



January 27, 2023

---

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND AFTER HOURS

On Wednesday, January 25th, CFHLA hosted our first Board of Directors Meeting and After Hours reception of the year at the [Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate](#) (Thank you Robert Stanfield, Area Managing Director).

We would like to congratulate our new Chair of the Board **Anthony Lazzara**, [General Manager of Hotel Kinetic Orlando Universal Blvd](#) and we look forward to Anthony's leadership in 2023!



Furthermore, nearly 200 Members joined us for the opportunity to network and support the CFHLA motto of "Members Doing Business with Members."



We would like to thank our January Board of Directors meeting sponsor, [Circle of Success](#) for their support.



Lastly, we would like to thank our new CFHLA Members [California Tequila Inc.](#) and [Sunshine Cellars](#) for providing sampling opportunities to all of our Members at the After Hours!

**ASOMBROSO**  
*Fine Tequilas*



[CLICK TO VIEW EVENT PHOTOS](#)

---

## LEADERSHIP MENTORS AND MENTEES OF CLASS I HONORED AT AFTER HOURS EVENT

Throughout 2022, the Diversity Committee's **Leadership Mentoring Subcommittee** focused on developing and creating a brand new mentoring program that provided a diverse group of mid-level leaders (lodging and allied) with the opportunity to get more involved with CFHLA and help them advance their careers in hospitality.

At Wednesday's After Hours event, the **16 Mentors and 8 Mentees** of the inaugural program were honored for their successful completion of Class I.

Please join us in congratulating the following mentees:

**Carlos Menendez**, [Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport](#)  
**Steven Hollis**, [Fantasy World Resort](#)  
**Alejandro Rubin**, [Level Roofing](#)  
**Wilbert Vega**, [Regal Palms Resort](#)  
**Aliyah Ginel**, [Marriott's Lakeshore Reserve](#)  
**Jenna Plitnick**, [Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek & Waldorf Astoria Orlando](#)  
**Ryan Keene**, [Grande Lakes Orlando](#)  
**Laura Cerny**, [Wyndham Orlando Resort & Conference Center Celebration](#)

Thank you to the following mentors for sharing their experience and time:

**Brad Boland**, [Innovative Hospitality Partners](#)  
**Suzi Brady**, [Courtyard Orlando Lake Buena Vista Centre](#)  
**Jill Cooper**, [Blown Away](#)  
**Ryan Garro**, [Marriott Vacations Worldwide](#)  
**John Gill**, [Premier Oracle Elevator](#)  
**Ally Martin**, [Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#)  
**Bruce McDonald**, [The Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport](#)  
**Jon McGavin**, [Grande Lakes Orlando](#)  
**Clint Militzer**, [Aloft & Element Orlando International Drive](#)  
**Jorge Reyes**, [Holiday Inn Club Vacations – Orange Lake Resort](#)  
**Lou Rocco**, [Global Sourcing International](#)  
**Paul Schmidt**  
**Sean Verney**, [Walt Disney World Swan And Dolphin Resort and The Swan Reserve](#)  
**Glen Vlastic**, [Wyndham Orlando Resort & Conference Center / Celebration](#)  
**Jonathan Watson**  
**Brandon Whaley**, [Mainscape](#)



CLICK TO VIEW THE CLASS I PHOTOS

## SEMINOLE COUNTY GENERAL MANAGERS LUNCHEON



On Tuesday, January 24th, the Seminole County General Managers held their first luncheon of the year at [The Westin Lake Mary Orlando North](#) (Thank you Don Dougherty, General Manager).

This luncheon featured **Nicole Guillet**, President and CEO, [Sanford Airport Authority](#), who provided an in-depth update on the airport to the group.

Thank you to our 2023 Seminole County General Manager's luncheon sponsor, [Spinout Guest Laundries](#).



---

## AMERICAN HOTEL AND LODGING ASSOCIATION HONORS LOCAL HOSPITALITY WORKER

Earlier this week the [American Hotel and Lodging Association](#) announced its 2023 North Star Award Finalists and **Oreste "Rusty" Pinera** of the [Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress](#) was among the honorees.

Pinera, an overnight manager on duty, was also honored with a Lifesaving Award in September 2022 at the **CFHLA Patriot's Day Remembrance Breakfast** after he administered CPR to an unresponsive guest until paramedics arrived, saving the the guest's life.

**Congratulations Rusty on the national recognition and we thank you for your heroic actions!**



*Rusty Pinera (second from the right) is joined on stage by CFHLA President & CEO, Robert Agrusa; Retired FDNY and Tunnel to Towers Founder, John LaBarbera and Former Orlando Police Chief, Orlando Rolon, as he received his Life Saving Award at the 2022 CFHLA Patriot Day Breakfast*

---

## CFHLA ANNOUNCES PROMOTION; WELCOMES NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM

This week, the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is pleased to announce the promotion of **Melanie Anesh to Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships**. Since June 2021, Melanie has served as the Executive Assistant to the President/CEO and oversaw several new organizational initiatives such as the Diversity Committee, the Leadership Mentoring subcommittee, and our High School Outreach Subcommittee throughout 2022.

