



CHAMBER  
of  
COMMERCE  
OF THE PALM BEACHES

# BUSINESS *watch*

October 2019

401 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach | 561-833-3711 | www.palmbeaches.org

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Business Builder

**When:** Thursday, Oct. 10  
8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
**Where:** Chamber Boardroom  
**Cost:** Free

### Business Builder

**When:** Friday, Oct. 25;  
8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
**Where:** Chamber Boardroom  
**Cost:** Free

### Power Networking @ Lunch

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 16;  
11:30 a.m.-1p.m.  
**Where:** Hilton West Palm Beach Airport  
**Cost:** Members \$35 (in advance)  
Non-Members \$50

### YPOP 411

**When:** Thursday, Oct. 17;  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Historical Society of Palm Beach County  
**Cost:** Free for YPOP members  
and \$15 for future YPOP members

### Network for a Cause

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 23;  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** DoubleTree West Palm Beach Airport  
**Cost:** Members \$15 (in advance)  
Non-Members \$30

### Firefighter Breakfast

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 29;  
7:45-9 a.m.  
**Where:** Palm Beach County Convention Center  
**Cost:** Members \$45 (in advance) \$50; Non-members \$55 (in advance), \$60

### Awards Program Host:

Chief Diana Matty, from the City of West Palm Beach Fire Rescue

## CONGRATULATIONS ATHENA LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



From left: Gopal Rajegowda, Related Companies; Noemi Coltea, MDS on Demand; Sarah Alsofrom, GL Homes; Laura Kozelouzek, Quest Workspaces; and Evelyn Hopkins, Chamber Chair. PHOTO BY CAPEHART/

The 28th Annual ATHENA Leadership Awards Luncheon, presented by Related, took place Sept. 20 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches recognized 17 individuals and organizations that have demonstrated extraordinary levels of leadership within their respective fields, given valuable hours of community service, and focused on mentoring women. The

ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award, sponsored by FPL, was presented to Quest Workspaces. The ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award, sponsored by Wells Fargo, was presented to Noemi Coltea, MDS on Demand. The ATHENA Leadership Award was presented to Sarah Alsofrom, GL Homes of South Florida Corporation. This is the first documented time, since the inception of ATHENA

International in 1989, that any ATHENA award recipient, Sarah Alsofrom, has received both the ATHENA Leadership award and the ATHENA Young Professional award, as one person. More than 7,000 ATHENA leadership awards have been presented to recipients nationally and globally.

Congratulations to all of the ATHENA nominees and finalists.



2019 ATHENA Awards Finalists. From left, Christina Lambert (City of West Palm Beach Commission), Sharon R. Bock Esq. (Clerk & Comptroller, Palm Beach County), Rita Barreto Craig (Top Tier Leadership). PHOTO BY CAPEHART

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For more information on sponsorship and events, please contact Michele Sacher at [msacher@palmbeaches.org](mailto:msacher@palmbeaches.org).

## Apply now for 2020 Class of Leadership West Palm Beach

We are now accepting applications for Class 2020 Leadership West Palm Beach. Leadership West Palm Beach will continue to expose its participants to a variety of aspects of the community including: government; health and human services; education; neighborhoods, arts, culture and festivals; and economic development. All of these are integral components our community. Leadership West Palm Beach provides this information to class participants to generate leaders with a well-rounded knowledge base to assist in future planning and decision-making for the betterment of West Palm Beach. Special thanks to our Class 2020 Sponsors: Reikenis & Associates, LLC; Brightline; BDO; Baptist Health South Florida; Cohen Brothers Realty



Corporation of Florida; Fifth Third Bank; and KPA Promotions & Awards. To submit your application, go online at [www.palmbeaches.org](http://www.palmbeaches.org). For more information or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sandy Pullens at [spullens@palmbeaches.org](mailto:spullens@palmbeaches.org).

