



Eastern North America Candidate

Niko Nickolaou

Vice President of Operations

Gaylord Hotels

Primary Location: United States

Running for 1st term



ABOUT THE APPLICANT:

Niko Nickolaou loves to tell stories at home, with his friends and in his professional career. He is the author of three children's books, *Pomp, Snow, & Cirqueumstance*, *The Greek Word and Bee Brave Today*, which he co-wrote with his 11-year-old daughter, Kennedy. At the heart of his creativity is the calling to transform moments of entertainment into family experiences of shared values and ideals.

For more than a decade at Gaylord Hotels, Niko has used his innate ability to tap into a child's sense of wonder, developing one-of-a-kind entertainment, including award-winning signature events around the Christmas holidays. Leading the efforts on creating interactive family experiences, robust immersive environments, with the goal of always creating unforgettable memories.

Gaylord Hotels' signature experience ICE! is two-million pounds of hand-carved ICE! telling iconic Christmas stories that cross generations. Collaborating and leading multiple teams to produce this iconic event is something Niko is honored to do yearly.

Philotimo, the Greek word Niko explains in first children's book, exemplifies the ideal by which he and his wife, Devon live their lives, raise their family, and teach their children, Maddox, Kennedy, and Sawyer to see the world.

VISION FOR THE TEA

I am incredibly passionate and supportive of the TEA! Since 2015 when Gaylord Hotels joined this association, we have strived to become great members that only want to support the organization and its continued growth.

I intend to engage, collaborate, and promote our industry with a term on the board. My unique perspective and leadership of a themed entertainment division within the largest hotel company in the world would be beneficial as continued growth of the association & our industry occurs.

My true passions in mentoring our future leaders into new leadership positions and ensuring our industry continues to make strides with diversity and inclusion. As Gaylord Hotels / Marriott continues to make industry leading strides, we as a division continue to foster an inclusive environment that encourages learning, development, and growth. Fostering our next level of leaders but our next organizational shift.

(I also like to take exotic vacations, ride rollercoasters, hang out with the family, and cook... but you have to cook with a glass of wine)

SKILLS AND CORE COMPETENCIES

- strategic thinking/planning (organization problems solving and rebuilding)
- Digital marketing / media targeting /social media strategy
- Creative design and Experience building
- Christmas
- stakeholder management
- event planning
- growth and development leadership
- organizational social development programming
- financial acumen