

THE BALLOT IS IN THE MAIL SO OUR SUBSCRIBERS CAN VOTE FOR THE 2009 VENUES TODAY  
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE NOMINEES

We will honor three women who have made a difference in the sports, entertainment, fairs and convention industries in our July 2009 issue. Each subscriber may vote for THREE women from the list below. Votes must be cast by May 29. If you are a subscriber, you can vote on-line at our web site ([www.venuestoday.com](http://www.venuestoday.com)), by fax (714-378-0040), e-mail ([linda@venuestoday.com](mailto:linda@venuestoday.com)) or mail (PO Box 2540, Huntington Beach, CA 92646)

The 2009 nominees are:

**Sandie Aaron, regional vice president, SMG**

Always first alphabetically, Aaron is also at the forefront in this industry, nominated multiple times by her peers and compatriots. Aaron currently oversees operation of six accounts involving 15 buildings for SMG. She works out of her hometown at the Pensacola (Fla.) Civic Center where she started as regional GM and was quickly promoted to regional GM and, last year, to regional VP. She is noted for being passionate about the business, knowledgeable in all aspects of venue management, and helpful to all who ask.

**Maureen Andersen, former president of INTIX, and longtime ticketing executive**

Andersen led INTIX, the International Ticketing Association, through its transition from being run by an experienced association executive to being run by an experienced ticketing pro as the industry changes dramatically and daily. Prior to INTIX, she was with Paciolan and before that with Denver Center ticketing for 23 years.

**Debbie Burda, facilities booking director, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville**

Before taking early retirement last year, Burda was well known in the facilities and fairs industries for her knowledge of the business and willingness to help. She has booked Freedom Hall successfully for years, putting that fairgrounds venue on the promoter map, and was intimately involved in plans for a new arena in Louisville.

**Christy Castillo Butcher, vice president, Events & Booking, Staples Center and Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE, Los Angeles**

Butcher started as one of the event managers at Staples Center, Los Angeles, in 1999 and immediately began playing a key roll in development of that arena and then Nokia Theatre L.A. Live. She was cited for helping establish AEG's presence in the venue industry while training and mentoring so many. "Christy is our primary contact with all of the promoters, managers and talent representatives who book these venues for their shows, as well as our four professional sports franchises and the leagues they represent."

**Lynn Carlotto, executive director, Arena at Harbor Yard, Bridgeport, Conn., for Centerplate**

Carlotto's involvement in the Executive Committee of ArenaNetwork for six years led to her nomination for taking on challenging tasks and helping formulate a direction for a network of some of the most powerful arenas in North America. The dedication comes above and beyond her fulltime job of managing an arena but helps in her endeavor to put Bridgeport, Conn., "on the map" in a highly competitive environment.

**Liza Cartmell, group president, Aramark Sports and Leisure, Philadelphia**

Cartmell leads the Sports and Leisure division of one of the largest concessions companies in the industry at the same time she volunteers her time and effort for causes like the Please Touch Museum (Philadelphia's children's museum). She is among the top five highest ranking women executives at Aramark. Her focus on better serving the customer has led to Aramark's comprehensive market research to uncover fan behaviors and motivation. Citi Field and Kauffman Stadium are both examples of ballparks where the design is much more fan-centric.

**Kim Damron, vice president of Client Partners, Paciolan (Ticketmaster Irvine)**

Damron leads a team of professionals that are tasked with managing the relationships with all of the Paciolan clients, first through the Ticketmaster acquisition, and now through the unknown with the impending Ticketmaster/Live Nation merger. She is well thought of throughout the industry, respected by all her competition, and is cherished by all that work for her.

**Nicole Feld, executive vice president and producer, Feld Entertainment, Inc.**

A third-generation showman, Feld is responsible for developing innovative Feld Entertainment projects, including the 139<sup>th</sup> and newest edition of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, Zing Zang Zoom. A graduate

of New York University, she joined Feld Entertainment in 2001, after first working for *People* magazine. She is the first woman in the history of Ringling Bros. to hold the position of producer.

**Martha Fuller, executive vice president, Vulcan Inc., Seattle**

Fuller is responsible for all business negotiations and performance for the Seattle Seahawks of the National Football League and Portland Trail Blazers of the National Basketball Association. Prior to moving to Seattle, Fuller was the CFO for the Minnesota Wild and instrumental in developing the Xcel Energy Center and a very successful hockey franchise, stepping wholeheartedly into the male-dominated sports world.

**Denise Gaffney, VP Design and Construction, Levy, Chicago**

For more than 20 years, Gaffney has managed every new project that Levy has won as it relates to working with clients, architects, designers, consultants and contractors. She is known by those she works with as extremely thorough and detail oriented and she gets her way. If a fan stands in a long line or has to walk a great distance to buy a hot dog at a stadium or arena, you can be sure it wasn't a Gaffney/Levy project.

**Maura Gibson, vice president of Internal Operations for Live Nation Ticketing in Hollywood, Calif.**

Gibson has had an extensive career in the music industry, starting at the venue level and moving to an executive level position at the world's largest live music company. At Live Nation, she singlehandedly managed the largest single migration of events in recent history while continuing to oversee the daily ticketing operations for Live Nation Touring, Live Nation North American Music, and Live Nation Ticketing. She is currently managing the internal ticketing operations and the Live Nation Ticketing client service division.