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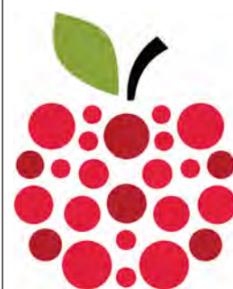
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Be Seen... Be Heard... Get Noticed!!!



## Chamber donates \$6,000 to Pleasant City Elementary School

Pleasant City Elementary School's Fifth Grade Science Class, and Principal, Valarie Jones, enthusiastically accepted a \$6,000 donation from the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches. Jones' goal is to use the money to build a more robust science program that will train students to be prepared for having opportunities for careers in technology and science. The check was presented on Oct.1 by Evelyn Hopkins, current 2019 Board Chair, and Rick Reikenis, incoming Chair Elect for 2020. The two shared with students about their careers as a Corporate Attorney and Civil Engineer, and how math and science are important foundations to launch these career aspirations. Special thanks to everyone who donated school supplies to the Red Apple Supplies Drive coordinated by our Partner in Education, the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County, and to our attendees of the



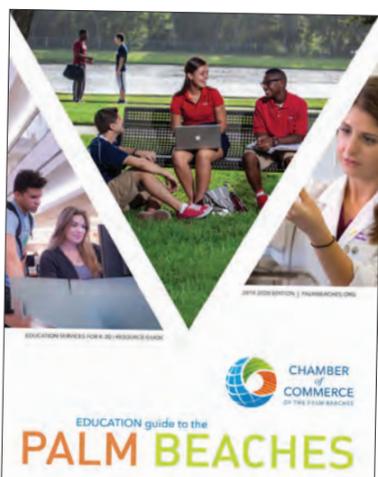
EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

## 2018-2019 Education Guide Received Charlie Award

The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches is pleased to announce that its annual Education Guide to the Palm Beaches won a Bronze Award from the Florida Magazine Association. The Chamber's publisher, Passport Publications & Media Corporation, entered the 2018-2019 Education Guide in the category of Best Special Theme or Show Issue, where



it competed against special supplementary magazines from throughout the state. The winners were announced July 12, 2019 at a ceremony in St. Petersburg. The Chamber congratulates its staff and its partners at Passport for this honor.





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## South Florida Business Council Addresses Local Leaders

More than 35 business and community leaders attended a briefing on the South Florida Business Council. #SFBCIvoice

The South Florida Business Council – a partnership between the tri-county’s most prominent business chambers – is focused on tackling South Florida’s key issues. Using its collective influence and network, the group will identify opportunities and advocate for and

promote solutions. Regional partnerships are quickly becoming the norm across our state and nation, with the benefits of leveraging pooled resources having a clear, positive impact on everything from courting large corporations, winning state or federal funding and/or addressing business and community needs.

Visit [soflobusinesscouncil.com](http://soflobusinesscouncil.com) to read the full article.

## Welcome new Board member, Matt Slatius



Matt Slatius

Matt Slatius has been appointed to serve a three-year term on the Chamber’s Board of Directors. Slatius is General Manager of FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches, Spring Training home to the Houston Astros and Washington Nationals. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Sports Management from New York University and a Master of Sport Administration degree from Ohio University. Slatius started in professional sports as a minor league clubhouse manager with the Texas Rangers. He was General Manager of Ripken Professional Baseball, where he oversaw the business operation of Cal Ripken, Jr.’s Aberdeen IronBirds. Slatius has served as an adjunct faculty member at both Towson University and Neumann University. He also currently serves as a Chamber Trustee.




### SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS COUNCIL

ENGAGING WITH SFBC

#### SHARE THE MESSAGE: ELEVATOR PITCH

The South Florida Business Council—a partnership between the tri-county’s most prominent business chambers—is focused on tackling South Florida’s key issues. Using its collective influence and network, the group will identify opportunities and advocate for and promote solutions.

