lives. (I will never look at a twinkie the same as I did before the meeting). Those who wish to contact him may reach him at 1-800-FIT-1995.

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*"Even if you're on the
right track, you'll get run
over if you just sit there."
Will Rogers*

Behind the Kitchen Door... An update!

Those who attended the January 1998 HFTP meeting at the Four Seasons Hotel were not likely to forget the images and facts brought to us by Adam Symson! Adam was the Investigative Producer at CBS 2 who broke the story of the L.A. Health System and its failure to properly inspect and, in many cases, punish restaurants that did not meet the standards of the department.

Adam shared video tapes he had filmed while investigating L.A. area restaurants and their Health and Safety violations. It was his news story that basically prompted the Health Department to ensure that restaurants post their Health Inspection ratings.

Now it's time for the update to this story ... this time, L.A. County gets to do the talking!

This is sure to be an exciting and thought-provoking meeting! Don't miss the opportunity ... after all, you don't want YOUR restaurant to be featured in the next restaurant expose!

Jonathan Club

545 South Figueroa
Los Angeles
(213) 624-0881

Thursday, February 18
Doors open at 6:00 PM!
Cocktails 6:00 - 6:45 PM
Speaker 7:00 PM
Dinner 8:00 PM

Behind the Kitchen Door ... An Update

Ms. Bessie Polotis
Senior Registered
Environmental
Health Specialist

Food Handlers' Certification
Program, L.A. County

(see President's Message, this page)

*

The price for all members
and first-time guests
\$35.00 per person.

All others pay \$45.00

Please make checks
payable to "HFTP"

("No Shows" will be billed)

*

Call (626) 836-1222 for
reservations or fax the
enclosed RSVP form
by Monday, February 15th

Club Controllers Conferences

The Club Controllers Conferences will be held March 22-23 at the Radisson Twin Towers Hotel in Orlando, Florida, and April 19-20 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. Each conference will have identical education schedules geared toward finance and technology. Sessions will start at 8:30 a.m. on Monday and will finish at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday. Don't forget you can earn up to 12 hours of continuing professional education credits by attending these informative sessions.

One of the education sessions offered at this year's conference, for example, is a case study entitled *Change in the Dynamic Club Industry*. It will be presented on Monday (both conferences) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A club financial manager's success is increasingly dependent upon an ability to manage change.

Other conference session titles include: *Conducting a Financial Analysis of Your Club*, *Streamlining the Budget Process*, *Cash Flow Forecasting*, *Demographics*, *Creating an Internet Presence for Your Club*, *Y2K Contingency Plans*, and *Understanding Club Construction Renovation*.

Registration fees for HFTP members are \$265 on or before March 8 for the Orlando conference and on or before April 5 for the Phoenix conference. After the deadline dates above, the cost is \$295. The conference is open to nonmembers on a first-come, first-served basis for a \$295 fee on or before March 8 (Orlando) and April 5 (Phoenix) and \$325 thereafter. The registration fee covers educational materials, refreshment breaks, and lunch on Monday. Attendance fees and travel expenses may be deductible.

For more information about room rates and reservations, the Twin Towers reservation phone is 800-327-2110. Reservations phone number for the Embassy Suites in Phoenix is 800-362-2779. Rooms at both properties are subject to availability.

*"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."
Ferdinand Foch*

Paid Time Off Can Reduce Absences



"If you're spending more time as a manager battling employee scheduling problems than other more critical issues, you're not alone," says Michelle Schmitt, Human Resources Consultant with McGladrey & Pullen in a recent article reprinted from

McGladrey & Pullen's HR Update.

By changing from traditional sick leave and vacation programs to a combined paid-time-off (PTO) program, managers are finding they have more time for other issues in the workplace and fewer unscheduled absences, Ms. Schmitt reports. Although employee absences are expensive, costs associated with unscheduled absences are even higher, according to the 1997 CCH Annual Unscheduled Absence Survey. Some common examples are: overtime paid to co-workers covering for the absentee, costs of hiring a temporary to fill in for the absent worker, time spent by supervisors rearranging work schedules, "catch-up" time, and potential customer dissatisfaction due to deteriorating customer service caused by understaffing.

PTO plans usually combine vacation, personal, and sick time together in a bank of hours for an employee to use however they choose instead of maintaining separate accounts for each program. Most employers design PTO programs to accrue during the year, set carryover provisions and limits, and pay for time not used upon termination.

