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HVAB announces new Chair, Board of Director appointments

Centre County's destination marketing organization welcomes six new board members

STATE COLLEGE, PA, July 20, 2021 – The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau (HVAB) today announced the election of a new chairman and several new members to its Board of Directors, while recognizing the dedicated service of those whose board terms ended on June 30.

“The HVAB Board represents a diverse cross section of the hospitality industry and the business community, leaders who are committed to growing the local economy through visitation,” said HVAB President and CEO Fritz Smith. “As a guiding force and sounding board for the organization, the board brings broad experience and expertise to the table.”

The HVAB Board will be led by Tom Neely, General Manager of the Nittany Lion Inn. Neely replaces outgoing Chairman Edward Tubbs, Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality Asset Management Company, who served in that role for the past three years.

“Edward’s leadership as Board Chair helped the organization navigate through significant periods of change and challenges,” Smith said, noting that Tubbs led the HVAB through a leadership change, re-branding of the agency, the pandemic storm, and the recent move to downtown State College. “We are grateful for his service and continued role with the HVAB, as we welcome Tom as our new chairman. We are confident that his vision will be invaluable during this time of recovery, and as we prepare for a new era of visitation and tourism promotion.”

Scott Walker, General Manager of the State College Spikes, will continue to serve as vice chairman, with Jennifer Corman, Director of Business Development, The Fullington Auto Bus Company, serving as treasurer.

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Newly elected HVAB board members are:

- Vincent McDonald, Chief International Strategy Officer, AccuWeather, Inc.
- Kevin Lloyd, Co-Owner/Production Manager, Big Spring Spirits
- Deb Nardone, Executive Director, ClearWater Conservancy
- Jennifer Brooks-Stahl, General Manager, Wyndham Garden State College
- David Capparella, Owner, Capparella Furniture
- Dustin Minarchick, Commercial Lending Officer, CNB Bank

The HVAB also recognized the service of outgoing board members Darlene Confer, Joe Thomas, Bob Ricketts, JaNae Wian and Charima Young. Young will remain on as a special advisor to the board.

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