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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A marriage of strong education and experience to propel LEPFA's innovations in venue management

Lansing, Michigan – April 18, 2017 – Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA) announced the hiring of Scott Horgan as Vice President of Sales and Services and Patrick Shaffer, Executive Chef, effective March 2017. LEPFA provides professional management toward the administration, operation, marketing and maintenance of the region's convention center, the Lansing Center; minor league baseball stadium, Cooley Law School Stadium; public market, Lansing City Market; and other community/regional interest events in Lansing, Michigan.

Horgan comes to LEPFA with a broad range of background and experience in the hospitality industry. He most recently served as General Manager of the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre in Flint/Grand Blanc, Michigan. Prior to that, he served as General Manager at hotel/conference/convention facilities in several Michigan cities, achieving record revenue and service awards at each property. Horgan also has extensive major market sales experience, marketing, and a food and beverage background with Hyatt Hotels in larger markets such as Greenville, South Carolina; Atlanta; and San Antonio. Horgan is a graduate of Ferris State University's School of Hotel Management. He is a Certified Hotel Administrator (CHA) and successfully completed several major hotel organization's sales and service training programs.

Currently residing in Laingsburg, Michigan, Horgan is looking to move to Lansing with his family. He played baseball collegiately at Mott Community College and Ferris State University and has been a board

Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority





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member of the Big Rapids CVB, Mt. Pleasant CVB, and Flint CVB. He is currently a board member of the Ferris State University Hospitality Program Advisory Board.

"Scott brings experience to our team from a variety of venues and markets that will help increase our emphasis on service," said LEPFA CEO, Scott Keith. "We are looking to add another level of collaboration in working with the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau and local hotel partners to solicit and serve our customers, as well as to attract more visitor and tourism business to our region."

Prior to being hired as Executive Chef at LEPFA, Shaffer worked as the executive chef for the minor league baseball team, the Lansing Lugnuts; as Banquet Chef at the Lexington Hotel in New York City; Executive Chef at a Hilton Hotel; a chef at the Knight Cap in Lansing; and a chef at Jambalaya's Restaurant in Laingsburg, Michigan. He has also worked as a contract chef for the Lansing Center over the past several years. Shaffer is a graduate of Culinary Institute of America and he brings almost 20 years of food and beverage experience and passion to the team.

Shaffer lives in St. Johns, Michigan with his daughters, Joselyn, 14, and Alessandra, 12. He is a proud supporter of the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

"The Lansing Center has made great strides in our quality of food service in recent years and Chef Patrick will only continue to elevate our food offerings," said Keith. "Chef Patrick comes to us well regarded and established in the hospitality market in our region and his credentials, experience, and offerings are exactly what our customers are looking for."

LEPFA is also proud to announce the accomplishment of VP of Operations, Tristyn Wright, on her completion of the second year at The **Academy for Venue Safety & Security** (AVSS). AVSS is a dynamic, two-year school built to train venue and event managers, security professionals, and other key personnel involved in every aspect of venue safety and security.

"I would like to train the staff on situational awareness, as well as crowd psychology and management," said Wright. "Additionally, I'd like to take a look at our policies and procedures with regards to an emergency, focusing on a recovery program, for those with special needs under the ADA."

LEPFA regularly offers safety trainings to all staff at LEPFA U, a half day of employee education on various topics. They also feature a safety committee presentation at each employee of the month meeting.

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"Safety and security is everyone's responsibility," said Wright. "Paying attention to your surroundings and asking questions could save lives. You have to ask yourself, 'Am I a sheep, sheepdog or wolf?' " she said, referring to an industry phrase used to describe one's approach to security and potential threats.

"An utmost priority for the authority is safety and security of our venues," said Keith. "Tristyn's dedication and training will only ensure we continue to provide a safe and secure venue or event for all our customers and guests in this ever changing and threatening world. The AVSS program is recognized as one of the finest training programs for safety and security in the event venue business and we are proud to have an employee who has completed the training and can implement some of her learning for the benefit of our region."

Wright has been with LEPFA for 14 years.

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About Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority: Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA) provides professional management toward the administration, operation, marketing and maintenance of Lansing Center, Cooley Law School Stadium, Lansing City Market and other community/regional interest events. The authority's events and facilities contribute over \$75 million in economic impact to the Metro Lansing region annually. LEPFA's headquarters are located at Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933. More information can be found at <u>lepfa.com, lansingcenter.com, LEPFA's Facebook page</u> and <u>Lansing Center's Facebook page</u>.

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