Regional partnerships are quickly becoming the norm across our state and nation, with the benefits of leveraging pooled resources that workers can reasonably afford. That means protecting affordable housing program funds such as the Sadowski Trust Fund, State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) and encouraging transit-oriented development. Reducing the need for workers to move further away from job centers and drive on already highly congested roads will also help mobility.

At the center of the SFBC’s efforts is its annual Top Five Regional Issues Watch List, an overview of the top concerns facing South Florida. Detailing crucial milestones, votes and other actions in the year ahead, the Watch List delves into the various ways critical issues will evolve over the coming year. The Watch List is available at [soflobusinesscouncil.com](http://soflobusinesscouncil.com).

Leveraging the combined strength of the Chamber of the Palm Beaches, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the SFBC represents thousands of business owners in South Florida and aims to use the power that comes from speaking with one voice to move the region forward. Consider opting in to SFBC communications by responding on the website and sharing the Watch List.

#### TOP 5 WATCH LIST SUMMARY:

- 1. Mobility/Transportation:** Increasing commute times have a direct effect on the local economy through decreased worker productivity, delays in shipping and deliveries and dissuading outside companies from moving into our community. The push is on for laser-focused plans, funding solutions, transit-oriented development (TOD) and partnerships with new technology companies (ride sharing, dock-less bikes, scooters).
- 2. Education Quality:** Education is the building block of economic development. Companies move here and stay here because there is strong talent to hire and because their workforce feels there is quality K-12 education for their children. This year will see intense scrutiny on school funding, school choice and student safety.
- 3. Water Management:** Sea level rise, flooding, water management, beach health – the list of issues surrounding this critical resource is long. Political will is stronger than ever to avoid repeating the negative impacts of red tides and algae blooms that plagued parts of the state last year. That means more debates on funding and how to meet the needs of the various “customers”.
- 4. Affordable/Workforce Housing:** As the nation’s 12th most expensive metro area, South Florida needs to incentivize developers to build and maintain homes and apartments that workers can reasonably afford. That means protecting affordable housing program funds such as the Sadowski Trust Fund, State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) and encouraging transit-oriented development. Reducing the need for workers to move further away from job centers and drive on already highly congested roads will also help mobility.
- 5. Tourism Growth:** Tourism adds revenue not only directly to those in the hospitality industry but to retail, arts & culture and more. In a state that relies on sales/fuel tax vs. income tax, tourism is a key driver of our economic health. Whether it’s Visit Florida funding, ensuring our natural resources remain attractive, or regulating the new sharing economy, critical decisions being made this year will impact our tourism viability in the future.



### SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS COUNCIL

#### LEADERSHIP & WATCH DOGS

SFBC has appointed a watch dog for each of the five 2019 Watch List Items in order to drive momentum and consolidate communication. If you have input to provide on any of these areas, please contact our leadership or the Watch Dogs below:

- **Chair:** Christine Barney (E: [Christine.Barney@rbbcommunications.com](mailto:Christine.Barney@rbbcommunications.com), O: 305-448-7456, C: 305-807-5831)
- **Chair-elect:** Jack Seiler (E: [jseiler@sszrlaw.com](mailto:jseiler@sszrlaw.com), O: 954-568-7000, C: 954-562-0958)
- **Chair-elect Designee:** Joseph Chase (E: [JChase@gunster.com](mailto:JChase@gunster.com), O: 561-650-0745)
- **Transportation:** Alfred Sanchez (E: [asanchez@miamichamber.com](mailto:asanchez@miamichamber.com), O: 305-577-5450)
- **Housing:** Dan Lindblade (E: [dan@flchamber.com](mailto:dan@flchamber.com), O: 954-462-4911)
- **Tourism:** Heiko Dobrikow (E: [hdobrikow@riversidehotel.com](mailto:hdobrikow@riversidehotel.com), O: 954-377-0940)
- **Water:** Dennis Grady (E: [dgrady@palmbeaches.org](mailto:dgrady@palmbeaches.org), O: 561-833-3712)
- **Education:** Dr. Mark Rosenberg (E: [mark.rosenberg@fiu.edu](mailto:mark.rosenberg@fiu.edu), O: 305-804-7551)

#### ABOUT SFBC

The SFBC is a partnership between the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, and Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Its mission is to assist with South Florida’s regional issues and use its resources to create solutions. The Chambers expect to use the power that comes from speaking with one voice to drive South Florida forward and make it a better place to live, work, and enjoy. To learn more, visit [soflobusinesscouncil.com](http://soflobusinesscouncil.com).

