



September 15, 2023

CFHLA Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month



CFHLA is proud to continue celebrating the cultural diversity of the hospitality industry and our entire Central Florida community. Today marks the beginning of **National Hispanic Heritage Month** (September 15 - October 15), which celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

We have many hospitality professionals of Hispanic descent throughout Central Florida, embodying the true spirit of hospitality daily as they show up for their guests, team members, and community each and every day.

International Housekeepers Week



This week is **International Housekeepers Week!**

Please join us in recognizing our amazing and hard-working associates from the hospitality industry! Housekeepers: Through & Through We Can Always Depend On You, Housekeepers: You Make Every Moment A Chance to Shine!

Be sure to check out all three of this week's [Heart of Hospitality](#) spotlights, as we highlight some of our incredible Central Florida Housekeepers!

September Allied Relations Council Breakfast



On Tuesday, September 12, CFHLA hosted its **September Allied Relations Council Meeting and Breakfast** at the [Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort](#) (Thank You Colin Mills, General Manager).

With more than 100 members in attendance, attendees enjoyed breakfast and had the opportunity to hear from a panel of Members representing four different Vacation Ownership properties. Attendees also learned about potential upcoming projects at each of these properties, as well as hearing stories about the panelists experiences within the hospitality industry.

The panel, which was moderated by ARC Chair, VIP Member, and CFHLA Board Member Erin Sims of [Landform of Central Florida](#), included **Jaret Della Porta**, General Manager, [Marriott's Harbour Lake Resort](#); **Sagine Delly**, General Manager, [Grand Beach Resort](#); **Sonja Giselbrecht**, General Manager, [Bluegreen Vacations - The Fountains Resort](#); and **Ray Miller**, General Manager, [Las Palmeras by Hilton Grand Vacations](#).

CFHLA would also like to thank [AV Media](#) for providing their services for the meeting, as well as our 2023 Allied Relations Council Breakfast Sponsor, [Wealth Management Strategies of Central Florida/Equitable Advisors](#), for supporting "Members Doing Business With Members!"



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[Click to View Photos](#)
[From the Allied Relations Council](#)
[September Breakfast](#)

Patriot Day Remembrance Breakfast Photos



Thank you to the more than 500 attendees, including 180 first responders from across the Central Florida region, who joined us in support our Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association **Patriot Day Remembrance Breakfast** last Friday.

This breakfast, sponsored again by [Radio One](#), honored the memories of those who were lost or affected due to the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and recognized the heroism of our local police, EMS, and fire rescue, as well as hospitality security personnel for their service and actions above and beyond in the line of duty.

[Click to View Photos
From the Patriot Day
Remembrance Breakfast](#)

Thank You to All Our Adopt-A-Station Participants



Thank you to the more than 60 Members and community partners who participated in the **Adopt-A-Station initiative**, as part of our 2023 Patriot Day Remembrance Breakfast, last week.

Each year, in honor of Patriot Day, CFHLA has encouraged our Members to Adopt-A-Fire or Police Station in their neighborhood, honoring our local first responders, by donating meals to different stations.

To view photos of our Member's generosity, please [CLICK HERE](#), while a video by [Orange TV](#) of the Patriot Day Remembrance Day Breakfast, can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

Did the Cameras of the Daily Bugle Catch You at HEAT?

THE HEAT COMIC UNIVERSE

We had so much fun at our **HEAT Tradeshow** and **Ultimate Chef Competition**, we just had to share the excitement.

Just click on the link below to see our recap video!

Thanks again to everyone who participated and for those who did not, we just have to ask, why not?



Vacation Ownership Council Meeting



Also this week, the CFHLA Vacation Ownership Council held their most recent meeting at the [Westgate Vacation Villas Resort](#) (Thank You, **Stacey Herndon**).

This council meeting featured an update by Sarah Conroy, Senior Director, Marketing & Communications at [American Resort Development Association \(ARDA\)](#).

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



NBA G League Bringing Winter Showcase to Orlando

The **NBA G League**, in partnership with the [Greater Orlando Sports Commission](#), announced yesterday that the NBA G League Winter Showcase will be held at the [Orange County Convention Center](#) over the next four years.

The showcase had previously been held in Las Vegas and this another great example of high-profile events like this that **will continue to make a significant and positive economic impact on our local economy.**

Taking place December 19-22 at the [Hyatt Regency Orlando](#) and

the [Orange County Convention Center](#), the event is the premier in-season scouting opportunity.

"We are so proud to partner with the NBA, in collaboration with our partners here in Orlando at the [Orange County Convention Center](#), [Visit Orlando](#), [Orange County](#) and our hotel partners, as we prepare to host the NBA G League Winter Showcase for the next four years," said Jason Siegel, President & CEO of the [Greater Orlando Sports Commission](#). "We are confident that the players, administrators, coaches and NBA executives will have an incredibly positive experience while they are visiting our community."

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



All Aboard! Brightline Service To/From Orlando Takes to the Track Beginning September 22

Ready to OrlanGO?

The [Brightline](#) Orlando Station will officially open next **Friday, September 22**, connecting South Florida and Orlando with high speed rail for the first time ever.

Brightline, the only provider of modern, eco-friendly, intercity rail in America, today announced that service to and from Orlando International Airport will connect Orlando and South Florida (Miami, Aventura, Fort Lauderdale, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach). [FOR MORE DETAILS](#).



Business United Summit

Partnering with local nonprofit organizations is always a win for the community, and it can also be a big win for your business.

[Heart of Florida United Way \(HFUW\)](#), a local nonprofit organization that stands up for the basic needs, education, financial stability, and health of every person in Central Florida, has created Central Florida's first-ever Business United Summit for local business leaders, like you, to learn how engaging with their community can boost their business strategy.

The Business United Summit will take place on Wednesday, September 27, and will be hosted by facilitator and creative catalyst Bob Kodzis, with breakout sessions led by Central Florida business leaders — all of whom will share insights and strategies that will rock your business model.

Tickets for the event are available [HERE](#).



CFHLA Heart of Hospitality

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

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.



[Sandra Hill](#)
[Embassy Suites by Hilton](#)
[Orlando Downtown](#)



[Brenda Figueroa Mejias](#)
[JW Marriott Orlando](#)
[Bonnet Creek Resort & Spa](#)



[Olga Mendez](#)
[Walt Disney World Swan Reserve](#)

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



Joseph Delgado
[Celeste Hotel Orlando,](#)
[a Tribute Portfolio Hotel](#)



Camila Kerver
[Helpro Cleaning Services](#)

MEET THE SILVER

Did You Know... Since 2001, [Safe Step](#) has become an industry leader in hotel bathroom refinishing due to our commitment to safety, customer satisfaction, and always doing what's right.

- Safe Step is the preferred vendor for major hotel companies like Hilton Worldwide, Marriot, Best Western, and IHG?
- Safe Step is proud to use low volatile organic compound (Low VOC) paint at all job sites? Low VOC is environmentally friendly and doesn't produce as much harmful gas as traditional paint.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [Governmental Affairs Meeting \(9/20/2023\)](#)
- [Hospitality Gala Committee Meeting \(9/20/2023\)](#)

- [Security & Safety Council Active Assailant Training \(9/21/2023\)](#)
- [Employee Relations Committee Meeting \(9/21/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Board of Directors Retreat \(9/27/2023\)](#)
- [September After Hours Networking Reception \(9/27/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA PAC/PC Meeting \(9/28/2023\)](#)
- [Engineers Council Board Meeting \(10/5/2023\)](#)

[Click Here to View
Upcoming](#)

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.