

Kevin Deo

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PAC RECEPTION

On Thursday, June 8th, local Elected Officials mingled with over **80 CFHLA Members** at the [Loews Sapphire Falls Resort at Universal Orlando](#) for the annual CFHLA-PAC Reception fundraiser.

This political networking event provided Central Florida government leaders the opportunity to "**serve their constituents**," wearing aprons and white gloves to serve hors d'oeuvres to CFHLA Lodging and Allied Members in attendance.

Thank you to the following Central Florida Elected Officials who participated in this year's PAC Reception fundraiser:

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

Osceola County Commissioner

Jim Gray

City of Orlando Commissioner

Bryan Nelson

Orange County Commissioner

Tony Ortiz

City of Orlando Commissioner

Robert Stuart

City of Orlando Commissioner

Jay Wheeler

Osceola County School Board Member

This successful fundraising event provides funds for the **CFHLA-PAC Board of Directors** to support "**Pro-Hospitality**" candidates for local and state office, with an added emphasis to promote individuals committed to fighting for **VISIT FLORIDA** and preserving the integrity of the **Tourist Development Tax (TDT)**.

The leadership of the CFHLA-PAC sincerely thanks the following PAC Reception partners for their support:

Host:



Thank you, David Bartek!

Presenting Sponsors:

Lowndes
Drosdick
Doster &
Kantor
Reed, P.A.

ATTORNEYS

Thank you, Jackie Bozzuto!



Thank you, Maureen Haggerty!



Thank you, Cindy Andrews!

Beer Sponsor:



Thank you, Bill Droste!

Wine Sponsor:



Thank you, Jesus Esteban!

Please find below. photos from the reception:



(left to right) City of Orlando Commissioners Jim Gray - District 1, Tony Ortiz - District 2 and Robert Stuart - District 3 with Osceola County School Board Member Jay Wheeler and Osceola County Commissioner Peggy Choudhry - District 1



Osceola County Commissioner - District 1, Peggy Choudhry and Ron Nagy, General Manager of the Bohemian Hotel Celebration



(left to right) City of Orlando Commissioner - District 3, Robert Stuart with CFHLA VIP Member and CFHLA-PAC Reception sponsor Cindy Andrews of Sunbrite Outdoor Furniture, CFHLA Board Chairman Dave Bartek of Loews Hotels and CFHLA Board Member Mark Politte of the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando



CFHLA-PAC Board Chairman Jay Leonard (left) of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort Disney Springs Resort Area/Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area with Melanie Becker of Universal Orlando Resort and CFHLA Board Chairman and CFHLA-PAC Reception host Dave Bartek of Loews Hotels



(left to right) City of Orlando Commissioner - District 1, Jim Gray with CFHLA-PAC Board Chairman Jay Leonard of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort Disney Springs Resort Area/Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area, Adrianna Sekula of the Walt Disney World Company and Osceola County Commissioner - District 1 Penny Choudhry



(left to right) Greg Moore of the Mall at Millenia with CFHLA Silver Partner Paul Dougherty of PCD Building Corp. and City of Orlando Commissioner - District 2, Tony Ortiz



(left to right) Orange County Commissioner - District 2, Bryan Nelson with CFHLA Silver Partner Michael Hanley of Wealth Management Strategies of Central Florida and CFHLA Silver Partner Ron Silveira of F.P.I.S.. Inc. Brochure Distribution & Travel Marketing



(left to right) CFHLA Board 1st Vice Chairman Fred Sawyers of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort with City of Orlando Commissioner - District 1, Jim Gray and CFHLA Board Member Mark Politte of the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando

GA

At the Wednesday, June 14th CFHLA **Governmental Affairs Committee** meeting, GA Members met with **State Representative Rene "Coach P" Plasencia** at the **Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort**, thanks to meeting host and CFHLA Board First Vice-Chairman **Fred Sawyers**.

Representative Plasencia was thanked by GA Committee Chairman **Bruce Skwarlo** and other Committee Members for his steadfast commitment to **Central Florida's Hospitality Industry**, especially as it relates to being one of the few Central Florida Representatives in the State House to **vote against** measures during the **2017 Legislative Session** that would have threatened the vitality of **VISIT FLORIDA**.

GA Committee Members and Representative Plasencia had a detailed and productive dialogue relating to Tallahassee politics as well as upcoming opportunities and challenges the Hospitality Industry may face as it relates to legislation including **gambling**, **Tourist Development Taxes** and **vacation rentals**.

