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RECEPTION

CFHLA encourages you to **REGISTER TODAY** for the **Wednesday, June 6 CFHLA-PAC Reception**, featuring complimentary beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres and the opportunity to network with prominent Central Florida elected officials.

This event, being held at the newly-renovated **Avanti Palms Resort and Conference Center Orlando (Thank You, Rod O'Connor and Chuck Simikian)**, will begin at **5:30PM** and will feature a **"Hospitality Feud" gameshow**, where elected officials will square off to see which of our leaders are "Hospitality Industry experts."

[JACOBS](#)

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ENDORSEMENTS

On Wednesday, May 16, the **CFHLA Political Action Committee Board of Directors** approved the following early endorsements of “**Hospitality-Friendly**” candidates seeking election and re-election in Central Florida races:



Cheryl Grieb
Osceola County Commissioner, District 4



Viviana Janer
Osceola County Commissioner, District 2



Linda Kobert
Orange County School Board Member, District 3



Amy Mercado
State Representative, District 48

To view all 2018 CFHLA Endorsements to date, please [click here](#).

Please note that the CFHLA-PAC will be coordinating **Candidate Interviews** for over a dozen Central Florida local and state offices on the **week of June 25**. If you are a CFHLA Member interested in participating as an “**Interview Panelist**,” please email CFHLA Public Policy Director, Kevin Craig, at publicpolicy@cfhla.org.

OLSZEWSKI

The CFHLA **Governmental Affairs Committee** met on Wednesday, May 9 with **State Representative Bobby Olszewski** (District 44) at [SeaWorld Orlando](#), courtesy of meeting host and GA Committee Member **Beth Thibodaux**.

Representative Olszewski, who represents a large segment of Central Florida's "**Tourism Corridor**" in the Florida House, shared with GA Committee Members his thoughts on **tourism-related legislation** in 2018 and expectations for the **2019 Legislative Session** under new House leadership.

The GA Committee thanked Representative Olszewski for his vote **against House Bill 585**, which would have expanded the allowed uses of Tourist Development Tax funds for non-tourism related purposes.

In April, the CFHLA Political Action Committee formally endorsed Representative Olszewski's 2018 reelection campaign.



CFHLA Board Member Bruce Skwarlo, General Manager of the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, CFHLA VIP Member Ruthann DiLauri of Minuteman Press, CFHLA Board Member Brian Wong, Owner/General Manager of the Celebration Suites Hotel, CFHLA-PAC Chairman Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham and Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area, May GA Committee Meeting host Beth Thibodaux of SeaWorld Orlando, State Representative Bobby Olszewski (District 44), CFHLA Board Member Ross Burke, General Manager of the Blue Heron Beach Resort, CFHLA Board Member Mark Politte, General Manager of the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando, CFHLA Board Member Charles Fisher, Resort Manager of the Four Seasons Resort Orlando at Walt Disney World Resort and CFHLA GA Committee Member Jim Bagley of Margaritaville Resort Orlando

The next meeting of the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee will occur on **Wednesday, June 13** at the **Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort (Thank You, Fred Sawyers)** featuring meeting guest and newly-appointed **Orange County Commissioner, Rod Love**, representing Orange County's 2nd District. Commissioner Love is fulfilling the remaining term of former Commissioner Bryan Nelson, who was recently elected as Mayor of Apopka.

STARGEL

On Tuesday, May 15 **CFHLA-PAC Board Chairman Jay Leonard** of the **Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area** and **CFHLA Public Policy Director Kevin Craig** attended a candidate fundraiser of CFHLA endorsed candidate and "tourism champion" **State Senator Kelli Stargel** at Lakeridge Winery in Clermont.

Senator Stargel thanked the CFHLA-PAC and CFHLA-PC Board Members for their financial support of her re-election campaign and vowed to continue

Also in attendance at this event was State Senate Majority Leader, **Senator Wilton Simpson**, who will likely become Senate President in 2020.



CFHLA-PAC Board Chairman Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham and Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area with State Senator Kelli Stargel

TOURISM WEEK

May 6-12 was **National Travel and Tourism Week** and was recognized as such through official “proclamations” by **Orange**, **Osceola** and **Seminole** County governments.

