



**National Association of Sports Commissions draws record attendance  
at 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium in Minneapolis**

CINCINNATI (For Immediate Release) – Nearly 1,000 sports events and tourism professionals attended the 26th NASC Symposium, the annual meeting of the National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC), April 23-26 in Minneapolis. NASC members elected new leadership and participated in dozens of high-level education sessions.

“The educational content was focused on key elements of effective strategies for sports event and tourism organizations,” said NASC President & CEO, **Al Kidd**. “Our tracks, including event management, research, partnerships, and technology, provided attendees with insights on the latest trends and how they will impact their destinations and events.”

General sessions included a super panel on youth sports participation, featuring **Tom Cove**, President and CEO of SFIA, **Tom Farrey**, Executive Director of the Sports & Society Program at the Aspen Institute, and **Dev Pathik**, Founder and CEO of the Sports Facilities Advisory.

New NASC leadership was also announced, including **Kindra Fry, CSEE, SMP**, Bryan College Station Sports + Events, as the new chair of NASC. Additional officers included: Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, **Janis Schmees Burke, CSEE**, Harris County-Houston Sports Authority; Treasurer, **Michael Price, CSEE**, Greater Lansing Sports Authority; Secretary, **Janis Ross, CSEE**, Eugene, Cascades & Coast Sports, and Immediate Past Chair **Ralph Morton**, Seattle Sports Commission.

New Board Members approved by the NASC membership include the following: Directors with Board Term Expiring 2019 are **Matt Dunn, CSEE**, Vice President, Tourism Development, Palm Coast and the Flagler Beaches; **William Knox, CSEE**, Director, Hamilton County Sports Authority; **Kathy Nelson**, President/CEO, Kansas City Sports Commission; **Marissa Werner, CSEE**, Senior Sports & Entertainment Manager, VISIT Milwaukee; and Board Term Expiring 2020 are **Don Dukemineer, CSEE**, Convention Sales Manager, Huntsville/Madison County CVB; **Laura Gurreri, CSEE**, Director of Sales, Sport York; **Frank Lett**, Senior Associate Executive Director/Director of Sports Marketing, Kingsport CVB; **Ray Palmer, CSEE**, President/CEO, Pensacola Sports.

Additional Board Members approved by the NASC membership include: Directors with Board Term Expiring 2021 are **Derek Bombeck, CSEE**, Sales Development Manager, Lincoln CVB; **Josh Dill, CSEE**, Director of Sports & Events, Frisco CVB; **Brent Nelson**, Sr. VP of Business Development, Central Florida Sports Commission; **Jennifer Stoll, CSEE**, Executive Director, Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission.



Allied Representatives with Board Term Expiring 2019 is **Jim Hilb, CSEE**, Associated Premium Corporation; and Board Term Expiring 2020 is **Hank Pivarnik, CSEE**, Director of Sports Sales, Hilton Worldwide.

Rights Holder Representatives with Board Term Expiring 2019 is **Matthew Libber**, VP Business Operations, Elite Tournaments and Board Term Expiring 2020 is **John David, CSEE**, COO, USA BMX.

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual NASC Symposium will be held May 6-9, 2019 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Future host cities include: Kansas City, Missouri in 2020, Birmingham, Alabama in 2021 and Fort Worth, Texas in 2022.

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#### **About the National Association of Sports Commissions**

The National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC) is the 501(c)3 trade association for the \$11.4 billion sport tourism industry, serving more than 800 sports destinations, vendors, and event owners, both domestically and internationally.

For more information, visit [www.sportscommissions.org](http://www.sportscommissions.org).