**Judith Herbst, general manager, Keswick Theatre, Glenside, Pa.**

Herbst began her career at the Keswick as business manager 15 years ago, became secretary/treasurer while it was owned by Entertainment Group Fund Inc. and was retained by AEG as general manager. Staff retention and development rate high in her skill set. The current staff has over 250 years of service at the Keswick. Her knowledge of the inner-workings of each department makes her an indispensable part of the Keswick team. Whether systems are crashing, the act is late, the toilets are overflowing or lightning has hit a transformer, Herbst puts on her hard hat and rolls up her sleeves to make sure that no one is left in the dark. She has played a crucial role in the preservation of other theaters, clubs & facilities nationwide.

**Lisa Hinton, executive secretary, Florida Federation of Fairs**

For the past several years, she has served as executive secretary of the Florida Federation of Fairs, building its membership and increasing the programs of the organization tremendously. She also coordinates her organization's relationship with other related allied organizations such as the IAFE and IAAM. Prior to helming the federation, Hinton was the director of Livestock and Agriculture at the Florida State Fair, Tampa.

**Susette Hunter, director of sales and marketing, Birmingham (Ala.) Jefferson Convention Complex**

Hunter has been with the Birmingham (Ala.) Jefferson Convention Center for over 16 years. Hired initially as a marketing assistant, she has been steadily promoted throughout her career. She was principally responsible for bringing performers from Pavarotti to Prince to Birmingham. More recently she was instrumental in bringing the first round of the Davis Cup to the BJCC. And still she found time to serve as chair of the Board of Governors for the IAAM Senior Executive Program at Cornell University.

**Sue Lavoie, vice president, Eastern States Exposition (The Big E), W. Springfield, Mass.**

Lavoie's role includes working with exhibition companies and concessionaires for the annual fair, for which attendance exceeds one million per year, and booking the large exhibition halls and grounds for year round use. She is highly respected in the industry by both her colleagues and user groups.

**Joan LaMahieu, general manager, The Mountain Winery, Saratoga, Calif., for Global Spectrum**

LaMahieu joined Global Spectrum at the beginning of 2009 with an impressive resume and 20 years of experience in the event, venue, concert, and premium industry. Her immediate impact on the venue includes increasing corporate business, creating new sponsorship opportunities, further developing the wedding business, and creating retail opportunities for the Mountain Winery's state wines. Prior to joining Global Spectrum, LaMahieu served as the president of The Parade Company and executive director for the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation; and general manager for Ford Field, Detroit, for SMG.

**Tracy Noll, box office manager, Penn State University, University Park, and chair of INTIX**

Noll has been the INTIX Board Chair for a couple years, leading the organization through several challenges, including selection of a new president, and had been on the Board for many years prior. She has also served at Penn State for a long time and leads a team that won INTIX Box Office of the Year a few

years back. She is a huge asset to INTIX and the ticketing community in general.

**Paola Palazzo, senior director of Talent, Nederlander Concerts**

With over 20 years of music industry experience, Palazzo promotes and books events for all exclusively promoted Nederlander venues as well as third-party facilities throughout the Western United States. She joined Nederlander in January of 2007 and prior to that worked for House of Blues Concerts where she booked talent for the Gibson Amphitheatre in Los Angeles and venues across the West Coast. Palazzo started as a music agent with Creative Artists Agency (CAA). She is currently a member for Step Up, an organization dedicated to furthering the careers of women in the entertainment industry.

**Linda Pantell, senior director of Security and Facility Management for Major League Baseball**

Pantell has committed her entire professional career to facility management. She has been a conduit of facility management best practices for MLB ballparks for 20 years. She has helped MLB stadium management learn from each other and venue operators in other leagues to ensure the best possible fan experience. She has charted new territory for women in sports and facility management. "And there isn't a nicer, more patient and welcoming individual in the industry."

**Kerry Parsons, vice president of Sales and Marketing for the Freeman Company**

In the business for more than 20 years, Parsons is a person who not only has grown up in the business, but makes an effort to work with people in all areas of the hospitality community. She is never one to pat herself on the back to let you know who she is, but one that always is friendly, honest, and finds solutions to make the customers happy.

**Karen Sullivan, vice president of ticketing, Meadowlands Sports Complex, East Rutherford, N.J.**

Sullivan has been at the Meadowlands for at least 20 years, and is truly a pioneer in our industry. She runs ticketing for the arena, racetrack, and stadium, working all types of events with every kind of promoter, sports group and university. She served as the Chairman of INTIX. She rides a Harley.

**Patti Anne Tarlton, vice president of Live Entertainment for Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd.**

Tarlton always has time to help others in the industry despite her time-consuming job at one of the highest profile buildings in Canada. Tarlton started as receptionist at Perryscope Concerts in Vancouver, B.C., working in Montreal with her uncle Donald "Donald K Donald" Tarlton, Montreal's top promoter, before relocating to Toronto with Universal Concerts/House of Blues. She then converted to venue management as Air Canada Centre's director of Booking. As one nominator put it, she is "a model for all Canadian venue managers of all three genders (male, female and, of course, ex pro hockey player turned arena exec) to emulate."