CFHLA partnered with **Experience Kissimmee**, **Orlando North Seminole County Tourism** and **Visit Orlando** and the tri-County governments to recognize the value of tourism to the Central Florida economy and community.

On Monday, May 7, the **Osceola County Board of County Commissioners** offered their National Travel and Tourism Week Proclamation:



CFHLA Board Member Wade Michael, General Manager of the Quality Suites Royale Parc Suites, DT Minich, President/CEO of Experience Kissimmee, Osceola County Commissioner - District 1 Peggy Choudhry and Rembert Vonk, Owner of Excellent Vacation Homes

Both **Orange County** and **Seminole County** presented National Travel and Tourism Week Proclamations on Tuesday, May 8:



Larry Henrichs, COO/CFO of Visit Orlando, George Aguel, President and CEO of Visit Orlando and Rich Maladecki, President/CEO of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association accept the Orange County "National Travel and Tourism Week" Proclamation



Sarah Kaminsky, General Manager of the Residence Inn Orlando Altamonte Springs, Danny Trosset of Orlando North Seminole County, Jamie Ross, General Manager of the Residence Inn Orlando Lake Mary, Seminole County Commissioner - District 3 Lee Constantine, CFHLA Board Member Bruce Skwarlo, General Manager of the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Don Dougherty, General Manager of the Westin Lake Mary Orlando North and Gui Cunna of Orlando North Seminole County accept a Seminole County "National Travel and Tourism Week" Proclamation alongside additional Orlando North Seminole County Team Members

MINA

On Friday, May 4, approximately 20 CFHLA Members met with **City of Orlando Police Chief John Mina** as part of the **CFHLA "Coffee Club"** meeting series to discuss his candidacy and "vision" relating to his 2018 **bid for Orange County Sheriff**.

Chief Mina, who has met regularly with CFHLA Downtown Lodging Members to provide public safety and tourism updates, shared details of his candidacy and offered his **continued partnership with CFHLA** and the Hospitality Industry if elected Sheriff.



CFHLA Board Assistant Treasurer Jorg Heyer, General Manager of the Sheraton Vistana Villages, City of Orlando Police Chief John Mina and CFHLA Board Chairman Fred Sawyers, General Manager of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

VOTE

CFHLA encourages all members to vote the **“Hospitality-Friendly Ticket”** in 2018. While voting on Election Day can be difficult with challenging work schedules, please know that there is still time to “opt-in” for **“Vote by Mail”** status in your county.

Please visit the following links, based on your county of residence, to learn how to **register for “Vote by Mail”**:

Orange County:

http://www.ocfelections.com/VoteByMailRequest/VoteByMailRequest_Lookup.aspx

Osceola County:

<https://www.voteosceola.com/en-us/How-to-Vote/Vote-By-Mail/Request-a-Mail-Ballot>

Seminole County:

<https://www.voteseminole.org/Voters#VoteByMailRequest>

JACOBS

On Friday, May 18, CFHLA was once again provided the privilege to partner with **Orange County** to produce the annual **“State of the County”** address featuring **Mayor Teresa Jacobs**, who is serving her final year as **Orange County Mayor**.

This year’s event, hosted by the **Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts**, was attended by over 600 prominent Central Florida elected officials and business leaders throughout the community.

In the Mayor’s address, Mayor Jacobs saluted the region’s Hospitality Industry for another **“record breaking”** year of visitation, with over **72 Million visitors** traveling to the Orlando area in 2017.



CFHLA Board Member Craig Leicester, General Manager of the Aloft Orlando Downtown, State Representative Bobby Olszewski (District 44) and CFHLA Board Second Vice Chairman Jesse Martinez, General Manager of the Alford Inn at Rollins



CFHLA Silver Partner and State of Orange County Sponsor John Gill of Premier Elevator Co., Inc., Orange County Commissioner Betsy VanderLey (District 1) and Allied Relations Council Board Member Joe Mahoney of HospitalityStaff



Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs

LINKS

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

[72 million tourists visited Orlando in 2017, a record number](#)

[Rod Love appointed to Orange County Commission](#)

[Spring break spurs jump in Orange County hotel tax revenue](#)

[Orange County pledges \\$3M to lure Special Olympic, WestleMania events](#)

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