



For more information, contact Lindsey Roberts, lindseyr@martinresorts.com, (805) 547-2720

Martin Resorts Welcomes Sara Kennedy as New Director of People and Culture

Thomas Wood, Former Director of Human Resources, Retires After 28 Years

San Luis Obispo, CA – Nov. 28, 2018 — Martin Resorts, recently voted one of the area’s “Best Places to Work”, is excited to introduce new team member, Sara Kennedy, as the company’s first Director of People & Culture. Kennedy has been brought on board as Thomas Wood, former Director of Human Resources, retires after 28 years with Martin Resorts.

Kennedy brings 21 years of expertise in Human Resources and Management to Martin Resorts, with a wealth of experience at local companies like Miner’s Ace Hardware and Adelaida Vineyards & Winery, as well as international experience with Scientific Drilling/Applied Technologies. She is an active participant on several San Luis Obispo County boards, serving as the Vice President of Professional Development on the Human Resources Association of the Central Coast and succeeding Wood as Chair of the SLO County Employer Advisory Council. It was through these organizations that Kennedy and Wood became connected in 2011. Since then, Kennedy’s approachable, compassionate, and very authentic disposition proved that she was the perfect candidate for the Director of People and Culture role, according to Wood.

As Martin Resorts continues to develop a people-centric culture, Kennedy stood out as the best person to lead the initiative.

“I knew two years ago that Sara was the perfect fit for this company and its culture. She cares about people and goes above and beyond to ensure that employees are happy to be here in their various roles, while at the same time maintaining compliance to all company policies and procedures. She dedicates herself passionately to what she believes in, and she does believe in Martin Resorts,” said Wood.

The decision to change Kennedy’s title from Director of Human Resources to Director of People and Culture supports the company’s mission to promote a contagious spirit of hospitality that enriches the lives of employees, one experience at a time.

“The Director of Human Resources is a traditional role that managed the systems, laws and policies. Today’s workforce is more multi-generational than ever before.” said Martin Resorts COO, Margaret Johnson. “A Director of People and Culture will carry the traditional duties, however, the focus is more on building a strong shared identity, helping to develop that commitment that will bind people together.”

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While Martin Resorts will dearly miss friend and colleague Thomas Wood in his retirement, the company looks forward to Sara's new perspective on how to best support the people who truly make this organization work.

"I am really excited about the people and meeting the Martin Teams. I enjoy Human Resources because it is customer service for employees and I take that part of my job seriously. I am here for the team and I can't wait to meet everyone," said Kennedy.

A Central Coast native, Kennedy was born and raised in Atascadero. She and her husband live in Atascadero with their two daughters.

About Martin Resorts: Founded in 1999, Martin Resorts is a hospitality industry leader in San Luis Obispo County with a collection of premier hotels along California's Central Coast. Their properties include the Paso Robles Inn, Avila Lighthouse Suites, Pismo Lighthouse Suites, Inn at the Cove, and Shore Cliff Hotel. For more information, please visit www.martinresorts.com.

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