

Karen Bradley Burnett, CEM
Vice President, Meetings and Business Development

Karen Burnett has dedicated her 30 plus year career to making a difference through designing and producing meetings and events of excellence and value. Since joining AAPA as Director, Conference and Meetings in April 2013, she has made a significant impact on the Academy's meetings and, in particular, the annual conference. In recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to the financial well being of AAPA through successful contract negotiations for annual conferences resulting in savings to AAPA of over \$4 million, she was awarded the AAPA 2015 CEO Transformation Award.

Previously, Burnett spent fourteen years as Director, Meetings and Conventions at the National Paint and Coatings Association, then jumped the fence to Vice President, Sales of Pine Needles and Mid Pines Resorts in Pinehurst, NC. The US Women's Open Golf Championship was played at Pine Needles during her tenure. In 2003, she founded Sage Meetings and Events serving a broad spectrum of both non-profit and corporate clients.

As a thought leader in her field, she serves on multiple destination customer advisory boards. She is an active member of the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA), the International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE) and the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE).