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MAYOR JACOBS

The CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee met with **Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs** at the committee's April 12 meeting held at [Earls Kitchen + Bar at the Mall at Millenia](#).

RELATED
LINKS

LINKS OF
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



Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs with CFHLA Board Chairman David Bartek (right) of Loews Hotels and CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Peter Kacheris (left) of the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek / Waldorf Astoria Orlando

The GA Committee had a very productive conversation with Mayor Jacobs relating to a number of **Orange County Hospitality Industry concerns**, especially relating to continued investments at the [Orange County Convention Center](#), ensuring pro-Hospitality individuals are appointed to the **Tourist Development Council** and amending Orange County's alcohol ordinance to expand hours of sale and service.



The CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee met with Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs to discuss current and future investments related to the Hospitality Industry in Orange County

Mayor Jacobs thanked CFHLA for the Association's continued involvement in community-strengthening initiatives as well as CFHLA's role in producing the Mayor's **"State of the County"** address held on April 7th at I-Drive 360.

The CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee will meet again on Wednesday, May 10th at Universal Orlando with **Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings**.

TOURISM WEEK

National Travel and Tourism Week is May 7 -13 and CFHLA has partnered with **Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties** to recognize the importance of the Hospitality Industry to the Central Florida region.

On Monday, May 8th, the **Osceola County Board of County Commissioners** will offer a formal proclamation recognizing National Travel and Tourism Week in Osceola County, while **similar proclamations will be declared the following day, May 9th, in Orange and Seminole Counties**.

Any CFHLA Members interested in attending County Commission meetings on May 8th or 9th to represent CFHLA for these proclamations should contact CFHLA Public Policy Director, Kevin Craig, at publicpolicy@cfhla.org

ALCOHOL

After several months of CFHLA collaboration with Orange County government staff, a CFHLA **amendment to the County's hours of alcohol sale/service ordinance will go before a "public hearing"** during the May 9th Orange County Board of County Commissioners meeting.

This amendment would allow alcohol sales/service to occur between **7 AM and 2 AM**(currently 11 AM - 2 AM) at any licensed Orange County hotel or motel, with the exception of any private hotel guest room, in which case service may continue until 3 AM, as is currently allowed. The amendment would also expand hours of alcohol sales and service to any **Orange County food service establishment** holding a license that is also licensed to serve meals by the **Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation**.

Expanding hours of alcohol sale and service to begin earlier in the morning will **allow Orange County hoteliers to provide greater customer service**, as it relates to brunch opportunities in addition to satisfying international visitors seeking to enjoy adult beverages while watching sporting events taking place abroad that may be televised prior to 11 AM here in Central Florida.

This amendment would also make Orange County policy consistent with that of the City of Orlando, where hours of alcohol sale and service have been permitted to begin at 7 AM for the past several years.

GOLDEN EAGLE

On Tuesday, April 11th, the **Central Florida Council for Boy Scouts of America** conducted their annual Golden Eagle Dinner at the Amway Center in downtown Orlando.



Osceola County Commissioner - District 1, Peggy Choudhry (center) with CFHLA Board Member Cindy Staley (left) of Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort and CFHLA Board Treasurer Jesse Martinez (right) of the Alford Inn at Rollins

The CFHLA Foundation once again secured a table at this community event and CFHLA Members in attendance were joined by **Orange County Commissioner Betsy VanderLey**.



(from left to right) CFHLA Board Treasurer Jesse Martinez of the Alford Inn at Rollins, CFHLA Board Member Cindy Staley of the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort, Orange County Commissioner - District 1 Betsy VanderLey and CFHLA Board Assistant Treasurer Sonia Giselbrecht of the Sheraton Suites Orlando Airport

Commissioner VanderLey, who has family ties to scouting in Central Florida, joined CFHLA Board Members **Sonja Giselbrecht, Jesse Martinez, Laura Sherman** and **Cindy Staley** at this event, which featured the presentation of the 2017 Golden Eagle Award to **Charlie Gray** of GrayRobinson.

TALLAHASSEE

With **Florida's Legislative Session** scheduled to conclude on Friday, May 5th, legislators in both the House and Senate have yet to come to an agreement on a budget deal and still must sort through differences on bills relating to vacation rentals, gambling and other priorities.

Perhaps the biggest question remaining for Florida's Tourism Industry is **how much money will House and Senate leaders agree to set aside for VISIT FLORIDA?** While the House will likely see most of their proposed reforms added to VISIT FLORIDA's operations, the unknown is how much political capital Senate leadership is willing to spend to secure VISIT FLORIDA funding while also seeking funding for water projects and higher education.



CFHLA continues to advocate for continued VISIT FLORIDA funding of **\$76 million per year**, as was allocated during the 2016 Session. While unlikely, tourism leaders hope that the reduction in funding is minimal, as Florida's tourism promotion efforts and economy as a whole will be negatively impacted by any cut in funding to VISIT FLORIDA.

INVOICES

This week, CFHLA mailed out **CFHLA Political Action Committee (CFHLA-PAC) invoices** to all CFHLA Members. Payment of these \$50

for CFHLA Board Members, CFHLA Ex-Officios, CFHLA-PAC Board Members and CFHLA Allied Relations Council Board Members.

PAC dues funds are utilized to support the CFHLA-PAC in ***its efforts to identify and endorse Hospitality-friendly candidates*** through rigorous candidate interviews and then financially support these endorsed candidates so that they may serve as **"Tourism Leaders"** in Elected Office locally and in the State Capitol.

For CFHLA Members who wish to serve on the CFHLA-PAC and Political Committee Boards of Directors, **payment of this \$50 invoice is required for eligibility** to be placed on the PAC/PC Boards ballot during the election process in the Fall.

For any questions relating to PAC invoices and/or the PAC Board election process, please contact CFHLA Public Policy Director, Kevin Craig, at publicpolicy@cfhla.org

AUCTION

The annual **CFHLA-PAC Online Auction** fundraiser is set to occur from **Wednesday, May 31st to Wednesday, June 7th** on the CFHLA Website.

This important fundraiser for the CFHLA-PAC traditionally features hotel stays, golf packages, wine and other Hospitality items contributed by CFHLA Members.

Please look for an email "kick-off" of this CFHLA-PAC Online Auction on May 31st.

LINKS


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

[Opposition Mounts in Miami to New Plan for Casino](#)

[Tourism Leaders Sound Off on Reported Cuts to Visit Florida Funding](#)


[Hundreds of Haitian Disney Employees May have to Leave U.S.](#)

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