

THE NEW NORMAL

AHFA ANNUAL MEETING

THE CLOISTER
SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 3-6, 2022



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November 3 - 6, 2022 ♦ The Cloister ♦ Sea Island, Georgia

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Registration** – Mizner Ballroom Foyer

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **AHFA Board of Directors Meeting**
– Mizner Ballroom

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Reception** – North Patio
Sponsored by



8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **Dinner** – Clubroom

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet** – North Patio

8:00 a.m. - 8:05 a.m. **Meeting Welcome** – Clubroom
Roger Bland, 2022 AHFA Chairman
Southern Motion



Roger Bland is vice chairman of the board at Southern Motion, a Mississippi-based manufacturer of motion seating that recently celebrated 25 years of production.

8:05 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Global Economic Report and Outlook for 2023**

Mark Vitner
Piedmont Crescent Capital

Mark Vitner has just capped a 30-year career as managing director and senior economist for Wells Fargo's Corporate and Investment Bank and formed the consultancy Piedmont Crescent Capital where as the chief economist he will track U.S. and regional economic conditions. He is highly regarded for his expertise on residential and commercial construction, regional economies and issues affecting small business. Mark earned a B.B.A. in economics from the University of Georgia and an M.B.A. from the University of North Florida. He completed further graduate work in economics at the University of Florida and completed the National Association for Business Economics Advanced Training in Economics program at Carnegie Mellon University.



9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Spouse Breakfast & Cloister Tour**
Sea Island Summit Boardroom

The spouses and guests of meeting attendees are invited to gather in The Cloister's Summit Room, the site of the 30th G8 Summit in June 2004. The Sea Island historian will share an account of the annual meeting of the eight largest industrial nations to discuss major economic and political issues of global importance. *Limited to the first 20 registrations.*

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. **Break**

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Supply Chain Compliance Strategies for Effectively Managing Risk**
Michael Sullivan
Womble Bond Dickinson

As the home furnishings industry emerges from the pandemic, manufacturers are challenged to understand the rapidly changing demands and information related to the supply chain. In this presentation, Michael Sullivan is going to equip attendees with a proactive strategy for managing risk throughout their supply chain. He will identify the steps to follow to enable more control of the situation and avoid becoming overwhelmed. Michael is a partner in the Atlanta offices of Womble Bond Dickinson. He counsels corporate clients on strategy, risk evaluation and cost management for complex business litigation. In addition to outlining steps for managing risk throughout the supply chain, he will provide insights on the 2019 class action lawsuit filed in Georgia state court targeting the carpet manufacturing industry in Dalton, which used PFAS to make carpets stain resistant. Michael is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Boston College Law School.



10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **The Future of Ocean Freight**
Cliff Pyron, Georgia Ports



As global demands have fueled increased shipping, estimated at 3.8% between 2018 and 2023, supply chain issues continue to challenge the home furnishings industry. Cliff Pyron will provide a high-level update on the Georgia Ports Authority and discuss the future of ocean freight. As the chief commercial officer, he provides leadership of the organization's business development and trade development activities with an intent to sustain long-term profitable growth and market share leadership. Cliff holds a Bachelor of Science degree from East Carolina University and has more than 40 years' experience in liner container shipping, logistics and port sector of the maritime industry. Prior to joining GPA, he was vice president of sales for NYK Line – North America in Secaucus, New Jersey.

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Election of 2023 AHFA Officers and Directors** – Jeb Bassett,
Bassett Furniture Industries

12:00 p.m. **Lunch/Departure for Golf, Kayaking and Sea Island Tour**

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7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Reception and Dinner** – Ocean Room Courtyard & Patio

AHFA Distinguished Service Award – Farooq Kathwari, Ethan Allen

The American Home Furnishings Alliance traces its roots to one of the oldest trade associations in the United States, the North Carolina Case Workers Association. This organization was formed in 1905 with the help of James T. Ryan, who served as director for 54 years. When Ryan retired in 1965, the Board of Directors of the then Southern Furniture Manufacturers Association created an honor in his honor. The coveted accolade was known as the James T. Ryan Award for 20 years. In 1986, it was renamed the Distinguished Service Award. Its recipients are individuals who have contributed time and effort to improving the home furnishings industry and to advancing the mission and goals of the association. They are recognized leaders who have achieved excellence within their company and the industry while also contributing to their community.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet** – North Patio

8:10 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. **Meeting Welcome** – Roger Bland – Clubroom

8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. **Women in the Board Room** – Caroline Hipple, Norwalk Furniture

Diversity in the boardroom is a critical factor in the growth, ingenuity and success of today's businesses. Gender diversity invokes a multitude of perspectives on how companies can solve problems more efficiently. It makes sense that leading corporations with more women on their boards are setting the tone for a much more inclusive workplace culture through all levels of the organization. So how exactly do women in authoritative positions add value to the bottom line? Caroline Hipple, president of Norwalk Furniture, will lead a discussion with four women serving on the boards of AHFA-member companies:



Kristina Cashman
Bassett Furniture
Industries, Inc.



