OATHS OF OFFICE

Over the last few weeks, the Central Florida community welcomed a number of newly elected and re-elected officials to their County Commissions. These elected officials were sworn-in to their respective roles during their Oath of Office ceremonies.

In Seminole County, the Board of County Commissioners welcomed newly elected Commissioners Amy Lockhart and Jay Zembower. Commissioner Lockhart represents Seminole County District 4 and Commissioner Zembower will represent Seminole County District 2. During this ceremony, Commissioner Zembower was appointed to Vice-Chair by his peers on the Commission.
Seminole County Commissioner Amy Lockhart District 4 "swearing in"
The Board of County Commissioners for Osceola County welcomed back familiar faces as Commissioners Cheryl Grieb and Viviana Janer were re-elected to their respective seats. Commissioner Grieb will continue to represent Osceola County District 4 and Commissioner Janer will return to Osceola County District 2. Commissioner Grieb was selected by her peers on the Commission to serve as the Chair of the Board and Commissioner Janer was selected to serve as Vice-Chair.
Osceola County Commissioner Viviana Janer, District 2 "swearing in"

History was made for the Orange County Board of County Commissioners this year. Newly-Elected Mayor of Orange County, Jerry Demings was sworn into office as the first African-American Mayor. He previously served as the first African-American Sheriff of Orange County.

Elected to serve as the new Orange County Sheriff is John Mina, former Chief of Police for the City of Orlando. Sheriff Mina received the Sheriff's Star from Jerry Demings in a Passage of Leadership Ceremony held by the Orange County Sheriff's Office.
The new Orange County Board of County Commissioners will be led by six female county commissioners! Newly-Elected Commissioners Christine Moore, Maribel Gomez-Cordero, and Mayra Uribe joined re-elected Commissioner Victoria Siplin to be officially recognized on the Board along with Commissioners Betsy VanderLey and Emily Bonilla who are currently serving their terms.
Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore "swearing in"

Orange County Commissioner Maura Takeda "swearing in"
The CFHLA is proud to have supported a number of the newly-elected and re-elected Commissioners and looks forward to creating meaningful partnerships with all of the Commissioners to enhance the Central Florida community and the regional tourism industry!

"COACH P"

Representative Rene “Coach P” Plasencia (R) was appointed last week as Chair of the House Workforce Development and Tourism Subcommittee. The subcommittee falls under authority of the Commerce Committee, which is chaired by Representative Mike La Rosa.

This prestigious subcommittee chair appointment places “Coach P” in a great place to review, shape, and act upon legislation related specifically to the tourism economy that will ultimately require further review from the Commerce Committee.

With “Coach P” serving as chair of this subcommittee, the Tourism Industry has a strong ally and supporter who understands the positive economic and social impact that tourism has on the State of Florida. CFHLA congratulates Representative Plasencia on this appointment and wishes him all the best as he works to enact policy that benefits the State of Florida.
A number of new State Representatives and State Senators for the Central Florida region were elected or re-elected to office this year. The following State Senators and State Representatives will be present in Tallahassee to represent the Central Florida region for the 2019 Session:

Representative David Smith (R), District 28
Representative Scott Plakon (R), District 29
Representative Joy Goff-Marcil (D), District 30
Representative Jennifer Sullivan (R), District 31
Representative Josie Tomkow (R), District 39
Representative Mike La Rosa (R), District 42
Representative John Cortes (D), District 43
Representative Geraldine Thompson (D), District 44
Representative Kamia Brown (D), District 45
Representative Bruce Antone (D), District 46
Representative Anna Eskamani (D), District 47
Representative Amy Mercado (D), District 48
Representative Carlos G. Smith (D), District 49
Representative Rene “Coach P” Plasencia (R), District 50
Senator David Simmons (R), District 9
Senator Randolph Bracy (D), District 11
Senator Linda Stewart (D), District 13
Senator Victor Torres (D), District 15
The new structure of the Florida House and Senate have given a strong majority to the State Republicans. In the Senate, Republicans have a 23-16 majority and, in the House, Republicans have a 73 out of 120 majority.

The new **Speaker of the House is Speaker Jose Oliva (R)** and the new **Senate President is Senator Bill Galvano (R)**.

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**TOURISM DAY**

Save the date! **Wednesday, March 13th, 2019** CFHLA will be making the Association’s annual trip to Tallahassee for “**Florida Tourism Day**” at the State Capitol.

Each year, over 25 CFHLA Members spend a full day meeting with State Representatives and State Senators to advance the Association’s Legislative Priorities, primarily focusing on supporting VISIT FLORIDA, preserving the Tourist Development Tax, and advocating for a “level playing field” between “Shared Lodging” companies like Airbnb and traditional lodging establishments.

If you are interested in attending the **2019 Florida Tourism Day** with CFHLA, please contact **CFHLA Public Policy Director, Rico Pasamba** at publicpolicy@cfhla.org.

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**COMMISSIONER MAYRA URIBE**

On December 12th, members of the **Governmental Affairs Committee** met with **newly-elected Orange County Commissioner Mayra Uribe**. Commissioner Uribe spent time with the members and discussed the importance of affordable housing and transportation for residents of the Central Florida community. Members of the GA committee shared with Commissioner Uribe, the impact tourism has on the local economy and the history of tourism in Central Florida. CFHLA looks forward to working with Commissioner Uribe to enhance Orange County and improve the lives of those living and working in the region.
KIRKMAN ROAD EXTENSION

The Florida Department of Transportation held a public hearing on Tuesday, December 18th at the Orange County Convention Center to discuss a potential expansion of the Kirkman Road Extension from Universal Boulevard to Carrier Drive. CFHLA President Rich Maladecki made a public comment to FDOT and others in attendance to show support for the extension and to explain the positive impact this project will have for visitors and local workers who will be traveling along the road to reach the local attractions in the area.

GALA

The successful CFHLA Hospitality Gala of December 15th featured nearly 1400 members and guests, including the following Elected Officials:

Emily Bonilla
Orange County Commissioner, District 5

Peggy Choudhry
Osceola County Commissioner, District 1

Fred Hawkins Jr.
Osceola County Commissioner, District 5
Tony Ortiz
City of Orlando Commissioner, District 2

David Smith
State Representative, District 28

Darren Soto
United States Congressman, Florida’s 9th District

Mayra Uribe
Orange County Commissioner, District 3

Jay Wheeler
Osceola County School Board, District 1
Below please find news articles relating to the political interests of the Hospitality Industry:

Central Florida delegation's House committee assignments announced

Ron DeSantis names Visit Florida leader to oversee jobs agency