On Wednesday, July 12, the CFHLA GA Committee will meet with Orange County Commissioner **Jennifer Thompson** (District 4)

CFHLA "salutes" 2017 GA Committee Sponsor:



(left to right) CFHLA Board Secretary Keith Wolling of the B Resort & Spa Lake Buena Vista, State Representative Rene Plasencia - District 50, CFHLA Board First Vice Chairman and host Fred Sawyers of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort and CFHLA Board Historian and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Peter Kacheris of the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek / Waldorf Astoria Orlando

ENDORSEMENTS

At the May 31st **CFHLA Political Committee Board of Directors** meeting, the CFHLA-PC Board voted unanimously to endorse the candidacy of the following City of Orlando Commissioners seeking reelection in 2017:

District 1 - Commissioner Jim Gray





District 5 - Commissioner Regina Hill



After discussion, the CFHLA Political Committee was in agreement that each of the incumbents mentioned above have shown a proven track record of **supporting Hospitality Industry priorities** and working to enhance the City of Orlando community for residents and visitors alike.

The 2017 City of Orlando Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th.

***Please vote the
"Pro-Hospitality" Ticket!***

TDC

On Friday, June 16th, two CFHLA Board Members were recommended by the **Orange County Membership and Mission Review Board** (MMRB) to serve on the **Orange County Tourist Development Council** (TDC) and replace TDC Members with expiring terms.

The MMRB formally recommended CFHLA Board Chairman **David Bartek of Loews Hotels** to succeed fellow CFHLA Board Member **Cheryl Seckman** in the "owner subject to TDT tax" representative category and recommended CFHLA Board Treasurer **Jesse Martinez of the Alford Inn at Rollins** to

category.



CFHLA Board Chairman Dave Bartek, Vice President of Operations at Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando



CFHLA Board Treasurer Jesse Martinez, General Manager of the Alford Inn at Rollins.

If approved, the TDC terms of both Chairman Bartek and Board Treasurer Martinez will expire on April 30, 2021.

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners will vote to approve these recommendations at the July 11th County Commission meeting.

INTERVIEWS

Recently, **Florida Governor Rick Scott** appointed **Eric Eisnaugle**, former State Representative for House District 44, as an appeals court judge, which has created an "open seat" for House District 44. On Tuesday, October 10, 2017 **Southwest Orange County voters** residing in House District 44 will vote in a special election to determine who they will send to Tallahassee to represent their community.

To date, the following candidates have qualified for the House District 44 Special Election:

Paul Chandler (Democrat)
Usha Jain (Republican)
John Newstreet (Republican)
Bobby Olszewski (Republican)
Bruno Portigliatti (Republican)

The four Republican candidates will compete in an August 15th Primary Election, with the winner likely facing Paul Chandler in the October 10th Special Election.

Members of the **CFHLA Political Action Committee (CFHLA-PAC) Board of Directors** will be interviewing the candidates for House District 44 on Friday, June 30 and will likely make an endorsement recommendation to the full PAC Board in the following days.

OSCEOLA

On Monday, June 19th, the **Osceola County Board of County Commissioners** voted to clarify and strengthen language in the County's **Code of Ordinances** relating to the **Osceola Tourist Development Council (TDC)**, to ensure that proper Hospitality Industry representation is featured on the council.

This action, strongly supported by CFHLA, ensures that individuals classified as **"agent operators"** of motels, hotels or other tourist accommodations can be appointed to the TDC only if the ***"primary purpose of the agency relationship is the actual, active operation and management of the tourist accommodation, or parent company, by the agent."***

This amendment to the County ordinance is essential in protecting vital TDC seats designated for **"TDC Collectors"** from being occupied by individuals without appropriate experience and knowledge of the Hospitality Industry.

SEMINAR

seminar at the [Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort Disney Spring Resort Area \(Thank You Jay Leonard, General Manager\)](#) to inform CFHLA Members of potential implications that Amendment 2 and recent state legislation relating to Medical Marijuana may have on **Central Florida's Hospitality Industry**.

CFHLA has secured the following two guest speakers for this seminar:

Michael Song
The First Marijuana Attorney for the
Colorado Attorney General's Office

Tara Tedrow
Senior Associate and Co-Chair of the Cannabis
and Controlled Substances Group at
Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

Registration for this seminar will open on the CFHLA website tomorrow morning.

Please contact CFHLA Public Policy Director Kevin Craig at publicpolicy@cfhla.org if you have any questions relating to this seminar.

LINKS

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

[Fred Brummer files to return to Orange County Commission in District 2](#)

[Visit Florida explains changes to local tourism groups](#)

[GOP primary set for Eisnaugle's House seat, Democrat unopposed](#)

[Orange County Convention Center eyes \\$500 Million expansion](#)

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Mac Cochran
mac@atmfla.com
407-425-7708
www.atmfla.com

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