**Christine Barney, Chairperson**  
rbb Communications

**Jack Seiler, Chairperson-elect**  
Seiler, Sautter, Zaden, Rimes & Wahlbrink

**Joseph Chase, Chairperson-elect Designee**  
Gunster Law Firm

**Alfred Sanchez, Board Member**  
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

**Humberto Alonso, Board Member**  
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**Dr. Mark B. Rosenberg, Board Member**  
Florida International University

**Dan Lindblade, Board Member**  
Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce

**Heiko Dobrikow, Board Member**  
Riverside Hotel

**Juliet Murphy Roulhac, Board Member**  
Florida Power & Light Company

**Dennis Grady, Board Member**  
Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches

**Evelyn Hopkins, Board Member**  
Florida Crystals Corporation

**Rick Reikenis, Board Member**  
Rick Reikenis and Associates



## 2019 Firefighter Breakfast

The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches will host its annual Firefighter Breakfast on Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 7:45-9 a.m. at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. This breakfast, sponsored by St. Mary’s Medical Center and The Palm Beach Children’s Hospital,

will honor West Palm Beach Fire Rescue and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue’s bravest individuals. To purchase a ticket or table of 10, visit [www.palmbeaches.org](http://www.palmbeaches.org). For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Michele Sacher at [msacher@palmbeaches.org](mailto:msacher@palmbeaches.org).



### NEW MEMBERS

**Anaya Contracting**  
Gino Martinez, Business Development  
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Riviera Beach, FL 33419  
[AnayaContracting.com](http://AnayaContracting.com)  
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(561) 427-0300  
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Alan Klugerman, General Manager  
801 Village Blvd., Suite 307  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409  
[www.creamnation.com](http://www.creamnation.com)  
(954) 263-9904  
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Ted Leshinski, Business Development Associate  
120 N. Federal Hwy., Suite 208  
Lake Worth, FL 33460  
[TLesinski@keithteam.com](mailto:TLesinski@keithteam.com)  
(561) 469-0992  
ENGINEERS - CIVIL

**Knot Just Pizza**  
Mary Aloisio, Owner  
8170 Okeechobee Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
[knotjustpizzas.com](http://knotjustpizzas.com)  
(917) 589-4123  
RESTAURANTS

**Lyman S. Bradford IV, P.A.**  
Lyman Bradford, President

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West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
[lymanbradford.com](http://lymanbradford.com)  
(561) 571-7555  
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Rachel Cartwright-Vanzant  
Speaker & Healthcare Consultant  
6231 PGA Blvd., Suite 104-243  
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(561) 627-0111  
SPEAKERS - PUBLIC

**New Age Health and Wellness LLC**  
John Haslup, Owner  
12785 W. Forest Hill Blvd., Suite 8C  
Wellington, FL 33414  
NAHAW.com  
(561) 566-5101  
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**Northwestern Mutual**  
Justis Cousins, Financial Representative  
250 S. Australian Ave., Suite 1601  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
[justiscousins.nm.com](http://justiscousins.nm.com)  
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West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
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Susan O'Connor, CEO  
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Jupiter, FL 33458  
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Sunrise, FL 33326  
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CORPORATE HOUSING

**The Ben West Palm**  
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Schmidt Nichols  
Sir Speedy Printing (Downtown)  
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Urban League of Palm Beach County  
Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.  
West Palm Beach Jaycees

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