



Chicago/Midwest

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Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association Announces 2021 Officers and Board

CHICAGO, February 3, 2021 – The Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association (TMA Chicago/Midwest) named Brian Stewart, Partner at The Keystone Group, President for 2021, and named Michael Brandess, Partner at Sugar Felsenthal Grais & Helsinger LLP, as President-Elect.

Stewart is a Partner at The Keystone Group, a management consulting firm. Stewart focuses on profitability and cash flow improvement, business strategy, restructuring, and interim roles (CEO, CFO, CRO). Stewart is a CPA and a TMA Certified Turnaround Professional (CTP).

Michael Brandess is a Partner at the law firm of Sugar Felsenthal Grais & Helsinger LLP. Brandess represents both healthy and distressed companies, and their principals, as they endeavor to conquer new goals and address material challenges. Brandess joined the TMA in 2010 and has served in multiple roles including VP of Education and as a Board Director.

Continuing in their roles as officers are, Kathleen Parker, HYPERAMS, LLC, Vice President, Programs, Larry Fox, CTP, Huron, Treasurer, Jack O'Connor, Sugar Felsenthal Grais & Helsinger LLP, Vice President Communications, Gene Arenson, HYPERAMS, Secretary and Angela Allen, Jenner & Block, immediate Past President. New officers elected to serve a one-year term include Chris Ciannella, Vice President Education, Grant Thornton LLP.

Mark Melickian, Sugar Felsenthal Grais & Helsinger LLP, Nick Miller, McDonald Hopkins and Leah Gistenson, Virtas Partners were elected as new directors for three-year terms. Continuing directors are Gene Arenson, Allen Pratt, CTP, Virtas Partners, Gordy Gouveia, Fox Rothschild LLP, Matt Ray, CTP, Portage Point Partners, Bill Farrar, Mesa Verde Financial Advisors, Carl Lane, CTP, Willow Tree Consulting Group, LLC, Matt Beresh, Mackinac Partners LLC, Amy Ayres, Wintrust Financial Corporation and Neema Varghese, NV Consulting Services LLC.

“This is a fantastic group of leaders that will make the Chapter’s 30th anniversary one of its best ever! 2020 forced us to change the way the TMA creates value for its members and sponsors in education, networking, and leadership events. Angela Allen provided great leadership and vision as the chapter made all the right pivots in a year filled with disruption. 2021 will bring new challenges that I am confident our leadership team will transform into great successes,” says Stewart. “Our members are some of the best and brightest lenders, attorneys, consultants, advisors, appraisers, liquidators, auctioneers, and investors anywhere in the world. I look forward to working together to provide opportunities for professionals to

grow their network, identify business opportunities, add to their knowledge base, provide leadership, and have fun in 2021!”

In all, more than 160 volunteer leaders, including officers, directors and committee chairs and members, comprise the Chicago/Midwest Leadership team.

About TMA Chicago/Midwest:

The Chicago/Midwest Chapter of The Turnaround Management Association is one of the largest, fastest-growing chapters of the only international nonprofit association dedicated to corporate renewal and turnaround management. Incorporated in 1991, the award-winning 800 and growing membership that makes up the Chicago/Midwest Chapter has served its community for over 30 years. Its active membership participates in more than 75 events annually, including educational workshops, networking programs, forums, and conferences. For more information about the organization and membership, visit turnaround.org/chicagomidwest