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The Insider

Dear Valued CFHLA Members and Community Partners:

**Welcome to the first issue of "The Insider,"
the official political newsletter of the
Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association!**

The Insider is a monthly publication that seeks to keep CFHLA Members informed of **political developments** that impact the **Central Florida Hospitality Industry**. Additionally, this publication will inform Central Florida's **elected officials** of the issues that are important to Hospitality and the Tourism Industry.

For your information, each issue of this newsletter will contain links to **relevant news articles** that detail developments relating to issues of importance to CFHLA.

Should you have any suggestions of what **YOU** would like to see added to "The Insider," please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

[Orange County](#)

[Osceola County](#)

[Seminole County](#)

[City of Orlando](#)

[City of Kissimmee](#)

[City of Sanford](#)

Your partner in Tourism Friendly Legislation,

Kevin Craig

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Mike Miller



State Representative Mike Miller with CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Members and CFHLA Board Members Doug Ridge of the Orlando World Center Marriott and Bruce Skwarlo of the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary.

The **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee**, composed of over twenty of the Central Florida Hospitality and Tourism Industry's most politically engaged individuals, met with freshman **State House Representative Mike Miller** (R-Winter Park) to share his goals for his first Legislative Session and to discuss [CFHLA's 2015 Legislative Priorities](#).

Each month, the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee meets with an Elected Official from the Central Florida region to discuss Hospitality Industry issues both locally and statewide and to strengthen the relationships between CFHLA Members and lawmakers. The Committee is Chaired by Scott Tripoli, General Manager of the [DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld](#).

The February Governmental Affairs Committee "Luncheon Guest" is slated to be Orange County Commissioner - District 6 **Victoria Siplin**.

Take Tallahassee by Storm



The 2014 CFHLA Tallahassee Day Delegation meets with Lt. Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera

On **Wednesday, March 11th**, a [Mears Transportation](#) bus will be departing the CFHLA Offices at 6 AM to travel to Tallahassee for **Florida Tourism Day 2015**. Filled with CFHLA Members and plenty of coffee, the bus will arrive in Tallahassee at 10 AM for a **Visit Florida Presentation**.

Following the presentation and a quick lunch, the CFHLA **“Tourism Day Delegation”** will meet with approximately **10-15 State Legislators** to discuss CFHLA’s Legislative Priorities for the 2015 Session, with an emphasis on specific bills that could impact **Central Florida’s Hospitality Industry**. The bus will arrive back in Orlando at approximately 10 PM Wednesday evening.

Limited seating is available for this important and educational CFHLA activity, that will be full of excitement and fun for attendees. *If you are interested in joining the CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation, please email CFHLA Public Policy Coordinator Kevin Craig at publicpolicy@cfhla.org.*



The 2014 CFHLA Tallahassee Day Delegation meets with State Senator - District 15 Kelli Stargel

Happy Birthday!

CFHLA wishes a “**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**” to **Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner** (R-Orlando), who turns 46 years young this Friday.

Senator Gardiner (District 13) was awarded CFHLA's **Public Servant of the Year** award in 2009 and has been a steadfast advocate for Central Florida's Tourism Industry.



Florida State Senator - District 13 Andy Gardiner with CFHLA 2nd Vice Chairman David Friederich of the Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando and CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Scott Tripoli of the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld

40 Days From Session!

On **Tuesday, March 3rd**, only 40 days from today, the **2015 Florida Legislative Session** will kick-off and under the leadership of former CFHLA Public Servants of the Year **Representative Steve Crisafulli** (Speaker of the Florida House) and **Senator Andy Gardiner** (President of the Florida Senate) and will last 60 days, commencing on Friday, May 1st.

To learn who your State Senator or State Representative is, please use the links below:

[Who's my State Representative?](#)

[Who's my State Senator?](#)

CFHLA-PAC & CFHLA-PC

The **CFHLA Political Action Committee** and **CFHLA Political Committee Board of Directors** will both meet on **Friday, February 20th** at the CFHLA Offices for their first meetings of 2015. Both Committees will meet quarterly in 2015 to discuss and manage events including, but not limited to:

- Florida “Tourism Day” delegation trip to Tallahassee
- The Annual CFHLA-PAC Reception Fundraiser
- The “Tee It Up for Tourism” CFHLA-PC Golf Outing & Luncheon



Hospitality Industry-Related Political News Links

Below please find links of interest, relating to the political interests of the Hospitality Industry:

[Uber confident it can change Orlando's ride-share ordinance by Feb. 1](#)

[Orlando residents rent out homes, cars in 'sharing economy'](#)

[Is the State Ready to Play Hardball with Seminole Gaming Company?](#)

[John Morgan files revised medical marijuana amendment for 2016](#)

[PB lawmaker wants hotels to lift age restrictions for military](#)

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