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From: cfhla@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 12:01 PM
To: communications@cfhla.org
Subject: CFHLA - The Insider: The Hospitality Industry's Political Advocate Newsletter - November 2017



Volume 4
Edition 11

November 30,
2017

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PAC/PC ELECTION

CFHLA conducted a two-week election for the **CFHLA Political Action Committee** (PAC) and **CFHLA Political Committee** (PC) Boards of Directors during the month of November. All PAC dues-paying Members were eligible to elect CFHLA Members to serve **2-year terms** on these important committees tasked with identifying and supporting **"Pro-Hospitality"** candidates for state and local office.

This PAC/PC Election featured 11 Board Member position vacancies, and CFHLA Members elected four new individuals and re-elected seven "termed out" Board Members to serve on the PAC and PC Boards from **January 1, 2018** through **December 31, 2019**.

[POLITTE](#)

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[City of Orlando](#)

[City of Kissimmee](#)

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The CFHLA-PAC and PC Boards welcome the following newly elected Members:

Jackie Bozzuto

[Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.](#)

Chadwick Hardee

[APDC Services Inc.](#)

Ron Silveira

[F.P.I.S. Inc, Brochure Distribution & Travel Marketing](#)

Cindy Staley

[Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort](#)

The CFHLA-PAC and PC Boards congratulate the following "re-elected" Members:

Ross Burke

[Blue Heron Beach Resort](#)

Michael Hanley

[Wealth Management Strategies of Central FL](#)

Jon McGavin

[The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes](#)

Keith Odza

[Wyndham Vacation Rentals](#)

Mark Politte

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

Chuck Simikian

[Paramount Hospitality Management](#)

Brian Wong

[Celebration Suites Hotel](#)

The next meeting of the CFHLA PAC & PC Boards of Directors will be held this Wednesday, December 6th at the CFHLA Offices.

VANDERLEY

On Wednesday, November 8th at the CFHLA Offices, the CFHLA

Betsy VanderLey (District 1) to discuss a range of local Hospitality Industry issues as well as concerning legislation being proposed in Tallahassee that would negatively impact Orange County.

Commissioner VanderLey, who has been a **“Pro-Tourism”** Commissioner since being elected in November 2016, was candid in her remarks to the GA Committee as it relates to preserving the integrity of the **Tourist Development Tax**, **supporting Visit Orlando** and the **importance of sports tourism to Central Florida**.

As the 2018 Legislative Session quickly approaches, the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee will continue monitoring legislation that threatens the state’s tourism industry and will remain engaged with State Representatives and State Senators to ensure that Central Florida’s Hospitality Industry remains vibrant and minimally impacted by any Tallahassee “challenges.”



CFHLA Board Member Jon McGavin, General Manager of the Ritz-Carlton, Grande Lakes, CFHLA 1st Vice Chairman Fred Sawyers, Complex General Manager of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort, CFHLA Board Member Bruce Skwarlo, General Manager of the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Orange County Commissioner Betsy VanderLey (District 1), Adriana Sekula of Walt Disney World Company, and CFHLA Board Secretary Keith Wolling

TALLAHASSEE

CFHLA is currently monitoring several bills in both the State House and State Senate that would impact not only the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, but also the community as a whole.

Three bills that are already moving through the Committee process are **House Bill 3** (HB 3), **House Bill 585** (HB 585) and **Senate Bill 658** (SB 658):

Accountability by Rep. M. Grant (R - Port Charlotte): The bill drastically impacts the operations of tourist development organizations (such as Visit Orlando, Experience Kissimmee, etc.) including many of the provisions similar to what was passed for **VISIT FLORIDA** last Session. This bill would place dozens of new burdensome regulations on these tourist development agencies and would greatly hamper their ability to operate and react “fluidly” in the highly competitive tourist development realm against competing destinations such as New York, California, Las Vegas and others.

