



August 2, 2024

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July CFHLA Board of Directors Meeting and VIP Member Reception



Earlier this week, our CFHLA Board of Directors met again for their latest meeting and VIP After Hours Reception at the [Hilton Garden Inn Lake Buena Vista](#). Thank you to **CFHLA Board Member and Area General Manager Les Harris** for your fantastic hospitality!

Some of the CFHLA Board Meeting highlights included welcoming two newly appointed CFHLA Board Members, including **Colin Mills** of [Sheraton Orlando Lake Buena Vista](#) and **Daryl Morris** of [Villatel](#). Additionally, we appreciate the in-depth update on the newest developments that are happening at the Orlando International Airport from **Angela Starke, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs & Community Relations** for the [Greater Orlando Aviation Authority \(GOAA\)](#).

Congratulations again to our new CFHLA Board Members and thank you to **CFHLA Silver Partner Daved McLouth** of [GLE Associates, Inc.](#) for sponsoring this July Board of Directors Meeting!



Immediately following the CFHLA Board of Directors Meeting, CFHLA hosted an After Hours Networking Reception for Members of the Board and the Association's VIP Members. We truly thank each of our 2024 [CFHLA VIP Members](#) for their outstanding and continued support of CFHLA!



[Click Here to View Photos from the Board Meeting & VIP](#)

This week, CFHLA was proud to attend the **State of Seminole County Public Schools** address that was hosted by the Seminole County Chamber. During the address, **Superintendent Serita Beamon** celebrated the district's impressive "A" rating and highlighted the success of the ePathways Program, which offers personalized learning experiences and prepares students for future careers including hospitality.

Superintendent Beamon also emphasized the expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities, which aims to equip students with the skills needed for the evolving job market, ensuring their readiness for college and/or immediately beginning their career.

Thank you Seminole County Public Schools for your partnership with the hospitality industry and we look forward to continuing to work with you to prepare the next generation of workforce leaders throughout the Central Florida region!



Don't Forget to Bid Today in the CFHLA Foundation Online Auction!

As a reminder, the CFHLA Online Auction supporting the CFHLA Councils and the CFHLA Foundation General Fund is **STILL OPEN!** This online auction will close next **Tuesday, August 6th at 9pm**. Click on the flyer below

to place your bids on more than **40 fantastic deals**, with the net proceeds supporting several great community causes.

BID TODAY!

2024 FOUNDATION AUCTION



OPEN NOW!

The CFHLA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, donates to advance Hospitality and Tourism Initiatives, youth-related causes, and community advocacy. This year, the CFHLA Foundation Auction proceeds will be supporting the CFHLA Councils and CFHLA Foundation General Fund.

ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hilton Grand Vacations- Las Vegas, NV
- Loews Hotels @ Universal Orlando Resort
- Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate
- Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center
- Evermore Resort Golf

CLICK HERE TO BID

For more Information contact faith.moore@cfhla.org



Welcome Christopher Akoury, as the New General Manager for the Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek

CFHLA would like to extend a warm welcome to **Christopher Akoury** on his announcement as the new **General Manager** of [Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek](#). With over 20 years of senior experience, Chris brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to this pivotal position, where he will oversee day-to-day operations and spearhead the strategic efforts to drive bookings.

Prior to joining the Hilton Bonnet Creek Complex, Chris served as the General Manager for the AAA 4 Diamond Hilton Short Hills, New Jersey for the past six years. Chris's proven track record in strategic planning, revenue management, and marketing campaigns makes him a valuable addition to the Orlando team. Additionally, his career journey includes senior roles such as Vice President of Operations/Asset Management at Friendwell Group and General Manager positions at Embassy Suites in Parsippany and Piscataway.

We look forward to his leadership at the Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek and welcome to the Central Florida Hospitality Community!



Welcome

CHRISTOPHER
AKOURY

.....

CFHLA welcomes
Christopher Akoury,
General Manager,
Signia by Hilton Orlando
Bonnet Creek,
to the Central Florida
hospitality community!



2024 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday

The 2024 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday is here! From **July 29th to August 11th**, save big on essential school supplies, clothing, and electronics.

This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for families to prepare for the upcoming school year without breaking the bank. Enjoy tax-free shopping on items like notebooks, backpacks, computers, and more. Don't miss out on these incredible savings!

For a complete list of eligible items, please [CLICK HERE](#).

A promotional graphic for the Back to School 2024 Sales Tax Holiday. On the left, there is a photograph of school supplies including a blue backpack, a blue pencil holder with colorful pencils, and several notebooks. The background is a bright green. The CFHLA logo (Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association) is in the top left. The main title 'Back to School 2024 Sales Tax Holiday' is in large, bold, dark blue font. Below it, a dark blue box contains the text 'ITEMS EXEMPT FROM SALES TAX:'. A list of exempt items follows. At the bottom, a dark blue banner shows the dates 'July 29 - August 11, 2024', the website 'floridarevenue.com/BacktoSchool', and the Florida Department of Revenue logo.

