

A Magnificent Historic House Museum and Country Estate



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NEWS RELEASE



Stan Hywet President Linda Conrad Set to Retire

Long-time CFO Sean Joyce takes the helm

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July 25, 2017 – Akron, Ohio -- Linda Conrad will step down from her role as President & Executive Director of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in October, and retire from the organization at the end of February 2018, announced Board Chairman Brian Cherkala today. Conrad, has led the organization since 2009.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Cherkala confirmed that its succession and transition plan calls for Conrad to continue in the top role until October 31 of this year, when she will transition to President, Executive Director Emeritus. At that time, Sean M. Joyce, CFO & VP of Operations for the past seven years, will be appointed to Interim President, Executive Director. Joyce has had a key role in the transformation and success of the estate. His 23-year career includes positions as the CFO of Goodwill Industries and Integrity Parking. A Leadership Akron graduate, Joyce is also the Board Chair of Dancing Classrooms, Vice Chair of the University of Akron Finance Advisory Board, and was an Akron Chamber of Commerce *30 for the Future* award recipient.

“The Board is thankful to have had Linda’s leadership over the past eight years. Under her direction, the estate has experienced a dramatic transformation financially, strategically and culturally, and is well positioned to continue to prosper. Today Stan Hywet is visited by guests of all ages from across the globe, has some of the highest guest satisfaction results in the museum industry, and is known to have among the most innovative and entertaining programming to engage and immerse guests into the stories of the Seiberling family and the estate. Just last year, USA today named Stan Hywet the **#1 Historic Home Tour in America**,” said Cherkala.

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“It’s been a true joy, honor and privilege to lead this wonderful organization and to steward its transformation to growth and sustainability, said Conrad. “Stan Hywet enjoys the benefits of a strong leadership team, incredible staff and volunteers, a wonderful Board of Directors and a supportive community. Knowing the estate is in great shape and that it will remain in excellent hands was a key factor in my decision to retire now. My husband and I will begin the next chapter in our lives with a move to Florida next spring.”

During her tenure at Stan Hywet, Conrad ushered the organization through the final phases of a massive storm water management project and the roof and gutter restoration of the historic buildings on the estate. Restoration of the Garden Under Glass in the Corbin Conservatory and the historic perimeter stone wall were also completed under her leadership, the latter as part of a \$6 million 2nd Century Restoration & Sustainability Campaign. The campaign is also supporting restoration of the Tea Houses and Hidden Aspect, currently under way, as well as the Estate’s first large-scale and most authentic restoration of the Manor House, with 16 rooms currently in various stages of completion.

Families took on significant importance under Conrad’s leadership. She led the design and implementation of the new Playgarden, Butterfly Garden, Homes of Nature and Carriage House Courtyard area enhancements. She also added a wide variety of new exhibits and activities to the guest experience. Attendance has grown 75 percent.

Prior to joining Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in 2009, Conrad was General Manager of Retail and Attractions with the Coca-Cola Company. She led the revitalization of the retail organization and also guided the operational development and execution of the New World of Coca-Cola in downtown Atlanta, GA. Earlier in her career, she was a successful executive at Walt Disney World, serving as General Manager of EPCOT, Director of Destination Disney, and head of Brand Management, Specialty Product Design, Planning and Special Events. Among her notable accomplishments are the Disney Photo Pass, Pal Mickey and Disney Pin Trading. Even today, initiatives that have benefitted or been driven by Conrad’s talent and imagination remain some of the most engaging and memorable for Disney guests, while continuing to deliver significant profit for the company.

About Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

Stan Hywet Hall was the family home of Gertrude and F.A. Seiberling, co-founder of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. The estate is a National Historic Landmark, and the nation’s 6th largest historic home open to the public. It is considered one of the most significant historic estates in the country and is an accredited museum of the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction that is held by only 1,057 of the estimated 35,000 museums in the United States. The Estate includes five historic buildings and eight historic gardens, situated on 70 acres.

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