



February 17, 2023

CFHLA PRESIDENT & CEO CELEBRATES TWO YEARS WITH THE ASSOCIATION



This week, CFHLA celebrated our President & CEO Robert Agrusa's second work anniversary with the Association! In just two short years under Robert's leadership, CFHLA has continued to become an influential and collaborative partner with the hospitality & tourism industry, as the Largest Regional Hospitality Association in the United States! Thank you, Robert, for your dedication to our organization and for strategically helping to lead the Central Florida hospitality industry into the future!

OSCEOLA COUNTY GENERAL MANAGERS LUNCHEON



On **Thursday, February 16th**, the **Osceola County General Managers** held their first luncheon of the year at **Experience Kissimmee's** office (Thank you **DT Minich** and **Misty Johantgen**).

Thank you to DT and the team at Experience Kissimmee, for providing our hoteliers with an in-depth update on the organization and their tourism marketing efforts on behalf of Osceola County.

CFHLA would also like to thank **Spinout Guest Laundries** for serving as the 2023 meeting sponsor!



MEMBERS MEET WITH ORLANDO POLICE CHIEF



On **Wednesday, February 15th**, the **CFHLA Security & Safety Council** held a "Meet the Chief," event with **Orlando Police Chief Eric Smith**.

Thank you Chief Smith for your leadership and for partnering with the tourism and hospitality industry, in order to keep our community and visitors safe!

Lastly, we'd like to thank **The Mall at Millenia** for graciously hosting this important meeting.

SECURITY & SAFETY COUNCIL SERVICE AWARD



Mark Cartotto, CFHLA Security & Safety Council Chair, Caribe Royale Orlando; Felicia Hope, Sheraton Vistana Villages; Robert Agrusa, CFHLA President & CEO.

This week, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association was proud to award Felicia Hope, a one-and-a-half-year **Sheraton Vistana Villages** Safety and Security Department member, with the first CFHLA Security & Safety Council Service Award of 2023.

Last November, Felicia responded to one of the resort's villas where she encountered an unconscious female being administered CPR.

Recognizing the urgency, she immediately began to activate the AED, assisted by another member of the resort's team who had arrived on the scene. The AED analyzed and announced that a shock was needed; without hesitation, Felicia told everyone to stand clear and took control of the situation.

Shortly after that, the Orange County Fire Department arrived and began to assess the guest. The paramedics determined that she had a weak pulse due to Felicia's quick response and action. The guest was then transported to the Emergency Room for additional treatment.

Thank you, Felicia, for your quick response and keep up the excellent

work! We are very grateful for your leadership at the resort by keeping its guest/owner(s) and fellow associates safe and well! Congratulations!

OCPS HIGH SCHOOL HOSPITALITY SITE VISITS

On **Thursday, February 16th**, students from seven **Orange County Public Schools** took part in coordinated site visits to six **CFHLA Vacation Ownership properties**.

In addition to touring the resorts and learning about the industry, students had the opportunity to learn about the many different departments that comprise a successful property and hear from industry professionals.

Thank you to our Members, **Cypress Point Resort**, **Hilton Grand Vacations Club SeaWorld**, **Holiday Inn Club Vacations - Orange Lake Resort**, **Westgate Vacation Villas**, **Grand Beach Resort** and **Hilton Grand Vacations Tuscany Village** for hosting these informative visits.

Participating schools included, **Oakridge High School**, **Orange Technical College South**, **Horizon High School**, **Windermere High School**, **Olympia High School**, **Freedom High School** and **Colonial High School**.

If you are interested in hosting a school site visit in the future, please contact Melanie Anesh at melanie.anesh@cfhla.org.



[Click Here to View Photos from the Site Visits](#)

APPLY TODAY FOR CFHLA'S STUDENT AND FAMILY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIPS

The CFHLA Foundation is still accepting applications for the **2023 Hospitality Student and Family Member Scholarships**.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying, **please click on the flyers below or scan the QR codes for additional information**.

Also, be sure to share these opportunities with your team by downloading the flyers (using the links below) and posting them at your property and/or business.

FAMILY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP FLYER

FAMILY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP FLYER (SPANISH)

HOSPITALITY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FLYER



HOSPITALITY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS APPLY NOW!



Since 2000, the CFHLA Foundation has awarded more than \$1 Million in Hospitality Student Scholarships.

SCAN QR Code to get your application started today!

**APPLICATIONS DUE BY
MARCH 5, 2023**



CFHLA Foundation Mission Statement:

To enrich an environment where the hospitality community in Central Florida can grow and thrive.

For more information, please contact 407-313-5022 or CFHLAFoundation@cfhla.org

Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association | 6675 Westwood Blvd., Suite 210 | Orlando, FL 32821
www.cfhla.org | 407-313-5000



FAMILY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLY NOW!



