

Michele Godbee, Catering Sales Director

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Michele Godbee’s job is to make life’s celebrations—birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, baby showers, bar and bat mitzvahs and so on—celebratory.

She and her staff—an assistant and two sales managers—are the ones to talk to any time members want to mark a special occasion with a catered gathering in any of the clubhouses as well as at Delegal Marina, the former cart barn at Marshwood, the terrace outside of Palmetto, the porch at Oakridge or even in homes.



No matter the location or the event, Godbee or one of her staff members will be there to greet guests, introduce the host to the banquet manager and wait staff captain, and ensure that everything is satisfactory.

“We’re hands on,” she says. “Each and every event is special to each and every member here and, to them, it’s the only event, even if five or six other things are going on at the same time.”

Her office handled more than 1,000 events in 2021, despite Covid, and is on track to far exceed that number this year. They work with organizations such as the LMGA and LWGA as well as Landlovers and many others. Whether it’s an organization or an individual requesting an event, her team helps the catering staff create a menu, coordinates with the banquet team on staffing, and collaborates with The Landings Club’s in-house set-up team.

“We have an amazing team here. We have a great set-up team. The banquet staff and culinary team all pull together and they knock it out of the park every time. I’ve never received so many compliments from members about the food.”

But it’s hardly ever the case, she says, that the initial plan matches what happens on the day of the event. Thus, the daily change log, noting every amendment to plans, no matter how seemingly insignificant.

That’s one of the biggest challenges of her job, Godbee says. “We try to walk through every event and cover everything with the member but you can’t avoid changes. It comes with the business.”

Growing up, Godbee lived in Colorado, Alabama, Germany and Savannah. She started out at The Landings 25 years ago as a hostess, moved up to server, became a bartender, and was then promoted to banquet captain. She took classes at several colleges and earned a degree in business and marketing at Savannah Technical College. After graduating, she worked in marketing for a year and a half but then returned to The Landings as a catering assistant and climbed the ladder to director in 2020.

Part of the reason she returned was because she missed the members.

“When I was away, I always had members calling me, checking on me, making sure I was OK. It’s not like working at a restaurant downtown where someone comes in and you never see them again. You do families’ birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, baby showers and you get to know them and know what they like and they trust you.”

Godbee’s husband, Dell, is a supervisor at UPS. They have a son, Greyson, who is 13. Dell’s mother lives with them and has played an important role in raising her grandson and keeping the house running, especially because Michele, as well as her staff, often work into the evening.

“If we have events, we’re here,” she says. She tries to make sure her team works reasonable hours to avoid burnout. But work-life balance is a constant challenge. “I haven’t mastered it yet, but, fortunately, I have a good support system at home.”

By Rick Colvin, a member whose career as a journalist included 12 years with the Los Angeles Times.