



August 11, 2023

## Pineapples for Education Reception



This week, members of CFHLA and the [Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association](#) (FRLA) joined forces to kick off the new school year with the first-ever **Pineapples for Education** reception.

The evening highlighted a new partnership between CFHLA and FRLA, which focused on building workforce development initiatives and collaborating to enhance our outreach within our local high schools. After hearing from **Robert Agrusa**, President / CEO of CFHLA, and **Carol Dover**, President / CEO of FRLA, attendees learned more about the certifications and additional training that are available through the [National Restaurant](#)

[Association](#) and [AHLEI](#) to support students and current hospitality professionals who are passionate about improving their skills and growing their careers.

Thank you to all of our members who joined us for this exciting evening! We also appreciate each of our members who have dedicated their time and resources to **CFHLA's Adopt-A-School and High School Outreach Programs** throughout the 2022-2023 school year. We look forward to another successful year of positively impacting the students throughout Central Florida!



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## CareerSource of Central Florida Host Workshops

This week, our partner [CareerSource of Central Florida](#) (CSCF) hosted several workshops to discuss career readiness for key industries, such as hospitality, within our region.

**CFHLA**, [Orange County Public Schools](#), and other local hospitality stakeholders were invited to participate in a discussion about the essential skills needed for students interested in pursuing careers in Central Florida's hospitality and tourism industry.

Thank you, CSCF, for your commitment to our students and future workforce, and we look forward to strengthening our partnership moving forward!



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**Reserve Your Spot Today to Attend Our Upcoming  
Patriot Day Remembrance Breakfast**



# 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



**Mistress of Ceremonies**  
Nancy Alvarez  
Anchor, WESH 2 News



**Keynote Speaker**  
Jimmy Brown  
Retired FDNY & NYPD  
9/11 First Responder at the World Trade Center



**Honorary Chair**  
Dennis Lemma  
Sheriff  
Seminole County

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:



PLATINUM CHANNEL PARTNER

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

**I-Drive / Lake Buena Vista General Managers Reception**



On **Wednesday, August 9**, the **I-Drive/Lake Buena Vista General Managers** held their quarterly meeting and reception at the [Holiday Inn & Suites Orlando International Drive South](#) (Thank you **Zury Cohen, General Manger** and **Shawn Townsend, Director of Sales**).

A special thanks to **Mike Wacht**, Community Outreach Specialist for the [I-4 Beyond the Ultimate](#), who updated our members on the Sand Lake interchange and Darryl Carter Parkway construction for the I-4 ultimate project.

Both projects are in the center of the tourist district and will soon affect travel in and around the area. The reconstruction of the Daryl Carter Parkway overpass into a DDI has now begun. The existing overpass, which spans I-4 between Central Florida Parkway and S.R. 535, will be converted into a partial interchange with three new ramps: exit ramps from eastbound and westbound I-4 and an entrance ramp to eastbound I-4.

The Sand Lake Road interchange will also be reconfigured as a DDI starting in 2023, with additional capacity improvements to ease congestion at Turkey Lake Road. The Daryl Carter Parkway and Sand Lake Road interchange projects will include the construction of two segments of a new buffer-delineated managed lane on I-4, with the third and final segment coming as part of a future project.



CFHLA would also like to thank our 2023 I-Drive/Lake Buena Vista General Managers meeting sponsor, CFHLA Member [Prasidio Insurance](#), for their continued support!



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**Orange Lake Resort Holds Groundbreaking for its Latest Expansion**



Congratulations to our CFHLA Member [Holiday Inn Club Vacations at Orange Lake Resort](#) on this week's momentous groundbreaking of their latest expansion at its flagship property, **The Residences at Orange Lake Resort!**

Built with multi-generational travelers in mind, The Residences will positively change the vacation ownership landscape and feature first-of-its-kind luxurious six-bedroom vacation homes that total 5,575 square feet in size and comfortably sleep 20 guests, with each home offering its own private pool.

The first phase of The Residences is expected to open in December 2024.

We can't wait for our future guests to experience The Residences next year!



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**Adopt-A-School Partnership, Staybridge Suites Orlando  
Royale Parc Suites**

CFHLA Board Member, **Wade Michael**, General Manager of the [Staybridge Suites Orlando Royale Parc Suites](#) was recently joined by Maria Cuevas, Partners in Education Coordinator, and Dr. Millie Torres, Principal, at the Staybridge Suites' Adopt A School Partner, [Deerwood Elementary School](#), as the lodging property was proud to donate hot dogs and hamburgers for the teachers and staff Welcome Back to School BBQ.

**Thank you to the team at the Staybridge Suites Orlando Royale Parc Suites for your continued support of Central Florida education and the CFHLA Adopt-A-School program.**

For more information or to register to be a 2023-24 Adopt-A-School, Partner, please contact Melanie Anesh at [melanie.anesh@cfhla.org](mailto:melanie.anesh@cfhla.org).



## CFHLA Heart of Hospitality

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

If you haven't been following us on our social media channels this summer, you should! We've been sharing the stories of our incredibly diverse hospitality professionals who are truly the "Heart of Hospitality" throughout Central Florida. 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! Do you know someone that is the "Heart of Hospitality" and should have their story shared? If so, please email us at [communications@cfhla.org](mailto:communications@cfhla.org).



[George Saxon](#)  
[Holiday Inn Orlando](#)  
[International Airport](#)



[Brenda McGhee](#)  
[DoubleTree by Hilton at the](#)  
[Entrance to Universal Orlando](#)



[Shelton Gordon](#)  
[Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area](#)

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



**Ally Martin**

[Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#)



**Anna Territo**

[Territo Electric, Inc.](#)

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## MEET THE SILVER

**Did You Know...** [Yellowstone Landscape](#) is the largest privately owned landscape maintenance company in the United States. We specialize in landscape maintenance, irrigation maintenance, landscape design, and landscape fertilization/pest control. With over 20 years of experience, we proudly partner with several resorts and hotels in Central Florida and strive to deliver high-quality work to all our properties.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [UCF Hoteliers Luncheon \(8/15/2023\)](#)
- [Halloween Golf Open Committee Meeting \(8/15/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Airport Area Hoteliers Luncheon \(8/16/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Osceola County General Managers Luncheon \(8/17/2023\)](#)
- [Patriot Day Committee Meeting \(8/21/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Foundation Board Meeting \(8/22/2023\)](#)
- [ARC Bowling Bash \(8/22/2023\)](#)
- [HEAT Tradeshow Vendor Set Up \(8/28/2023\)](#)

- [HEAT Tradeshow \(8/29/2023\)](#)
- [HR Seminar Series #2 \(8/29/2023\)](#)
- [Resilient Leadership for Hospitality Professionals \(8/29/2023\)](#)
- [Engineers Council Board Meeting \(9/7/2023\)](#)
- [Patriot Day Remembrance Breakfast \(9/8/2023\)](#)

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

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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



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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.