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Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 9:41 AM
To: communications@cfhla.org
Subject: CFHLA - The Insider: The Hospitality Industry's Political Advocate Newsletter - July 2017



Volume 3
Edition 7

July 20, 2017

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NEWSTREET

On Friday, June 30th, Members of the **CFHLA Political Action Committee** (CFHLA-PAC) interviewed candidates in the Special Election to replace **former State Representative Eric Eisnaugle** for **State House District 44**.

As District 44 represents a large segment of the Hospitality Industry in Southwest Orange County, identifying the candidate most committed to fighting for the preservation of **VISIT FLORIDA**, the **Tourist Development Tax** and other **Hospitality priorities** was imperative to the CFHLA-PAC.

Following the interview process, the panel of Members in attendance made recommendations to both the full PAC and Political Committee (PC) Boards of Directors to endorse the candidacy of **John Newstreet** (Republican) in the House District 44 race, both of which were approved unanimously.

INTEREST

Florida Governor
Rick Scott

State of Florida
Senate

State of Florida
House of
Representatives

Orange County

Osceola County

Seminole County

City of Orlando

City of
Kissimmee

City of Sanford



CFHLA-PAC/PC Endorsed Candidate for State House District 44, John Newstreet with CFHLA-PAC Board Chairman Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort Disney Springs Resort Area/Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area

The Republican Primary Election for the House District 44 seat is set to occur on **Tuesday, August 15**. The General Election is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 10**.

To learn if you reside in House District 44, please [CLICK HERE](#).

THOMPSON

The **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** met with **Orange County Commissioner Jennifer Thompson** (District 4) on Wednesday, July 12th to discuss Orange County Hospitality Industry issues and to thank Commissioner Thompson for her continued support of both CFHLA Public Policy and CFHLA Foundation initiatives.



District 4 Orange County Commissioner Jennifer Thompson with CFHLA-PAC/PC Board Chairman Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort Disney Springs Resort Area/Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area (left) and CFHLA 1st Vice Chairman Fred Sawyers, Complex General Manager of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

This meeting, held at the **American Resort Development Association (ARDA)** offices in Downtown Orlando, courtesy of GA Committee Member **Justin Vermuth**, featured a lively discussion with Commissioner Thompson about upcoming **Orange County tourism developments** including the Convention Center's "Master Plan" projects.

The next CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 9** with **Orange County Commissioner Betsy VanderLey**.

ORLANDO

On Tuesday, June 27th, Members of the CFHLA-PAC met with **City of Orlando Commissioners Jim Gray** and **Robert Stuart** to discuss City of Orlando developments and to officially endorse the reelection bids of both Commissioners.



CFHLA-PAC Endorsed Candidate, City of Orlando Commissioner (District 1)
Jim Gray with CFHLA Board Secretary and PAC Board Vice-Chair Keith Wolling,
Area General Manager of the R Resort & Spa Lake Buena Vista



(left to right) CFHLA-PAC Endorsed Candidate, City of Orlando Commissioner Robert Stuart (District 3) with CFHLA Board Member Jeff Swirsky, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Resort Orlando Lake Buena Vista and CFHLA Board Secretary Keith Wolling, Area General Manager of the B Resort & Spa Lake Buena Vista

Both Commissioner Gray and Commissioner Stuart, longtime **supporters of Central Florida's Hospitality Industry**, were appreciative of the CFHLA-PAC's support and emphasized the importance of the Industry to the regional economy and the necessity of fighting off attacks on tourism in Tallahassee.

Additionally, Members of the CFHLA-PAC will meet with the third CFHLA-endorsed candidate in the 2017 City of Orlando elections, **Commissioner Regina Hill**, on **Monday, July 31** to officially support her reelection bid.



CFHLA-PAC Endorsed Candidate, City of Orlando Commissioner Regina Hill (District 5)

These three "Pro-Tourism" incumbent candidates will be up for reelection on **Tuesday, November 7** in the City of Orlando.

