



July 21, 2023

Thank You! CFHLA CARES Drive Collects More than 2,365 Items



Over the past week, the CFHLA Foundation hosted its second **CFHLA CARES Drive** of the year.

Specifically, this collection drive focused on professional attire including dresses, suits, shoes, ties, belts and other accessories, with all of the items going to support students in need throughout Orange and Osceola counties.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our amazing members and hospitality partners, **CFHLA collected over 2,365 items**, that were ultimately distributed to each of the counties today!

**Thank You truly for your generous donations and for supporting the students, that will benefit from this CFHLA CARES Professional Attire Collection Drive!**

[View the CFHLA CARES Collection Drive Photo Album](#)





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## Reinvesting in Tourism Through TDT is the Right Thing To Do | Commentary by Roger Dow, Past President and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association



After nearly four months of meetings, presentations, and public comment from all interested parties, including several CFHLA Community Partners, the [Orange County Tourist Development Tax Citizen Advisory Task Force](#) has now concluded its work this week.

In response, Roger Dow, past president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association, shared his observations with the Orlando Sentinel regarding the conversation around TDT and why protecting the current usage for TDT is essential to the future success of Orange County.

We invite you to read this timely and important editorial from Mr. Dow by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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## Patriot Day Remembrance Breakfast

[Tickets are now available](#) for the 2023 **Patriot Day Remembrance Breakfast**, which be held on **Friday, September 8** at the [DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld](#) (**Thank You Joe Cardone, General Manager**).

This remembrance breakfast solemnly observes the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and honors our regional heroes in law enforcement, EMS, Fire Rescue and Hospitality Security personnel who have gone above and beyond in the line of duty.

Also, nominations are now being accepted to recognize these incredible Hospitality Professionals for their heroic and lifesaving efforts.

[Nominate a  
Hospitality  
Professional](#)



# PATRIOT DAY REMEMBRANCE BREAKFAST

A community breakfast to remember and honor American Heroes.

**Friday, September 8, 2023 | 8:00am – 9:30am**

DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld  
10100 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32821

**This community breakfast will include a remembrance of the victims of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and awards distribution to local First Responders and Hospitality Security for "Above and Beyond" service in the line of duty.**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$50 / PERSON OR \$400 / TABLE OF 8**  
*Consider donating a ticket for a local first responder.*

**For more information and to register, please visit:**  
**[WWW.CFHLA.ORG/PATRIOT-DAY-REMEMBRANCE](http://WWW.CFHLA.ORG/PATRIOT-DAY-REMEMBRANCE)**

Presenting Sponsor:



AV Partner:



**For questions, please contact Kim Gordon at [kim.gordon@cfhla.org](mailto:kim.gordon@cfhla.org) or 407-313-5040.**

Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association | 6675 Westwood Blvd., Suite 210, Orlando, FL 32821  
[www.cfhla.org](http://www.cfhla.org) | 407-313-5000

**Vacation Ownership Council Meeting**



The **CFHLA Vacation Ownership Council** held their July meeting on **Thursday, July 20** at the [Sheraton Vistana Resort](#) (Thank You **Jodie Guttrich & Jaret Della Porta**).

The meeting featured a presentation by **Robert Leavitt**, Market Research & Insights Sr. Analyst at [Visit Orlando](#). Robert shared industry findings with the council, including a 2022 end-of-year recap, the current state of the industry, and forecasts through 2024.

Thank you again Robert and to our partner Visit Orlando, for this valuable insight!

We would also like to thank our Vacation Ownership Council meeting sponsor, [Sunbrite Outdoor Furniture](#) for their support throughout the year!





## Engineers' Council Scholarship, Deadline is August 2

The **CFHLA Engineers Council** is still accepting applications for the second round of the **2023 Valencia College Scholarships – [Residential Maintenance Technician program](#)**. This accelerated program focuses on bringing cutting-edge technology and hands-on concepts into the classroom to benefit all levels; from experienced professionals to people who are brand new to the field.

In the end, a **Residential Maintenance Technician** will allow them to gain significant experience and technical knowledge to be a jack-of-all-trades in the following areas:

- Appliance Repair
- Plumbing
- Carpentry
- Electrical
- Pool/Spa Operations
- AC Refrigerants
- Preventative Maintenance
- HVAC
- Employability Skills
- Customer Service
- Financial Literacy

This next course will run from **October 2 - December 12** and the **deadline to apply is August 2.**

In order to apply, applicants must be employed by a CFHLA Member

Property for a minimum of 6 months, and the scholarship recipients will receive a **one-time Scholarship of \$5,300** payable directly to [Valencia College](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the scholarship application and apply today!