Mylle Mangum
Haverty Furniture
Companies, Inc.



Becky O'Grady
La-Z-Boy, Inc.



Tara Stacom
Ethan Allen
Interiors, Inc.



Caroline Hipple
Norwalk Furniture

9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **Break**

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **State of the Industry: What Leading Interior Designers Want Furniture Manufacturers to Know**
Elaine Griffin, Elaine Griffin at Home

Elaine Griffin is a third-generation trailblazer and soared as one of the most-visible African-American designers in the country in broadcast and print media. As the contributing editor, design, for *Better Homes & Gardens*, her makeovers served to inspire readers' own rooms nationally. She brought style, comfort and creativity to charitable organizations' spaces through her 11 Good Works Makeovers for Oprah's *O at Home*.

Elaine holds the distinction of being the first African-American recipient of the New York School of Interior Design's highest accolade, their honorary doctorate, awarded to her in May 2019 following her keynote speech to the school's graduating class. She is a graduate of Yale University (B.A., Art History) and studied at the New York School of Interior Design.

She recently deisgned the rear garden of the *FLOWER* magazine designer showhouse in Atlanta, where she specified products from Century Furniture including Andalucia by Richard Frinier and Augustine by Thomas O'Brien. The showhouse opens on November 4 and benefits the Atlanta Ballet.



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Kelly Caron has impacted the Lowcountry design landscape by infusing her vibrant coast signature in homes from Palmetto Bluff to Sea Pines Resort. As her business has expanded throughout the Southeast, she launched a full-service studio in North Palm Beach, Florida, and a satellite design team in the Charleston – Kiawah Island area. Kelly is presently steering full-scale design projects in Jupiter, Florida neighborhoods and on Crane Island, an island within Amelia Island. She holds multiple degrees from Appalachian State University, including her primary degree in Interior Design and a minor degree in technology and design. She continued studies at Boston Architectural College, focusing on Sustainable Design. She completed current NCIDQ requirements and is a member of ASID.

Rayana Schmitz, owner and principal designer at Firefinish Interiors, specializes in providing high quality interiors with a relaxed living feel across South Florida and beyond. The studio specializes in helping busy families create family-friendly spaces. Every project is carefully designed to be both functional and beautiful, and every room is considered a work of art tailored to reflect the perfect combination of the latest design trends and the client's personal taste. A former firefighter, Rayana now uses her skills to put out other kinds of fires these days. Under her leadership, the firm offers full-service interior design including space planning and 3D rendering, furniture and accessories selection, window treatments, wall coverings and faux finishes. For consumers who just need a little direction, Rayana offers design consultations that recommend improvements.



Amy Vermillion believes strongly in the collaborative relationship between client and designer and takes every aspect of her client's lifestyle and personal taste into consideration when working on their project. Her eye for detail gives rise to unique, fresh designs derived from her expertise with color, texture and scale. Amy is sought after for her unique approach regarding home renovation by focusing on architectural finishes with customized details. Prior to moving to Charlotte, N.C. in 1995, she worked for two prestigious design firms on Chicago's North Shore. Her background includes custom furniture design, high-end kitchen and bath design, and full-scale renovation projects. She is currently working on residential, private aviation and commercial projects across the country. She is a member of ASID and earned a B.S. degree in Interior Design from Illinois State University.

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **What's New in Washington?**

Bill Simmons and Chris Andresen, Dutko GR; Bill Perdue, AHFA



Bill Simmons is a managing principal of Dutko GR and has led the government affairs counsel for AHFA since 2010. He started his career on Capitol Hill managing diverse issues including appropriations, transportation, higher education, energy, communications, taxes, banking, agriculture and the environment. Prior to joining the firm in 1999, Bill served as staff director for the House Resources' Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health under Chairman of the Resources Committee Don Young (R-AK). He also served as a legislative aide to Chairman Jim Hansen (R-UT). Bill holds a Ph.D. from Western Governors University and received his B.A. degree from the University of Utah.

Chris Andresen is senior vice president at Dutko GR. He joined the firm in 2006 and works extensively with clients to identify policy opportunities and threats in order to create detailed legislative and executive strategies. His broad experience includes working with companies, universities, non-profits and trade associations, specializing in workforce development, consumer products, manufacturing, retail, biotechnology, renewable energy, criminal justice, mental health, technology and higher education. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. degree in history and holds a M.B.A. from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland.



Bill Perdue is the vice president of regulatory affairs for the American Home Furnishings Alliance. A 1982 graduate of the University of South Carolina, he has 25 years of experience in the furniture industry dealing with air, water and waste regulatory issues. He has been responsible for regulatory compliance oversight with duties that included air permitting, emission audits, emission calculations, reporting, pollution prevention and waste minimization, energy resources, and real estate transactions. He joined AHFA in November 2001 following an 11-year career as Director of Engineering at Pulaski Furniture.

12:00 p.m. **Lunch/Departure for Golf, Shooting and St. Simons/Jekyll Island Tour**

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **Optional Group Dinner at Tavola**

Limited to the first 30 registrations.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 **Departures**

