



May 30, 2025

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May Board of Directors Meeting and After-Hours Reception



This week, the **CFHLA Board of Directors** held their most recent meeting and After Hours Reception at the **Sheraton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Resort** (Thank you, Colin Mills).

During the Board Meeting, we had the opportunity to hear from the **Dean of UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, Dr. Cynthia Mejia**. Dean Mejia provided an update on the current renovations at the college and shared her vision for the future of the number one hospitality program in the nation.

Additional highlights include:

- Welcoming the four newly appointed CFHLA Board Members, including **Joe Delgado** of the **AC by Marriott Orlando Downtown**, **Kristen Oswald** of **TownePlace Suites Altamonte Springs**, **Dace Stewart** of the **Marriott Village Orlando**, and **Brian Wander** of the **Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld**
- Receiving updates from our tourism partners at **Experience Kissimmee** and **Visit Orlando**

- Welcoming our Leadership Mentoring Program, Class IV Participants



Furthermore, thank you to the 200+ allied and lodging members who came out and supported “Members Doing Business With Members.”

Lastly, CFHLA would like to thank our **2025 May Board of Directors meeting sponsor**, **Circle of Success** and our **2025 May After Hours Reception Sponsor**, **System Tech Services, Inc.**



[Click Here to View the Board Meeting and After-Hours](#)

Hurricane Preparedness Seminar



As we officially kick off the 2025 Hurricane season, the **CFHLA Engineers Council** recently hosted their annual **Hurricane Preparedness Seminar** at the **Sheraton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Resort** (Thank You, Colin Mills, General Manager).

Thank you to **Marquise Meda**, Meteorologist at **WESH 2 News**, for providing our members with a **2025 Hurricane Season Outlook** and for sharing best practices before, during and after a storm. We'd also like to thank the more than 80 CFHLA Members who attended and contributed to the seminar's success.

Lastly, thank you to **AV Media** for providing the audio/visual support for the educational seminar and a special thanks to our participating sponsors including:





Partners In Action - Jones High School Culinary Students Visit the Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando



Recently, the team of the **Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando** hosted a memorable hands-on learning experience for 13 culinary students and two chaperones from **Jones High School**. During their visit, students refined essential culinary techniques including knife skills, sauce making, temperature control, roasting, sautéing, seasoning, and food safety. With guidance from the hotel's culinary team, they prepared a vibrant beet salad and explored the workings of a commercial kitchen. The visit concluded with a three-course fine dining lunch, giving students a taste of hospitality at its finest. This impactful experience left lasting impressions.



Thank you to the entire team at Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando for hosting such an powerful visit for these students!

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**CFHLA Officially Welcomes Matthew McAlister, New
General Manager at The Celeste Hotel Orlando**



This week, CFHLA officially welcomed **Matthew McAlister** as the new **General Manager** at **The Celeste Hotel Orlando**, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel.

With more than 20 years of experience within the hospitality industry, Matthew has led successful hotel openings, large-scale renovations and daily operations at both independent and branded properties. Previously, Matthew served as General Manager at the **Daytona Grande Oceanfront Resort** and at **Delaware North**. Additionally, Matthew's background in luxury hospitality management and a deep passion for creating outstanding guest experiences has more than prepared him for this new leadership role.

We look forward to seeing Matthew's continued success, and please welcome him to our Central Florida hospitality community!

**Orlando Named #1 Meeting Destination in North America
– Again! Congratulations to Our Regional Hotels and
Partners**



We are proud to share that **Orlando** has once again been named the **Number 1 Meeting Destination in North America by Cvent**, marking the **tenth time** our city has earned this prestigious title. This recognition speaks volumes about Orlando's unwavering commitment to excellence in the meetings and conventions industry.

Each year, the **Cvent Top Meeting Destinations** list evaluates cities based on their ability to attract group business through strategic partnerships with event planners, unique experiential offerings, and standout hotel and venue options. Orlando continues to lead the way, thanks to the ongoing dedication of our hospitality professionals and venues that deliver unforgettable group experiences.

In addition to topping the destination list, **19 of our CFHLA convention hotels and resorts** were recognized among the **Top Meeting Hotels in North America**, with **15 Members ranked in the Top 100** - and **JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes** proudly landing at **#10**.

The other standout Orlando properties and CFHLA Members include:

- [Hyatt Regency Orlando](#) (#11)
- [Hilton Orlando](#) (#22)
- [Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress](#) (#28)
- [JW Marriott Orlando Bonnet Creek Resort & Spa](#) (#35)
- [Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate](#) (#36)
- [Rosen Shingle Creek](#) (#49)
- [Signia by Hilton Orlando](#) (#65)

- [Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace](#) (#67)
- [Orlando World Center Marriott](#) (#68)
- [Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin](#) (#71)
- [Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Orlando](#) (#94)
- [Loews Sapphire Falls Resort at Universal Orlando](#) (#95)
- [Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld](#) (#97)
- [Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center](#) (#100)
- [Caribe Royale Orlando](#) (#120)
- [Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Area](#) (#150)
- [Disney's Coronado Springs Resort](#) (#229)
- [Loews Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Orlando](#) (#232)

Congratulations again to all of members and partners who made this list possible. Your continued excellence reinforces Orlando's reputation as the premier destination for meetings and events. Thank you for all you do to keep our community at the top!

**GLE**

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MAY MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Meet Our May Members of the Month



William Matthews

Sheraton Orlando Lake Buena
Vista Resort Resort



Joelynn Moses

Restore Now

To nominate a future CFHLA Allied and/or Lodging Member of the Month, please [CLICK HERE](#).

MEET THE VIP



Did You Know...

ATMFLA was originally incorporated as Sun Lovers of Central Florida, Inc. in 1988. We started as a wholesale distribution company. We changed the name in 2010 when we shifted our focus to ATMs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on upcoming events, or to register, just click on the button below.

- [2025 Leadership Development Series Seminar #3, Revenue Management \(6/3/2025\)](#)
- [Engineers Council Board Meeting \(6/5/2025\)](#)

- [Vacation Ownership Council Meeting \(6/5/2025\)](#)
- [2025 State of Orange County Address \(6/6/2025\)](#)
- [2025 Hospitality Tradeshow Committee Meeting #1 \(6/9/2025\)](#)
- [CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting \(6/10/2025\)](#)
- [Wednesday AM Leads Group \(6/11/2025\)](#)
- [Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(6/11/2025\)](#)
- [Seminole County Hoteliers Luncheon \(6/11/2025\)](#)
- [Security and Safety Council's Casino Night \(6/12/2025\)](#)

CLICK HERE FOR A GUIDE
TO REGISTER AN
INDIVIDUAL FOR EVENTS

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JOB OPENINGS

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About CFHLA

6675 Westwood Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32821

The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.