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## Visit Orlando's Magical Dining Returns for an 18th Year!

Foodies rejoice!

The chefs are ready and the tables are set. You are invited to experience Orlando's acclaimed culinary scene during [Visit Orlando's Magical Dining](#), celebrating its 18th year from August 18 through October 1.

Enjoy three-course, prix-fixe dinners at many of Orlando's most popular restaurants — including MICHELIN Guide honorees — with tiered pricing set at just \$40 or \$60 per person plus tax and gratuity.

Up to \$2 from every meal will benefit local nonprofits, including our Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association Member and partner, [The Lifeboat Project, Inc.](#)

Congratulations again to The Lifeboat Project, Inc. and we hope that you'll consider supporting this cause this year!





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## Steinmetz Hall Recognized as One of the 11 Most Beautiful Theatres in the World

Congratulations to CFHLA Member and partner, the [Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts](#), for [Steinmetz Hall](#) being recognized by Architectural Digest, as **one of the 11 most beautiful theaters in the world!** Out of the 11 theaters, only three are located within the United States.

From concert halls to opera houses to theaters, each was selected as a model of unique design, creative innovation and remarkable appearance. Steinmetz Hall was highlighted as one of the world's most acoustically-advanced theaters and praised for its multiform capabilities to transform shape, seating and sound to accommodate multiple types of performances.

Congratulations again on this prestigious honor!



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## The Grove Resort and Water Park Welcomes Charles Kingston, Jr. as New General Manager

CFHLA would like to welcome **Charles Kingston, Jr.** as the new General Manager for [The Grove Resort and Water Park](#)!

Charles brings more than 25 years of experience to The Grove Resort and Water Park, having held numerous leadership roles within our CFHLA Member resorts and convention hotels like the [Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin](#), [Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate](#), the [Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort at Bonnet Creek](#), and the Wyndham Grand Resort in Rio Mar Puerto Rico.

Most recently, he served as Regional Vice President and Operations with Wyndham Hotels and Resorts, focusing on the company's upscale and lifestyle brands.

Charles is also a Certified Sommelier by the Court of Master Sommeliers and has a Six Sigma Green Belt Certification. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont.

Congratulations again on your new role, Charles!

Welcome

CHARLES  
KINGSTON, JR.

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CFHLA welcomes  
Charles Kingston, Jr.,  
in his new role as  
General Manager,  
The Grove Resort and  
Water Park.

CFHLA  
Central Florida  
Hotel & Lodging Association

## CFHLA'S "HEART OF HOSPITALITY" INITIATIVE

The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association would like to congratulate this week's **"Heart of Hospitality"** professionals!

If you have been following us on our social media channels, CFHLA has been sharing the stories of our incredibly diverse hospitality professionals who are truly the "Heart of Hospitality," throughout the summer. Each industry professional has also been recognized and highlighted on the [CFHLA WEBSITE](#).

[Click here to learn more](#) about the recognition series and please help us share their amazing stories!



Seth Bradshaw

JW Marriot Orlando, Grande Lakes



Erin Arpke

Avanti International Resort



Wilbert Alleyne

Hilton Orlando

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



**Lori Lo Duca**

[Cypress Pointe Resort](#)



**Emily Smith**

[BELFOR Property Restoration](#)

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## MEET THE SILVER

**Did You Know...** [Staff Pro Workforce Solutions \(Staff Pro\)](#), has been the only staffing company to officially earn ClearlyRated's Diamond Award for Best of Staffing Client Satisfaction from 2017 -2022? Now you know, so don't stop there – give us a call! Allow Staff Pro to help with any of your staffing, outsourcing, janitorial and/or project needs.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [CFHLA Board of Directors Meeting and VIP Member Reception \(7/26/2023\)](#)
- [Diversity Committee Meeting \(8/1/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA PAC/PC Board of Directors Meeting \(8/2/2023\)](#)
- [Engineers Council Board Meeting \(8/3/2023\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(8/8/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting \(8/8/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Wednesday Morning Leads Group \(8/9/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(8/9/2023\)](#)
- [Security & Safety Council Meeting \(8/10/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Foundation Board Meeting \(8/22/2023\)](#)

- [Governmental Affairs Meeting \(8/23/2023\)](#)
- [2023 HR Seminar #2 \(8/29/2023\)](#)
- [2023 HEAT Tradeshow \(8/29/2023\)](#)

[Click Here to View  
Upcoming](#)

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## JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

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## CONNECT WITH CFHLA



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

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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.