



December 22, 2023

CFHLA Wishes You a Joyous Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association, we'd like to wish all of our members, hospitality workers, community partners and their families a **joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!** We are looking forward to an exciting 2024 and thank you again for your continued support, dedication and commitment to making the Central Florida Hospitality Industry simply amazing!

The CFHLA office will be closed from December 22, 2023 through January 1, 2024, reopening on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.



2023 CFHLA Hospitality Gala



Thank you to the nearly 1,100 members, sponsors and community partners who attended our **2023 CFHLA Hospitality Gala**, presented by [Orlando](#)

[Health](#), this past Saturday, December 16th, at the [Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld](#) (Thank you Kristen Hammac)!

This year, CFHLA celebrated and honored our 2023 award winners including the Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award for Community Leadership, Lodging Member of the Year, Allied Member of the Year, and our Engineer of the Year.

Additionally, the 2024 CFHLA Executive Committee, along with our re-elected and newly elected/appointed 2024 CFHLA Board of Directors were announced. Lastly, 2023 was a momentous year for CFHLA, and we shared this [YEAR-END VIDEO](#) which included our accomplishments throughout the year!

Congratulations again to all of our 2023 honorees including:

2023 Engineer of the Year



Scott Jones

Area Director of Engineering Operations

[Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando](#)

2023 Allied Member of the Year



Beatriz Dominguez
Vice President & Public Relations
[Clean Tec Services](#)

2023 Lodging Member of the Year



John McCracken
Former General Manager

Marriott Village Orlando

**2023 Charles Andres Memorial Hospitality Award for Community
Leadership**



Carolyn Fennell

**Former Senior Vice President of Public Affairs
and Community Relations**

[Greater Orlando Aviation Authority](#)

Furthermore, we'd like to thank you to all of you who donated sneakers for our final **CFHLA Cares Collection Drive** of the year. Thanks to your generous donations, we are proud to announce that we **collected over 500 pairs of shoes** which will be donated to students in need throughout Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties.



Also, congratulations to our **\$4,000 Holiday Cash Raffle Winner, Nabila Altman!** Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket as 100% of the proceeds went to the CFHLA Foundation, which donates to causes that advance Hospitality and Tourism initiatives, youth-related initiatives, and community advocacy.



Lastly, CFHLA would like to thank **Anthony Lazzara** for his strong leadership and forward-thinking while serving as the **2023 Chair of the CFHLA Board of Directors**. We are extremely grateful for his dedication and commitment to the success of the association and we look forward to welcoming our **2024 Board Chair, Barb Bowden, Area Managing Director, [Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando](#)** when she begins her tenure on January 1, 2024.



CFHLA would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2023 Hospitality Gala. This successful event would not have been possible without your generous support!

Presenting Sponsor:

ORLANDO
HEALTH[®]

Bar Sponsor:



Corporate Sponsor:



In-Kind Sponsors:



[Click Here to View More Photos from the Event](#)

2024 First Quarter Sponsorships Available

You are invited to help support CFHLA's Events and Programs through our [2024 Sponsorship Opportunities](#). Here are a few that are still available for the first quarter of 2024. Don't miss out on the opportunity to reach hospitality executives and business leaders from companies across Central Florida, as well as your targeted audience.



The graphic features a gold background with a bokeh effect. At the top left and right are the CFHLA logos, which consist of a pineapple icon above the letters 'CFHLA' and the text 'Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association' below. The main text is centered and reads: '2024 1ST QUARTER SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE:'. Below this, a list of sponsorship opportunities is provided: 'January Back of the House Newsletter - Footer Ad', 'March Executive Committee Meeting', 'Membership Breakfast - ft. STR', 'St. Patrick's Day Golf Open Sponsorships', 'Golden Pineapple Awards Dinner', and 'Online Auction Annual Sponsor'. At the bottom, a bold call to action says 'CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION'.

2024 1ST QUARTER SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE:

- January Back of the House Newsletter - Footer Ad
- March Executive Committee Meeting
- Membership Breakfast - ft. STR
- St. Patrick's Day Golf Open Sponsorships
- Golden Pineapple Awards Dinner
- Online Auction Annual Sponsor

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call for Nominations: UCF Rosen College Hospitality Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni Awards

CFHLA is excited to announce that nominations are now open for the esteemed Central Florida Hospitality Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni Awards. These awards honor distinguished individuals who have made

significant contributions to the hospitality and tourism industry, particularly in the Central Florida region, and have supported the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management through advocacy, philanthropy, and volunteerism.

The deadline to submit nominations is **Monday, January 15, 2024**. The award ceremony is set to take place on Wednesday, March 27th at the UCF Rosen College.

We encourage our members and friends within the Central Florida community to nominate deserving individuals. For detailed criteria, please [CLICK HERE](#) to refer to the nomination form.



Rosen College of Hospitality Management

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Orlando's Amway Center is Now the Kia Center

CFHLA is thrilled to share the groundbreaking news this week that will undoubtedly shape the future of entertainment and community spirit in our vibrant city.

On Wednesday, Orlando's Amway Center has been given a new name, the **Kia Center**.

This facility is a spectacular asset for our Central Florida community and for those who visit our destination.



Partners in Action - Loews Hotel



Thank you to Landy Mitchell from [Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando](#) who recently stopped by their Adopt-A-School partners **Colonial High School** to participate in the Teach In Program and provided the students with promotional items such as pens, bags, etc.



Thank you Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando for your support of the CFHLA Adopt-A-School Program and for helping to make a positive impact within our community!

Partners in Action - Celebration Hotel



CFHLA lodging member Seilly Pacheco of [Celebration Hotel](#) recently had the opportunity to be a guest speaker at their Adopt-A-School partners [Oak Ridge High School](#).

Thank you Celebration Hotel for your support of the CFHLA Adopt-A-School Program and for helping to make a positive impact within our community!

Partners in Action - Hilton Grand Vacations



In spirit of the holiday season, [Hilton Grand Vacations - SeaWorld](#), took the time to make a difference for their Adopt-A-School Partner, [Millennia Gardens Elementary](#).

General Manager and CFHLA Board Member Abed Ereikat spoke with two classes about kindness, respect and about maintaining a positive attitude. He also taught the kids, "if you can dream it, you can achieve it." Then all of the students were handed a stocking with some sweets and it was greatly appreciated. In addition, [Hilton Grand Vacations - SeaWorld](#) extended a helping hand and partnered with The Salvation Army, in order to adopt several Angels which will help provide gifts to children in need during this holiday season.



Thank you Hilton Grand Vacations for your support of the CFHLA Adopt-A-School Program and for helping to make a positive impact within our community!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [Engineers Council Board Meeting \(1/4/2024\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(1/9/2024\)](#)

- [Allied Relations Council Breakfast - January \(1/9/2024\)](#)
- [CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting \(1/9/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday AM Leads Group Meeting \(1/10/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(1/10/2024\)](#)
- [CFHLA Board of Directors Meeting \(1/10/2024\)](#)
- [2024 January After Hours \(1/10/2024\)](#)
- [Security Council Board Meeting \(1/11/2024\)](#)

[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.