News Flash: How SIM's Tampa Bay Chapter Grew to Almost 100 Members in Year One

SIM Tampa Bay, one of the Society for Information Management's (SIM)'s newest Chapters, launched in the summer of 2017, and has seen strong growth over the last year. The chapter has 97 paid members and is on track to reach their goal of 100 paid members by the end of 2018.

"We are well on our way," said Chris Downs, Vice President of SIM's Tampa Bay Chapter. Downs, who first got involved in SIM while he lived in Wisconsin and served on the board of that chapter, attributes Tampa Bay's consistent growth to its dedicated board. Dan Roberts, a winner of the 2017 SIM Leader of the Year award, was instrumental in corralling the new chapter's board. "Dan was a critical success factor," said Downs. Patricia Randall, a SIM leader from Boston, also played a significant role advising the chapter on membership growth.

The Tampa Bay chapter's board consists of: Luis Beaumier, Chris Downs, Larry Price, Jacqueline Scott, Dawn Harrison, and Darlene Shade.

The following individuals contributed as members-at-large and helped oversee certain programs and critical functions: Ashim Bhuyan, Kevin Davis, Matt Hooper, Mark Weischedel, Larry Roos, Mary Olander, Bill Waas, and Ty Taft.

Downs, who was also involved with the Phoenix chapter while he lived in Arizona, said the Tampa Bay chapter holds monthly board meetings. Board members are heavily involved in recruiting new members from their network and bringing them to chapter meetings.

"The biggest thing is to have an engaged board of people who are really passionate about advancing the agenda," Downs said, adding that Luis Beaumier, who served as SIM Tampa Bay's first President, served as an excellent strategic leader and thinker.

"This is what SIM is all about," said Steve Hufford, the SIM Chief Executive. "SIM is a community of IT leaders that know how to get things done. SIM Tampa is a great example of people coming together in their community."

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About the Society for Information Management (SIM)
The Society for Information Management (SIM) (http://simnet.org) is the world's premier organization for IT leaders. Since 1968, SIM has inspired the minds of the most prestigious IT leaders in the industry — including CIOs, senior IT executives, prominent academicians, consultants, and other IT leaders. Today, SIM is comprised of more than 5,000 members who come together to share, network and give back to their communities through the collaboration of SIM's 44 local chapters.