Furthermore, CFHLA is also pleased to announce hiring of **Tammie Watts as the new Government Affairs Manager**. Tammie most recently served as the Government Affairs Director for the Space Coast Association of Realtors (in Melbourne, Florida) for the past nine years.

In addition, **Jonathan Watson** has been named as the new **Executive Assistant to the President/CEO**. With more than a decade of experience in hospitality, Jonathan is joining CFHLA from Guest Services Inc. at the [Regal Palms Resort](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full announcement.



**Melanie Anesh**



**Tammie Watts**



**Jonathan Watson**

---

## REMEMBERING HARVEY L. MASSEY

Twenty-five year CFHLA Member, **Harvey L. Massey**, the founder of Orlando-based [Massey Services Inc.](#) — one of the largest pest management companies in the industry, passed away earlier this week.

In addition to building one of the fastest-growing companies in Central Florida, Massey, 81, was well known for his philanthropic endeavors and his leadership in securing support from the tourism industry for the completion of the downtown venues.

The CFHLA Membership offers its condolences to the Massey family and all of those at Massey Services Inc.



---

## HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

This week, CFHLA hosted a professional development day for local Hospitality and Tourism educators.

Teachers representing [Oak Ridge High School](#), [Colonial High School](#), [Olympia High School](#), [Horizon West High School](#), [Freedom High School](#), [Seminole County Virtual School](#) and [Orange County Technical College](#), which all boast culinary and/or hospitality programs, had the opportunity to share best practices for their programs and speak with several industry professionals, including CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa on the current outlook for Central Florida's Hospitality and Tourism industry and new partnership opportunities moving forward.

Thank you to all our partners who made this planning day possible: Shannon Latimer, of [Orange County Public Schools](#), Raul Veizaga of [Orlando Sanford International Airport](#), Gui Cunha and Colby Goncalves of [Orlando North](#), Esteban Saldarriaga of [Seminole County](#), and [Domino's](#) for providing lunch!





---

## UCF ROSEN MEET AND GREET

On Wednesday, January 25th, leadership from several Central Florida Marriott Brand properties participated in the first student meet and greet of Spring 2023 at the [UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management](#).

Nearly 100 students spoke to General Managers and leaders from the Events, Sales, Food & Beverage, and Human Resources departments regarding what it's like to work in hotels/resorts and what career paths might be available.

Thank you so much to our CFHLA member properties, [JW Marriott & The Ritz Carlton Orlando Grande Lakes](#), [Sheraton Vistana Resort](#), [Orlando World Center Marriott](#), & [Marriott Village Orlando](#), for sharing your knowledge, experience and career advice with these students! We are so excited about our newly formatted meet and greets and we hope to gain even more participation from our lodging members moving forward.



---

## **PARTNERS IN ACTION - LANDFORM OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

On Friday, January 20th, CFHLA VIP Member, [Landform of Central Florida, Inc.](#), provided their Adopt-A-School partner, [Ivey Lane Elementary School](#)

with the motto, when in doubt, eat popcorn.

The team at Landform popped up popcorn for over 160 kids, proving that they were the 'pop-stars' of the day!

**Thank you Landform of Central Florida, Inc. for your continued support with our educational partners.**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
JANUARY MEMBERS OF THE MONTH**



**Glen Vlastic**

[Wyndham Orlando Resort & Conference Center Celebration](#)



**Kyle Salinsky**

[Minuteman Press](#)

---

## MEET THE VIP

Did You Know...that [Clean Tec Outsourcing](#) offers several services to the hospitality industry? Their staffing division can find and allocate the best talent for the different departments in your hotel with our recruiting procedures and best practices. Also, their Kitchen Cleaning Division is the best solution for keeping your restaurants clean with Deep Cleanings that deliver splendid quick results, which, combined with their regular overnight cleaning schedule, will keep your kitchen ready.



---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on upcoming events, or to register, just click on the links below.

- New Member Orientation (2/1/2023)
- Membership Committee Meeting (2/8/2023)
- CFHLA Security and Safety Council - Meet the Chief (2/15/2023)
- STR Breakfast - Allied Members (2/23/2023)
- STR Breakfast - Lodging Members (2/23/2023)
- 2023 Golden Pineapple Awards - Allied Registration (3/2/2023)
- 2023 Golden Pineapple Awards - Lodging Registration (3/2/2023)

---

## JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

---



[www.stsi-fla.com](http://www.stsi-fla.com) | 407.682.9881

Your local mechanical, building automation and controls experts.  
HVAC | Mechanical Contracting | Controls | Design | Retro-fit



[www.stsi-fla.com](http://www.stsi-fla.com)  
#whereservicemeansbusiness  
407.840.3234

**HVAC**

Proudly serving Central Florida Hospitality Industry for 20+ years

**We can't wait to hear from you!**

---

CONNECT WITH CFHLA



[WWW.CFHLA.ORG](http://WWW.CFHLA.ORG)

## About CFHLA

6675 Westwood Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32821

The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.