If you'd like to reduce the time your managers spend scrambling to deal with unscheduled absences, consider a PTO program. For more information, check out the McGladrey & Pullen website: <http://www.McGladrey.com/>

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President's Message

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Just a friendly reminder ...

that if you haven't yet renewed your 1999 dues, please do so ASAP. Part of your renewal (paid to the national organization) is returned to our local organization to sponsor scholarships, newsletters, etc.



Behind the Kitchen Door ...



Our next meeting is February 18 at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles.

Ms. Bessie

Polotis, Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist with the Food Handler's Certification Program, LA County, will be our speaker. She will give us an update on the county's restaurant rating system. Coming from a restaurant family, Ms. Polotis is very familiar with the challenges our industry faces day-to-day. It should be an interesting update to the presentation we saw at the Four seasons Hotel last year. We look forward to seeing you all there.

www.hftp-la.org

Web Surfers – check out our web site for a schedule of upcoming meetings. Any comments or suggestions can be e-mailed to me at brucereich@aol.com.

Bruce

On the Move



Doug Elpern
Controller
Embassy Suites
Orange County
North

Congratulations to **James Le**, new Controller at Hotel Nikko Beverly Hills

Robert Wurst
Regional Controller
Holiday Inn Monrovia

Mary Nowak

recently moved to Florida to meet family obligations. She wishes to send her best regards to all and is sorry she was not able to see everyone before she left town. You may send her email at: mefn65@aol.com

Anthony Tarakdjian

Welcome to LA! New Controller at The Regent Beverly Wilshire

Property Name Change

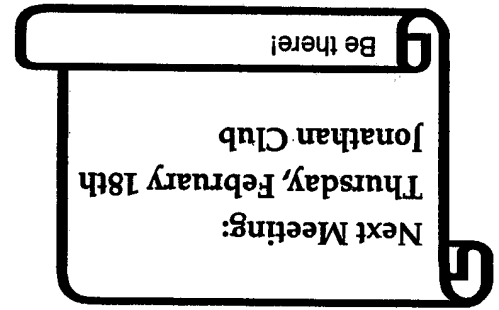
It's Official!

The Omni LA is now the Wilshire Grand Hotel & Centre.

Web Surf !!!



www.hftp-la.org
www.lodgeresearch.com
www.hcareers.com
www.hftp.org
offers links to great sites where you can get information on:
IRS, State Tax Laws
Department of Labor
they also have :
club links
education links
Restaurant Links



Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals
 Los Angeles Chapter
 Global Hospitality Network
 3579 E. Foothill Boulevard, #229
 Pasadena, CA 91107

Controller Wanted!

An excellent opportunity for a current assistant controller or someone with a solid accounting background. Must have good knowledge of hotel operations, computers (Excel in particular), preparation and analysis of financial statements, cash and asset management.

Ramada Plaza Hotel, LAX - North (Culver City)
 Contact: Mike Mortazavi,
 General Manager
 (310) 484-7002

Senior Accountant Needed!

HOTEL SOFITEL is looking for a Senior Accountant to work with the Controller. Must be experienced to B/S, P&L and have strong computer skills. The perfect candidate must be capable of taking on increased responsibilities (and possible relocation) with the opening of future hotels within the Accor NA group by the year 2000. Please fax your resumes to (310) 652-6671.



It's time to renew your membership!

If you haven't received your HFTP renewal notice yet, call the HFTP office at 800-646-HFTP, or e-mail:

membership@hftp.org

In addition to benefits like the *Bottomline*, CHAE and CHTP certification programs, *Infoline*, and many helpful websites, HFTP now has a fully searchable on-line job and resume database (JobMart). So, don't be left out - renew your membership today!

Investment Opportunity!

Beautiful location ... resort hotel in Croatia. Seeking partner with a sense of adventure and police force! Contact Eden Slegre for information - principals only!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...



February 18th
Ms. Bessie Polotis
 Jonathan Club

March 18th
Speaker to be announced
 Sheraton Cerritos Hotel
 Joint Meeting with
 HFTP-Orange County
 chapter



HITECH 1999
 In the January issue of *Infoline* is a schedule of the 6/21-24 conference in Atlanta. Some very interesting topics are on the agenda already. Check it out.