

# NEWS

## FROM NATHAN BENDERSON PARK



**NBP Contact:** Douglas E. Jessmer  
Media and Communications Manager  
douglas@sanca.us  
941-358-7275 ext. 5802 office, 941-374-8492 mobile

For immediate release | Jan. 31, 2020

### **TWO MEMBERS ADDED TO BOARD OF NONPROFIT THAT MANAGES NATHAN BENDERSON PARK**

**One is a Sarasota County Government representative, while the other served on the board of a charitable foundation benefitting the park**

SARASOTA, Fla.: Two new members are seated on the board of a nonprofit organization that manages a public park and international sports facility that serves the Florida Suncoast.

The two new seats bring the board of Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, which manages Nathan Benderson Park for Sarasota County, to eight.

County Commissioner Alan Maio is the new representative of Sarasota County Government to the board. Dr. Lawrence U. Haspel, a longtime cardiologist, medical educator and hospital administrator, also joins the board, SANCA President and CEO Stephen V. Rodriguez said.

“Having a board comprised of individuals from different backgrounds,” Rodriguez said, “brings a diversity of experience and ideas that strengthens us as SANCA as we continue to perform our work, serving the community.”

Maio moved to Sarasota County 35 years ago. He built two large restaurants, a large consulting business and a vacation rental business, all of which are still active.

His bachelor’s degree, with a major in accounting, is from Seton Hall University in New Jersey, and he has an honorable discharge from the U.S Army.

Elected to the Sarasota County Commission in November 2014, Maio was appointed as vice chairman in January 2015 and as chairman in January 2016. He also represents the commission on the boards of the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, Visit Sarasota County, and previously on the Economic Development Council.

Maio and his wife, Nancy, reside in Nokomis. They have three adult children and four grandchildren.

— MORE —

2/2/2/2

## **TWO MEMBERS ADDED TO BOARD OF NONPROFIT THAT MANAGES NATHAN BENDERSON PARK**



“In addition to his current service as a County Commissioner, he brings a long history of working with many civic and charitable causes,” SANCA Chairman Ron Shapo said. “His devotion, commitment, and skills will greatly benefit SANCA, Nathan Benderson Park and the community.”

Haspel, a cardiologist, retired in 2008 from a career of more than 35 years in medicine, medical education and hospital administration.

His medical degree is from Northwestern University, and his residency in internal medicine and fellowship in interventional cardiology were at Chicago Medical School/Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago.

He held several positions of responsibility at Northwestern, a private university for health sciences with its main campus in Downers Grove, Ill., outside Chicago. Haspel was the executive vice president of the university, with the responsibility of operating two acute-care hospitals and 23 ambulatory sites. He was also a professor of medicine and cardiology and the dean of post-doctoral education.

Haspel founded a large cardiology group practice and a large multispecialty medical group practice, and was the chairman of the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program, an accrediting agency for hospitals and ambulatory centers throughout the United States. He was the vice chairman of the Federal Council of Graduate Medical Education, and senior vice president and executive vice president of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council. He was a member of the board of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and the Illinois Hospital Assn.

In Sarasota, he is the immediate past president of the Asolo Repertory Theatre and past president of the board of Aviva. Haspel also sits on the board of the Nathan Benderson Community Park Foundation.

He and his wife, Debbie, have six children and five grandchildren.

“Larry brings SANCA a unique combination of perspectives,” Shapo said. “He is recognized and honored as a person who has generously given both his time and effort on behalf of the arts and those in need. We are proud to add Larry to our board.”

— NBP —

Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates Inc. (SANCA), is a not-for-profit 501c3 business created to manage Nathan Benderson Park (NBP), a community/public asset and world-class, multi-use sports venue. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for our community and be an economic generator for our region. SANCA's primary purpose is to develop and promote NBP as a world class event center, team training site and Sarasota County park, while providing outreach programs through recreation, safety training, education and volunteering as a service to our community. For more information, go to [nathanbendersonpark.org/about-us/sanca-mission](http://nathanbendersonpark.org/about-us/sanca-mission).