HB 585 / SB 658 Relating to Tourist Development Tax: These bills would “open up” the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) for non-tourism promotion purposes, counter to the intent of the TDT law when it was passed by the Legislature (at the Lodging Industry’s request) in 1977. By allowing TDT to be utilized for reasons other than “putting heads in beds,” the Legislature would be gambling with the future of Florida’s Hospitality Industry, limiting the resources available to market Central Florida to the world. Following a year of record-breaking visitation and with state sales tax revenue generated by Central Florida visitors reaching over \$1 Billion annually, passage of these bills would not only impact the Hospitality Industry, but would impact all Florida residents that utilize the roads, law enforcement, schools, etc. that rely on the sales tax revenues generated by tourism.

CLARKE

The third CFHLA “Coffee Club” meeting of 2017 was held on November 3rd at the CFHLA Offices, with the most recent guest being **Orange County Commissioner Pete Clarke**, who recently announced his plans to run for **Orange County Mayor** in **2018**.

Over **20 CFHLA Members** were in attendance for this conversation with Commissioner Clarke, where he discussed his priorities if elected Mayor of Orange County and shared his position on a number of Hospitality Industry concerns at the County level.

To date, CFHLA Coffee Club attendees have met with the following likely 2018 Orange County Mayoral candidates:

Pete Clarke - Orange County Commissioner

Jerry Demings - Orange County Sheriff

Bill Sublette - Orange County Public Schools Chairman

The next CFHLA Coffee Club meeting will occur on **Friday, January 5th**, featuring another 2018 Mayor’s race candidate, businessman **Rob Panepinto**, who recently announced his plans to run for the position currently held by **Mayor Teresa Jacobs**, who will be **“term-limited”** in 2018.



(center right) Orange County Commissioner Pete Clarke with (left to right) CFHLA Board Members Craig Leicester, General Manager of the Aloft Orlando Downtown, John McCracken, General Manager of the Marriott Village Orlando, and Jesse Martinez, General Manager of The Alford Inn at Rollins

TOURISM DAY

A reminder that any politically-engaged CFHLA Members are encouraged to participate in the **2018 CFHLA “Tourism Day”** delegation trip to **Tallahassee**, scheduled for **Wednesday, January 17th**.

This day-long “advocacy” trip allows CFHLA Members the opportunity to meet **face to face** with **State Representatives** and **State Senators** to discuss **CFHLA’s Legislative Priorities** and how certain legislation would impact their businesses.

Last year, over **25 CFHLA Members** participated in the Tourism Day delegation and had the opportunity to meet with over **12 State legislators** and **Governor Rick Scott**.

Only a handful of seats remain for this year’s trip. If you are interested in participating, please contact CFHLA Public Policy Director, Kevin Craig, at publicpolicy@cfhla.org.



The 2017 CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation

DIAMOND

Orange County Comptroller Phil Diamond will be providing an exclusive “**Orange County Tourist Development Tax (TDT)**” presentation to CFHLA Lodging Members on **Wednesday, December 20th** from **1:00 PM - 2:30 PM** at the **CFHLA Offices**.

This meeting will allow **CFHLA Orange County Lodging Members** the opportunity to see where their TDT collections are committed to for the foreseeable future, how TDT collections are trending and to ask any questions to Comptroller Diamond, who oversees all Orange County TDT funds.

If interested in attending this meeting, please contact CFHLA Public Policy Director, Kevin Craig, at publicpolicy@cfhla.org.

POLITTE

On Tuesday, November 28th, CFHLA formally submitted an application for Board Member **Mark Politte**, General Manager of the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando, to serve as the CFHLA-appointed representative on the **Orange County Sports Incentive Committee**.

This Committee will be responsible for reviewing all proposed applications for County sports incentive funds authorized under the Orange County Tourist Development Plan and will submit recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for final funding approval.



LINKS

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

[State House committee advances bill that cracks down on Florida tourism councils](#)

[Rep. Fine files bill to expand use of tourist tax for lagoon, attacks County Commission](#)

[Orange County Commission District 2 Update](#)

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