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To: cfhla_info@cfhla.org
Subject: CFHLA - The Insider: The Hospitality Industry"s Political Advocate Newsletter - April 2015
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THE insider

CFHLA Political Action Committee Political Committee

THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY'S POLITICAL ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER

Volume 1
Edition 4

April 23, 2015

IN THIS EDITION:

GA

EARNED SICK DAYS

SCHOOL START

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ORLANDO NORTH

NATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM WEEK

STATE OF THE COUNTY

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

STATE OF THE CITY

LINKS

LINKS OF INTEREST

Florida Governor Rick Scott

State of Florida Senate

State of Florida House of

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GA

On Wednesday, April 8th, the **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** met with **Orange County Public Schools Chairman, Bill Sublette,** at the law offices of **Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.**, courtesy of GA Committee host **Jackie Bozzuto**.

The GA Committee and Chairman Sublette discussed the issue of **School Start Date**, as the Florida Legislature recently passed legislation that would allow Florida school districts to begin the academic school year as early as August 10th. Also discussed were the various programs through which CFHLA partners with Orange County Public Schools, such as the "Adopt-a-School" program, CFHLA Cares, the State of the Orange County Schools event, and the CFHLA Teacher's Academy Program.

Additionally, the GA Committee and Chairman Sublette discussed the **April CFHLA Membership Luncheon**, occurring next **Thursday, April 30th**, in which CFHLA will distribute nearly **$100,000 in Hospitality scholarships** to Central Florida students in addition to approximately **$25,000 in grants to Central Florida Hospitality programs**.

The next CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee will be held on **May 13th** when the Committee will meet with **State Senator David Simmons** (R-Altamonte Springs).

Importantly, CFHLA **thanks** the 2015 Governmental Affairs Committee

Representatives

Orange County

Osceola County

Seminole County

City of Orlando

City of Kissimmee

City of Sanford

Sponsor, **Maureen Haggerty** of:

Earned Sick Days

Organize Now, a Central Florida activist organization, has recently announced plans for a **"Campaign for Earned Sick Days"** - a statewide constitutional amendment campaign seeking to place Earned Sick Days on the **November 2016 ballot**.

Organize Now has also been active in the **"Fight For 15"** national movement, advocating for a raise in minimum wage to $15 an hour.

School Start Date

On Tuesday, April 14th, **Governor Rick Scott** signed into law **HB 7069**, a bill related to standardized testing, which included language that allows Florida school districts to begin the school year as early as August 10th.

Previously, Florida law allowed for schools to start no earlier than 14 days prior to Labor Day, a compromise reached years ago with the Hospitality Industry that benefited students with part-time summer jobs in the Tourism community and increased local **Tourist Development Tax (TDT) revenues** in Central Florida.

Legislative Session

The **Florida Legislative Session** is scheduled to end on Friday, May 1st, and CFHLA continues to actively monitor the **Association's 2015 Legislative Priorities**.

With a showdown between the State House and State Senate over Medicaid expansion, it is becoming increasingly likely that a **"Special Session"** of the Legislature will convene following the regular session.

A Special Session can be summoned any time after the regular session concludes, allowing state lawmakers to return home before going back to Tallahassee at a later date to pass a budget, which goes into effect on July 1st.

Additionally, please note that following the end of the regular Session, CFHLA's lobbying partners, GrayRobinson, will be producing a **"CFHLA Legislative Recap" video** for CFHLA Members to review the Association's 2015 Legislative Priorities and potentially preview a special session, should one occur.

Orlando North

At the April **CFHLA Seminole County Hoteliers** meeting, ten General Managers of Seminole County hotel properties voted unanimously to support the rebranding of **Seminole County** to **"Orlando North"** as it relates to tourism marketing efforts.

CFHLA President **Rich Maladecki** recently distributed letters to the five Seminole County Commissioners, expressing the Seminole County Hoteliers' support of this rebranding initiative that will enhance Seminole County's name recognition across key target markets.

National Travel & Tourism Week

Mark your calendar! May 2nd - May 10th has been selected as **2015 National Travel and Tourism Week** (NTTW), an annual recognition of the importance of the Tourism Industry to the national and local economies.

CFHLA has partnered with **Visit Orlando**, **Experience Kissimmee** and the **Seminole County Convention and Visitors Bureau** to present National Travel and Tourism Week Proclamations to local governments.

Below are the following dates/locations for Central Florida's local governments' NTTW Proclamations:

Seminole County
Tuesday, April 28th at 9:30 AM
Seminole County Commission Chambers (1st Floor)
1101 E. First Street, Sanford, FL 32771

Osceola County
Monday, May 4th 1:30 PM
Osceola County Commission Chambers (4th Floor)
1 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741

City of Orlando
Monday, May 4th 2:00 PM
Orlando City Hall Council Chambers (2nd Floor)
400 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32802

Orange County
Tuesday, May 5th 9:00 AM
Orange County Commission Chambers (1st Floor)
201 S Rosalind Avenue, Orlando, FL 32802

State of the County

CFHLA, in partnership with the office of **Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs,** will be producing the **2015 State of the County Address** at 9 AM on Friday, June 12th at the Dr. Phillip's Center for the Performing

Arts.

Official invitations are forthcoming.

State of the Schools

CFHLA, in partnership with **Orange County Public Schools**, will be producing the **2015 State of the Schools** on **Tuesday, May 5th** from 7:15-9:00 AM at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts (DeVos Family Room).

This official address will be offered by **Orange County School Board Chairman Bill Sublette** and **Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Barbara Jenkins.**

To register online, please visit www.cfhla.org/community-events.

If you have any questions relating to this event, please contact CFHLA Staff Member: **Lynnea Dawes**, communications@cfhla.org, 407-313-5025.

State of the City

For your information, **Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer** will be presenting the **2015 State of the City Address** on **Wednesday, April 29th** at 10:30 AM, to be held at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts (Alexis & Jim Pugh Theater).

Links

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

Florida Legislature Heads Toward Special Session Because of Medicaid Impasse

State incentives just common sense for Florida's fledgling entertainment industry

Orlando City Council takes first step towards earlier municipal elections

Florida Gov. signs bill to limit standardized tests/change school start date

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