



## EAGLE RIDGE RESORT & SPA: KEY PERSONNEL

### **Contact Info**

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Located on 6,800 acres, amid the rolling hills of northwestern Illinois, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa is a full-spectrum resort recognized nationally by outlets including *Golf Magazine*, *Golfweek*, *Golf Digest*, *Midwest Living*, and *Travel + Leisure Golf*.

The property provides a superior golf experience with 63 holes on four acclaimed courses. The resort offers distinctive dining options including The Woodlands Restaurant & Lounge and Spikes Bar & Grill, each catering to guests and locals alike.

Amenities on the property include the tranquil Stonedrift Spa, state-of-the-art fitness center with an indoor pool, steam room and sauna, along with an endless array of seasonal outdoor activities including hot air balloon rides, horseback riding, cross country skiing, sledding, ice skating, biking and hiking on miles of trails and fishing and boating on the 225-acre Lake Galena.

### **KEY PERSONNEL:**

#### **Ikhlas Ahmed, General Manager**

Ikhlas Ahmed was appointed General Manager to Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in September 2006 after serving as the Director of Finance since 1993. He has over 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry. Ahmed is responsible for the overall operations at Eagle Ridge, which include 15,000 square feet of meeting space, 80 guest rooms and more than 230 privately owned villas, condominiums and executive homes, five food and beverage outlets, a full-service spa and four golf courses. Previously, Ahmed worked at the McCormick Center Hotel in Chicago from 1973 to 1990 and was promoted to corporate controller for Aerie Hotels and Resorts, where he directed the opening of the Silver Eagle Riverboat Casino. He was also responsible for the financial management of the McCormick Center Hotel and the Essex Hotel, Chicago.

### **Randy Whiteside, Director of Sales & Marketing**

Randy Whiteside was appointed Director of Sales and Marketing to Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in June 2009. Whiteside comes to Eagle Ridge with over 30 years in the hospitality industry, specializing in luxury resort sales and marketing. Whiteside brings his skill and knowledge gained from a proven track record of successful sales and marketing initiatives, with his forte in resort properties. Prior to Eagle Ridge, Whiteside served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Bay Point Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

### **Barbara Schubert, Advertising & Promotions Manager**

Barbara Schubert joined the team at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in June of 2000 initially as the resort's Employment Manager. She was promoted to the resort's Advertising & Promotions Manager in October of 2007. Schubert oversees, develops and coordinates the resorts advertising and promotional plans and handles all marketing aspects from the in-house marketing materials to the resort's website management. Prior to Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa, Schubert has held operational positions at staffing companies in Dubuque, Iowa and in Ocala, Florida. She is also a graduate of the University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa.

### **Richard Remington, Director of Food and Beverage**

Rick Remington joined the Eagle Ridge team as Director of Food & Beverage in December of 2011. His primary responsibilities are in the overall management, success and profitability of Eagle Ridge's entire food and beverage operations as it pertains to its award winning culinary department, two restaurants, banquet and catering operations, in addition to the resort's Italian deli, coffee shop and four golf course grills. Remington comes to Eagle Ridge with over 20 years of experience in food and beverage management within a wide variety of hospitality operations such as the Kellogg School of Management, Autobahn Country Club, Interstate Hotels & Resorts, Hilton Hotels and Resorts and Starwood Hotels & Resorts. Remington is also a certified Sommelier.

### **Randy Hoppman, Executive Chef**

Randy Hoppman began his culinary career as a line cook at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa 24 years ago. Hoppman's love of different cultures, culinary ingenuity and commitment to the resort resulted in his unique cuisine and his position as Executive Chef at Eagle Ridge. Hoppman was mentored by award-winning chefs from Denmark, France and Poland, and the diverse cultural influences are reflected in his signature dishes. His most influential mentor, Teddy Marzeck, of Polish descent, taught Hoppman how to create soups and sauces, including Eagle Ridge's famous smoked corn and sausage chowder. Former executive chefs Will Delage and William Town also contributed to Hoppman's culinary education. Hoppman, a lifelong resident of East Dubuque, Ill., oversees operations at Eagle Ridge's three restaurants – Woodlands Restaurant & Lounge, Spikes Bar & Grill and Paisanos – as well as the resort's banquet facilities. An award-winning ice sculpture designer, Hoppman has created ice bars, company logo sculptures and unique designs to compliment Eagle Ridge's special events.

### **Michael Stewart, Golf Operations Manager**

Michael Stewart came to Eagle Ridge in March of 2011 as the Head Teaching Professional and Supervisor at The General Golf Course and was appointed as the resort's Golf Operations Manager in October. A Dubuque native, Stewart had spent seven years with the International Management Group as the Director of Golf in 15 different countries managing world class golf resorts such as Pakuwon Golf and Family Club in Surabaya, Indonesia; the Rancamaya Golf & Country Club in Bogor, Indonesia; Shenyang Shengjing International Golf Club in Shenyang, China; The Country Club in Manila, Philippines; and the Cikarang Golf & Country Club in Bekasi, Indonesia. As a result, he brings with him a diverse background in golf at an international level. Returning to the states in 2002 he joined the staff at Royal Tee Golf Club in Cape Coral, Florida, as the Director of Golf. He is a graduate of the University of Miami; and a graduate of the PGA Business School I and II, in Charleston, S.C. and Cincinnati, Ohio, respectively. He is also a member of the Club Managers Association of America Program.

### **Kurt Strother, Golf Maintenance and Grounds Manager**

Kurt Strother has held the position of Golf Course Superintendent at both the South and the General Golf Courses over his tenure at Eagle Ridge, having initially joined the golf maintenance team in 2002. He holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Iowa State University. In this position, Strother will supervise and implement agronomic programs throughout the resort's 63-holes of golf, as well as develop, train, coach and mentor his golf maintenance superintendents and staff. Under Strother's direction, the resort's golf maintenance team recently spearheaded and coordinated the resort's golf course restoration project, with the assistance of Oliphant, an industry leading golf course development, construction, and management company. The reconstruction included the rebuilding of over 100 bunkers throughout all four golf courses, improved drainage by reshaping several creeks, removal of select trees to improve play, restoration of tee boxes, and several bridge repairs. One of the more impressive, final results of the redesign and reconstruction was the ability to bring back the bunkers to their original USGA quality.

### **Patricia Lee, Spa Manager at Stonedrift Spa**

Patricia Lee was named Spa Manager at Stonedrift Spa at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in June 2009. Previously a senior massage therapist at Coldwater Creek – The Spa in Naperville, Illinois, Lee brings over eight years of practical and teaching experience to the resort. Lee is certified through the NCTMB (National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage) and has held positions at Timber Spa at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin, and Olympia/Everest College in Aurora, Illinois, where she was the Instructor of Massage Therapy.

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