



Dear Colleagues:

The Ports of Indiana is proud to host the 2017 AAPA Commissioners Seminar, May 16-17, in Indianapolis. We want to personally invite you to attend this event and to extend your stay in one of America's greatest cities during the most exciting month of the year leading up to the Indianapolis 500. The race celebrations start May 3 and culminate with "The Greatest Spectacle of Racing" on May 28. We hope you will come discover why *Travel + Leisure Magazine* rated Indianapolis among its best U.S. cities to visit in 2017.

The Conference: Our meetings will be held at the beautiful Westin Indianapolis and this program will provide a thorough examination of the role of port governing boards and how best to produce outstanding economic results for port communities. AAPA has put together a one-of-a-kind program targeting new and existing board members, and this event will also capitalize on the upcoming Indy 500 festivities to create a truly memorable experience. There will be a reception on **Tuesday, May 16**, at the Dallara IndyCar Factory, which will include interactive exhibits, race car simulators, rides in a street-legal IndyCar and guest photos in race cars. Lunch on **Wednesday, May 17**, will be served at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway where you will watch an Indy 500 practice session from the Tower Terrace overlooking Pit Row and the Yard of Bricks, and also get "Pit Passes" to see the action up close. We can assure you the atmosphere is electric leading up to the world's largest single-day sporting event. [Click here for information about the 101st Running of the Indy 500.](#)

An Indy Introduction: This seminar will be held in Downtown Indianapolis, designated "The Most Walkable Downtown in America" by *Sports Illustrated*. You can stroll the eight-mile Indianapolis Cultural Trail, passing through six Cultural Districts with shops, attractions, restaurants, a collection of monuments rivaled only by Washington, D.C., and our beautiful Canal and White River State Park, a favorite spot for paddle boats, gondolas, bicycles and outdoor concerts. Celebrating Indy's rich sports culture, consider making the short walk to Victory Field, home of the best minor league baseball stadium in America, for an evening game and fireworks on Friday, May 19. You can also tour the NCAA Hall of Champions, Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts, or Bankers Life Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever, all just a short walk from the hotel. Other notable sites include the Indianapolis Zoo & White River Gardens, the world's largest Children's Museum, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians & Western Art. You will want to sample many of our nationally-recognized restaurants – from the legendary steak and shrimp cocktails at St. Elmo Steak House to the new *Four Diamond*-rated Vida in the historic Lockerbie District. [Here's a list](#) of some of Indy's best restaurants for your consideration.

Getting to Indy: Indiana is "the Crossroads of America" and the midpoint of the U.S. population. Indianapolis International Airport (IND) has been named "the Best Airport in North America" four years in a row and is only a 15-minute ride from The Westin via shuttle, taxi or app-based driver services. The Ports of Indiana looks forward to welcoming commissioners from all over the Western Hemisphere and sharing our famous "Hoosier Hospitality" during this special time in Indianapolis. We hope you and members of your port will join us for this exciting and informative event. We look forward to seeing you in May!

Kenneth Kaczmarek, Chairman
Ports of Indiana

Rich Cooper, CEO
Ports of Indiana