



# Michael Leemhuis, CCM, CCE, PGA



**Michael Leemhuis,**  
**CCM, CCE, PGA**  
President  
Ocean Reef Club  
Key Largo, Fla.

*Shaping Your Personal Future:  
Characteristics and Traits of  
Successful Hospitality Leaders  
(Keynote Address)*

Sunday, March 5

**M**ichael Leemhuis, M.A. Ed., CCM, CCE, PGA Master Professional, was born in South Africa and had his initial education in that country. After graduating from Pretoria Boys High School, he studied at Wits University in Johannesburg, graduating in 1976 with a teaching degree in Physical Education and History.

Leemhuis started his teaching career at the famous King Edward VII School in Johannesburg, where he taught Physical Education. His desire for education then took him to the United States in 1979, where he studied at UCLA. He then completed his graduate degree at East Carolina University in 1991, where he was awarded a Master's Degree in Education, specializing in Sport Administration Management.

In realizing his lifetime goal of working in sports-related fields, Leemhuis's experience has taken him through many different industries, including hotel/resort management, stadium management, athlete representation, event management and private club management.

Major sporting events that he has been involved in organizing and directing have included the 2011 U.S. Open, as well as United States Tennis Association events, numerous PGA TOUR events, and multiple ultra-distance marathon and triathlon races.

Leemhuis' extensive leadership and sports experience has been gained in his current role as the President of the Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo, Fla., as well as previous positions as Chief Executive Officer of Congressional Country Club, Bethesda, Md.; GM/Director of Golf at the PGA TOUR; General Manager, Sport and Recreation at the Sun City Resort in South Africa; Tournament Director of the Nedbank Million \$ Golf Challenge, and Managing Director of Sports International.

Leemhuis' career highlights have included guiding Congressional Country Club to the #1 spot in the Platinum Clubs of America and into the top 100 of Platinum Clubs in the World.

Believing that certification combined with education are the cornerstones of success in both business and life, Leemhuis has contributed leadership to professional organizations throughout his career. He served as President of the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) in 2009. He earned Certified Club Manager and Certified Chief Executive designations from the CMAA, and he is also a certified PGA member through the PGA of America (A13) and the PGA of South Africa (Master Professional).

In 2011 Michael was awarded the CMAA's Club Manager of the Year award for his dedication and commitment to the club industry.

An avid sportsman himself, Mike has twice finished the grueling Hawaii Ironman Triathlon, as well as numerous other ultra-triathlons, two ultra-marathons and 40 marathons. His other passions are fishing, photography, travel, wine and reading.

In his current position with the Ocean Reef Club, Michael resides in Key Largo, Fla., with his wife of 33 years, Dale. They are the proud parents of two very athletic sons, Matthew and Joshua.