TDC

On Tuesday, July 11th, the **Orange County Board of County Commissioners** unanimously approved the appointments of **CFHLA Board Chairman David Bartek** (Loews Hotels) and **CFHLA Board Treasurer Jesse Martinez** (Alfond Inn at Rollins) to the **Orange County Tourist Development Council**.



CFHLA Board Chairman David Bartek, Vice President of Operations for Loews Hotels



CFHLA Board Treasurer Jesse Martinez, General Manager of The Alfond Inn at Rollins

With term limits recently vacating a number of positions on this important Council, including outgoing **TDC Member and CFHLA Board Member Cheryl Seckman**, CFHLA moved quickly to ensure that experienced Hospitality Industry leaders from the Association were nominated to occupy these TDC seats.

CFHLA "salutes" Cheryl Seckman for her important contributions to Orange County's thriving tourism economy during her tenure on the TDC and congratulates Chairman Bartek and Treasurer Martinez on their appointments to this important Council where they will serve alongside **Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs**, **City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer** and other local business and civic leaders to "**set a path**" for Central Florida tourism.



CFHLA Board Member Cheryl Seckman, General Manager of the Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Downtown

TIGER BAY

On Wednesday, July 12, Members of the CFHLA-PAC were in attendance for the **Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida's** House District 44 **"Special Election"** debate, which included CFHLA-endorsed candidate **John Newstreet**.

This debate, held in partnership with **BusinessForce**, was held at the Historic Dubsdread Ballroom and allowed the Republican candidates in the District 44 race to share their positions on **healthcare, economic incentives and other business-related legislative topics**.

During a question related to **VISIT FLORIDA**, John Newstreet stressed *the importance of continuing to fund this agency, due to the significant positive impact it has on attracting visitors to the state and creating jobs here in Central Florida*.



(left to right) Orange County Commissioner Bryan Nelson, CFHLA-PAC Board Member Ruthann DiLauri of Minuteman Press, CFHLA-Endorsed Candidate for State House District 44 John Newstreet and CFHLA-PAC Board Member Adrianna Sekula of Walt Disney World



Republican Candidates for House District 44 participate in the Tiger Bay Debate

ARC

Several months ago, CFHLA began collaborating with Orange County government officials to develop "**TDT Grant Applications**" for the County to use when reviewing requests from local individuals and organizations to utilize TDT funds for events and capital improvement projects. The purpose of these applications is to "**vet**" **future TDT requests** to ensure that only projects that are legally permitted to use TDT funds (per state statute) and would drive overnight room stays are given consideration.

During the collaboration process with CFHLA and other Hospitality Industry interests, **Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs** announced the creation of an "**Application Review Committee**" (**ARC**) that would serve as the line of review for future TDT grant requests.

Of the eleven members that will be selected to fill this committee, three members are to be nominated by **Orange County's Tourist Development Council**, with two of those members being Hospitality representatives and one member from the arts community.

Upon the announcement of the ARC, CFHLA quickly distributed a letter featuring qualified ARC candidates to the **Orange County Board of County Commissioners** and the **Tourist Development Council** (TDC). CFHLA is proud to report that during the Friday, June 23, Orange County TDC Meeting, all three of the Council's designated ARC appointments were CFHLA recommendations.

Pending final approval from the Orange County Membership and **Mission Review Board**, CFHLA looks forward to the following individuals serving on the Application Review Committee:

Brian Comes

CFHLA 2nd Vice Chairman,
General Manager of the Hyatt Regency Orlando

Jon McGavin

CFHLA Board Member,
General Manager of the Ritz-Carlton Orlando. Grande Lakes

Joshua Vickery

Founder/Executive Director of Central Florida Community Arts


LINKS

Below please find news articles relating to the political interests of the Hospitality Industry:

[John Newstreet gets Central Florida hotel group backing in HD 44 race](#)

[Orlando may make pitch for 2019 Major League Soccer All-Star Game](#)


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