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Southern Lodging Summit Memphis to Host the 22nd Annual Hotel Conference August 20 & 21

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, June 18, 2024—Officials of the Southern Lodging Summit, an annual gathering of hoteliers specializing in development and operations in the southern United States, today announced it will host its 22nd annual hotel conference August 20–21 in Memphis, Tennessee at the Renasant Convention Center.

“We are very excited to host our 22nd conference. The Southern Lodging Summit allows those interested in the hospitality industry the opportunity to gather and share best practices while simultaneously networking with some of the most respected names in the business”, said Wayne Tabor, president of MMHLA. “The Southern Lodging Summit helps hotels improve their businesses by hearing from industry experts about financial, staffing and marketing topics”.

To open the conference on **Tuesday, August 20**, participants are invited to a “Lunch with the Speakers” at the world-famous Rendezvous restaurant in downtown Memphis. The intimate setting provides an opportunity for attendees to interact one-on-one with the conference speakers. Lunch with the Speakers will feature special guest, [Glenn Haussman](#), with NoVacancy News. Glenn is widely recognized as one of the hospitality industry’s top speakers. His varied expertise in all facets of the travel and hotel business, combined with his unique insights and delivery style, makes for appealing and lively sessions that keep audiences engaged.

Later in the day, conference-goers are invited to attend a special session focusing on Extended Stay, a new trend in hospitality. Tuesday’s events will end with an evening opening reception and dinner at the legendary Peabody Hotel.

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Following a continental breakfast at the new Renasant Convention Center on **Wednesday, August 21**, the all-day conference begins and features a wide range of speakers in the hotel industry, including Hilton, STR, CBRE, Kalibri Labs, Woodworth & Associates, IHG, Hotel News Now, and others. Topics will focus on industry forecasts, trends, brand concepts, staffing and financial information. Panels and speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

This year's **Keynote Speaker** is [Paul Novak](#), Executive Director, Lodging, Whitman Peterson. Paul Novak is one of the premier development and acquisition executives within the hotel industry. He has acquired or developed over \$4 billion in hotel assets over the past 40 years, through his leadership roles at companies such as: Marriott, where he participated in the creation of the Courtyard by Marriott product and oversaw development of the first 225 Courtyard assets and the Hampstead Group.

Other programs will include:

- Extended Stay Panel with [Stephen Kallaher](#), President, Red River Hospitality
- Industry Trends & Forecast with [Mark Woodworth](#), Woodworth & Associates, and [Isaac Collazo](#), Vice President, Analytics, STR
- Visionary Viewpoints
- Investment & Development Panel with [Lee Hunter](#), COO, Hunter Hotel Advisors
- National & State Legislative Update sponsored by AAHOA, AHLA and Hospitality TN.

The Southern Lodging Summit hotel conference supports the Political Action Committee for the Metropolitan Memphis Hotel & Lodging Association (MMH&LA). Celebrating its 22nd year, the Southern Lodging Summit event brings together hotel professionals who target the southern and mid-south region of the United States for development and operations. The annual event draws a diverse group of owners, operators, sales executives, financial institutions, architects, attorneys, and hotel company representatives.

For more information about the Southern Lodging Summit, speakers, agenda, and programs, please visit southernlodgingsummit-memphis.com and mmhla.com.