

Jay L. Karen, CAE



BIO:

Jay Karen has been the CEO of National Golf Course Owners Association since 2015, where he leads the golf industry's trade association and initiatives to support the success of the golf course business, the largest segment of an \$102B industry in the United States. Prior to his appointment at NGCOA, Jay was CEO of Select Registry, a portfolio of over 300 premier boutique hotels, inns and B&Bs. For seven years before that, Jay was President and CEO of Association of Lodging Professionals, the trade association representing owners of small, independent lodging businesses. Jay was also with the NGCOA for ten years early in his career, having served the association in several roles.

Jay holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Winthrop University, a Master of Arts degree in American History from the College of Charleston and is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) by the American Society of Association Executives. Jay has served as Chairman of the American Golf Industry Coalition, and has served on the boards of the Golf USA Tee Time Coalition (a joint initiative with the PGA of America) and the College of Charleston's Hospitality and Tourism Management degree program. Jay represents the golf industry on the board of directors for the United States Travel Association, and serves on the University of Wisconsin Stout Golf Enterprise Management Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Golf Writers Association of America and an Associate Member of the PGA of America. The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, CBS Radio, New York Times, Washington Post, NBC News, NPR, the Golf Channel, Golf Digest and many others call upon Jay for his insights on the golf industry. Jay speaks on industry issues throughout the United States and across the globe, and is ranked #16 on *Golf Inc.* magazine's top 25 most powerful people in golf.

Within the association community, Jay has become well known as a thought leader and progressive practitioner. He has been asked by ASAE to author articles and make presentations on effective leadership and membership growth at many ASAE Annual Meetings. Recently, he contributed to the books *Membership Essentials* and the *ASAE Handbook of Professional Practices in Association Management*. Jay currently serves as Chair of ASAE board of directors, and has served on ASAE's Executive Management and Membership section councils. In addition, Jay has been an advisor to the board of the Charleston Wine + Food Festival and McKinley Advisors, one of the association industry's top consulting firms. Jay was an Honorary Commander at the Joint Military Base in Charleston, and a mentor in the College of Charleston's MBA program. On a personal note, Jay has been married for 25 years to an amazing woman, who is an independent college counselor, and they have two children. His primary interests include spending as much time with his family as possible, playing golf and tennis, contemplating the meaning of life, swinging a kettlebell or running trails on Daniel Island as often as he can, and eating foods that are really bad for him.