**Back to School
2024 Sales Tax
Holiday**

**ITEMS EXEMPT FROM
SALES TAX:**

- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles selling for \$30 or less
- Most school supplies selling for \$50 or less
- Clothing, footwear and accessories selling for \$100 or less
- Computers and related accessories selling for \$1,500 or less (when purchased for non-commercial and personal use)

July 29 - August 11, 2024
Visit floridarevenue.com/BacktoSchool

FLORIDA
Department of Revenue

**CLICK HERE TO
PURCHASE BODY AD**

Hampton Inn & Suites and Hyatt House Orlando Airport Blood Drive

On **Wednesday, August 7th**, the OneBlood Big Red Bus will roll into the [Hampton Inn & Suites](#) and [Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#) from **12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Donors will receive a \$20 eGift card, OneBlood T-shirt, and a Wellness Checkup Kit which includes blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

To make an appointment, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code #35331.



DONATE BLOOD

**Hampton Inn & Suites and
Hyatt House Orlando Airport
Wednesday, August 7
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

All donors will receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **Oneblood Tote Bag**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 35331**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



oneblood
Share your power.

Partners In Action - Daved McLouth & Pete Woodruff



Recently, CFHLA Allied Relations Council Members **Daved McLouth** of [GLE Associates, Inc.](#) and **Pete Woodruff** of [Southeastern Laundry Equipment](#), took the time to visit [Lockhart Middle School](#) and volunteered to assist with the set up of the school before the start of the new school year. While their group was small, they were mighty and completed the new mulching project for the school.



Thank you Daved and Pete for taking the time to make such a positive impact for our local schools!

**Partners In Action - StayBridge Suites Orlando Royale
Parc Suites**

Recently, **CFHLA Board Member Wade Michael** and his team at [StayBridge Suites Orlando Royale Parc Suites](#), treated the faculty and staff at their Adopt-A-School partner, [Deerwood Elementary School](#), to lunch as part of their recent Welcome Back Luncheon.



A huge thank you to Wade and the team at StayBridge Suites Orlando Royale Parc Suites for their unwavering support of their Adopt-A-School Partner!

Thrilling Barcelona vs. Manchester City Match Electrifies Camping World Stadium

The highly anticipated soccer match between Barcelona and Manchester City drew a large crowd of over **63,000 in attendance** at Orlando's [Camping World Stadium](#) earlier this week. This event continued to showcase the region's growing prominence as a top-tier destination for international sports and generated a positive economic impact for our local community.

The match, which was broadcasted to millions worldwide, also served as a powerful promotional tool, enhancing Orlando's global reputation as a premier sports and tourism destination. With fans traveling from across the globe, this event underscores the vital role that sports tourism plays in our local economy, driving revenue, creating jobs, and fostering community pride.

CFHLA will continue to support events such as this marquee match and others, that will bring meaningful economic and quality of life benefits to our Central Florida community!



NFL Pro Bowl Games are Returning to Orlando



This week, the NFL announced the exciting news that the **2025 Pro Bowl Games** will be returning to Orlando again on **February 2, 2025**, to [Camping World Stadium](#).

Last year was the fifth time that Orlando has hosted the NFL Pro Bowl, which attracted more than **55,000 fans in attendance** and another six million viewers tuning into the broadcast across Disney, ESPN, ABC, Disney XD, and digital.

This multi-day AFC vs. NFC event will include the skills challenges, as well as multiple fan experiences all across the Central Florida region that will celebrate the football season while bringing those fans closer to their favorite teams and players.

Congratulations again to our partners at [Florida Citrus Sports](#), Orange County Government, and the City of Orlando on the BIG announcement this week!

NEW TO THE CITY, NOT TO PLANTS.

Elevate your hotel's atmosphere with us.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AUGUST MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Lonnie Williams

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



Stefanie Mizrahi

[Addition Financial](#)

MEET THE SILVER

Staff Pro

Workforce Solutions

Did You Know... [Staff Pro](#), a labor solutions company committed to supporting our partners, employees, and communities, recently participated in several meaningful community initiatives in Florida!

For Teacher Appreciation Week, Staff Pro partnered with CFHLA for the Adopt a School Program, celebrating educators with a pizza party and goodies. They also participated in the [Ronald McDonald House Charities](#) Share-A-Meal program, serving meals to families with hospitalized children. Inspired by a colleague's battle with Parkinson's, they donated \$750 to the [Parkinson's Foundation](#) to support research and improve lives. These efforts are just the beginning, and Staff Pro looks forward to many more opportunities to give back!



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [2024 ARC Bowling Bash \(8/6/2024\)](#)
- [2024 HEAT Tradeshow Exhibitor Orientation \(8/7/2024\)](#)
- [Security Council Board Meeting \(8/8/2024\)](#)
- [Diversity Committee Meeting \(8/12/2024\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(8/13/2024\)](#)
- [CFHLA Airport Area Hoteliers Luncheon \(8/13/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday AM Leads Group Meeting \(8/14/2024\)](#)
- [Governmental Affairs Committee \(8/14/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(8/14/2024\)](#)

[Click Here to View
Upcoming](#)

JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

CONNECT WITH CFHLA



WWW.CFHILA.ORG

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.