The Student must be an immediate family member (spouse, sibling, or dependent child) of a "full-time" / hourly / non-management employee at a CFHLA Allied or Lodging Member Company and currently enrolled/accepted to an accredited college in the U.S. at the time of scholarship disbursement.

[SCAN QR Code to get your application started today!](#)

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HYATT HOUSE ORLANDO AIRPORT HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING

Congratulations to CFHLA Member **Hyatt House Orlando Airport**, on their awesome grand opening and official ribbon cutting this week! With 156 guest rooms and over 2,200 square feet of event space, the Hyatt House Orlando Airport is the newest property to join the Central Florida lodging portfolio. On behalf of CFHLA, we wish all the best to **General Manager and CFHLA Board Member Ally Martin, Director of Sales Vanessa**

Faberlle, McKibbon Hospitality and the entire Hyatt House team on this wonderful milestone and a fantastic addition to the airport area hotels!



Jerry L. Demings, Orange County Mayor; Ally Martin, Hyatt House Orlando Airport General Manager and CFHLA Board Member; Vanessa Faberlle,

Hyatt House Orlando Airport Director of Sales; Robert Agrusa, President & CEO, Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association.

UCF ROSEN COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT HALL OF FAME

UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management will honor its **2023 UCF Rosen College Hospitality Hall of Fame** honorees at an Induction Ceremony, next **Thursday, February 23rd** beginning at 6pm.

The 2023 honorees being inducted into the Hospitality Hall of Fame are **CFHLA Board of Directors Secretary, Barbara Bowden, Area Managing Director for Loews Hotels Universal Orlando** and **John Sprouls, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for Universal Parks and Resorts**. Being honored posthumously for 2023 is Ron Logan, a former Associate Professor for Rosen College whose legacy lives on in our students.

For additional information, and to RSVP to the event, please [CLICK HERE](#).



GREATER ORLANDO SPORTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMEBRS

The **Greater Orlando Sports Commission (GO Sports)** has announced its 2022-23 officers as well as the 21 incoming members to its Executive and Advisory Board of Directors.

Congratulations to **CFHLA Board Member, R.P. Rama**, President of

Sarona Hotels, Investments & Holdings, who was among the new incoming members appointed to the Advisory Board. New incoming members will serve as the team that will help continue to collaborate and bring innovative ideas and leadership to the Greater Orlando Sports Commission.

Thank you to all of the CFHLA Members who are currently serving on the Executive and Advisory Boards for GO Sports. Your commitment to the advancing sports tourism throughout the region is much appreciated!



CFHLA IS HIRING

The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association **currently has an opening for a new Events Coordinator.**

The CFHLA Events Coordinator will serve as a support for both the Senior Vice President of Membership and Industry Relations, as well as the Senior Director of Events. This position is an integral member of the team, who will collaborate with two departments and will focus on all event planning initiatives that support and advance CFHLA's mission and goals.

CLICK HERE to read the full job description and apply. Deadline for applications is **Monday, February 20, 2023.**



MARCH MADNESS IS COMING TO THE AMWAY CENTER!

Experience **NCAA March Madness** in Orlando on **March 16th and 18th** at the Amway Center!

Single session tickets are **now on sale**, starting at just \$45!

Event Week Schedule:

Wednesday, March 15 - Open Practice day (free to the public)

Thursday, March 16 - First Round Game Day (4 games in 2 sessions)

Saturday, March 18 - Second Round Game Day (2 games in 1 session)

Get ready, it's almost time for the Big Dance!



PARTNERS IN ACTION - HILTON ORLANDO

The team at the **Hilton Orlando** recently showed off their confectionary skills with students from their Adopt-A-School partner, **Palm Lake Elementary**, by decorating cookies for Valentine's Day.

Thank you to the team at the Hilton Orlando for supporting the CFHLA Adopt-A-School program!



Chris Mueller, General Manager of the Hilton Orlando and James Weis, Principal of Palm Lake Elementary School.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
FEBRUARY MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Laetitia Perkins
Holiday Inn Orlando
International Airport



Steve Vinciguerra
SeaWorld Orlando

MEET THE VIP

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [CFHLA Diversity Committee Meeting \(2/20/2023\)](#)
- [St. Patrick's Day Golf Open Committee Meeting \(2/21/2023\)](#)
- [2023 GIVES Auction \(2/22/2023 to 3/1/2023\)](#)
- [STR Breakfast - Allied & Community 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 \(3/2/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Adopt A School & CARES Committee Meeting \(3/7/2023\)](#)
- [2023 Local Online Auction \(3/8/2023 to 3/15/2023\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Breakfast March \(3/14/2023\)](#)
- [2023 St. Patrick's Day Golf Open - Lodging Registration \(3/17/2023\)](#)
- [2023 Hob Nob - Allied Registration \(5/17/2023\)](#)
- [2023 Hob Nob - Lodging Registration \(5/17/2023\)](#)

[Click Here to View Upcoming CFHLA Meetings & Events](#)

JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)



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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.