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## **CFHLA HONORS 2023 MEMBERS OF THE YEAR AND CHARLES ANDREWS MEMORIAL HOSPITALITY AWARD RECIPIENT**

ORLANDO, Fla (December 19, 2023) – The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association held its annual Hospitality Gala on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld.

In total, nearly 1,100 members, elected officials and community leaders were in attendance for this year-end celebration which recognizes the Association's award winners including, the Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award, Lodging Member of the Year, Allied Member of the Year, and Engineer of the Year.

This year's Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award recipient was presented to **Carolyn Fennell**, former Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Community Relations at the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) for the past four decades. This award is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by CFHLA, as the award is named after the first CFHLA Board of Directors Chairperson, Charles Andrews. Ms. Fennell was the first woman to receive this recognition from CFHLA and the award recognized her achievements and contributions to Central Florida's Hospitality Industry, as well as the community at-large.



CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa, 2023 CFHLA Board Chair Anthony Lazzara, former Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Community Relations at the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) Carolyn Fennell, and 2024 Incoming CFHLA Board Chairwoman Barb Bowden

CFHLA would like to thank Ms. Fennell for being a passionate champion of the tourism and hospitality industry, as well as understanding the importance of creating a positive first impression and a memorable experience at the airport. Ms. Fennell also played a crucial role in creating a people-focused and culturally rich environment at the airport. Her efforts to showcase the local arts community and infuse the region's culture into the airport, not only contributed to the positive and unique traveler experience, but it also aligned with the broader goal of positioning Central Florida as a premier tourist destination in the country.

Furthermore, CFHLA would also like to offer our congratulations to the 2023 Lodging, Allied, and Engineer of the Year honorees who were also recognized at the CFHLA Hospitality Gala.

The 2023 CFHLA Lodging Member of the Year Award was presented to **John McCracken**, former General Manager of the Marriott Village Orlando.



CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa, 2023 CFHLA Board Chair Anthony Lazzara, former General Manager of the Marriott Village Orlando John McCracken, and 2024 Incoming CFHLA Board Chairwoman Barb Bowden

The 2023 CFHLA Allied Member of the Year Award was presented to **Beatriz Dominguez**, Vice President and Public Relations of Clean Tec Services.



CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa, 2023 CFHLA Board Chair Anthony Lazzara, Vice President and Public Relations Clean Tec Services Beatriz Dominguez, and 2024 Incoming CFHLA Board Chairwoman Barb Bowden

The 2023 CFHLA Engineer of the Year Award was presented to **Scott Jones**, Area Director of Engineering Operations at Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando.



CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa, 2023 CFHLA Board Chair Anthony Lazzara, Area Director of Engineering Operations at Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando Scott Jones, and 2024 Incoming CFHLA Board Chairwoman Barb Bowden

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association's mission is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service. As the largest regional lodging association in the United States, CFHLA represents approximately 80 percent of the more than 129,500 hotel rooms in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties, and more than 500 "supplier" organizations that do business with the hospitality and tourism industries.

For more information on the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, please visit [www.cfhla.org](http://www.cfhla.org).

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