



January 3, 2025

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CFHLA Wishes You a Happy New Year!

On behalf of the **Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association**, we would like to wish all of our members, hospitality workers, community partners and their families a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

We are looking forward to an exciting 2025, as we continue our mission of setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition and service.



Submit Your Golden Pineapple Awards Nominations



Nominations are now open for the annual [Golden Pineapple Awards](#), that is scheduled for **Thursday, February 27, 2025**, at the [Orlando World Center Marriott](#).

This signature reception and dinner program invites CFHLA Member Properties to nominate deserving Front Line / Hourly / Non-Supervisory / Non-Management employees to be recognized for their exceptional dedication and success. Please consider nominating your deserving employees for these prestigious awards.

As a reminder, we will once again host a separate Distinguished Leaders in Hospitality Awards reception (for Outstanding Managers and Supervisors) in the fall 2025.

The deadline to submit your nominations is **Thursday, January 16, 2025**. Nominations will only be accepted through online submission. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the form and submit your nominations today.

If you have any questions about the Golden Pineapple Awards nominations process and/or the event, please contact CFHLA Senior Director of Events, Kim Gordon, at kim.gordon@cfhla.org or 407-313-5040.

Get Ready to Bid in Our New Year's Flash Sale Auction!

Get ready to bid in the **CFHLA New Years Flash Sale Auction** that will **begin next Monday, January 6th and end on Tuesday, January 7th**. All items will be discounted up to 70% for this **48-hour special online auction**, sponsored by [Greater Florida Electrical Contractors](#). You could get a few great deals on luxury hotel stays, Central Florida attractions, and much more! Start off the New Year with big discounts on some auction great items! [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.



The banner features a yellow background with a black and white comic-style speech bubble. Inside the bubble, the text reads "NEW YEARS FLASH SALE AUCTION" in red and black. A red megaphone icon is positioned to the left. Below the speech bubble, there are three circular images: the Gaylord Palms hotel, a Ferris wheel, and the Waldorf Astoria Orlando hotel. A red speech bubble in the center says "Discount up to: 70% All Items". At the bottom, it says "OPEN ONLY 48 HOURS!" and "SPONSORED BY: GREATER FLORIDA ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS" with their logo.

Partners in Action - Hyatt Regency Orlando Volunteers Take Part in Two Toy Drives

CFHLA thanks our Partners in Action at [Hyatt Regency Orlando](#) for participating in two separate toy drives just before Christmas. The Hyatt Regency team dropped off backpacks and toys to their [Adopt-A-School](#) partners at [Rosemont Elementary School](#). The new items will help replenish the student rewards inventory to start the new year.



Hyatt Regency Orlando also volunteered to donate gifts to the annual toy drive of [Orange County Commissioner Mike Scott, District 6](#). The team dropped off large, holiday bags loaded with children's toys. These generous donations helped make Christmas special for local families who needed some help during this holiday season.

CFHLA Thanks all of our Adopt-A-School partners and volunteers who made time to improve children's lives in 2024, and we look forward to another great year ahead!



Partners in Action - Hotel Landy Volunteers Teach Students at Sally Ride Elementary

A big thank you to our Partners in Action from [Hotel Landy](#) for taking part in a Teach-In at [Sally Ride Elementary School](#) in Orange County.

Volunteer Schaevon Miller and her colleagues rolled up their sleeves and marked up the chalk boards, as they taught students about careers in the hospitality and tourism industry as part of the [Adopt-A-School](#) Program. The teachers for a day talked about

why they love their jobs and answered students' questions about careers they are considering.

CFHLA looks forward to another strong year in 2025 partnering with Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties for the Adopt-A-School Program.



Partners in Action - Courtyard Orlando Airport Team Works Career Day at Whispering Oak Elementary



Volunteers from [Courtyard Orlando Airport](#) wrapped up 2024 by investing in the students at [Whispering Oak Elementary School](#). General Manager Scott Disson and several members of his team took part in the school's most recent Career Day as part of the [Adopt-A-School](#) Program.

The team also volunteered to sponsor the teacher's lounge at Whispering Oak throughout the month of December. That support powered teachers through the last weeks of school before the holiday break!

CFHLA thanks all of our partners who make time to invest in Central Florida students through our various career development programs.

Save the Date for the Polaris Star Awards

Please save the date for the 15th annual [Polaris Star Awards](#) that will be held on **Friday, January 24, 2025.**

This year's awards ceremony will be hosted at the [UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management](#), in the Darden Auditorium. Additionally, the reception will be held in the beautiful Rosen College Courtyard and the Disney Dining Room.

Date: Friday, January 24, 2025

Location: UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

Address: [9907 Universal Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819](#)

Polaris Star Awards: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Darden Auditorium, Room 101

Reception: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Rosen College Courtyard

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

POLARIS STAR AWARDS

DATE	TIME
JAN. 24, 2025 FRIDAY	6 P.M. - 9 P.M.
LOCATION	HOSTED BY
UCF ROSEN COLLEGE 9907 UNIVERSAL BLVD ORLANDO, FL, 32819	 Center for Study of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery <small>UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA</small>
	 STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING <i>Powered by United Abolitionists</i>

More information coming soon. Questions? Email us at HTMSCenter@ucf.edu.

Blood Drive Today at Wyndham Orlando Resort

Here is a chance to give the gift of life to start out the new year. The [Wyndham Orlando Resort & Conference Center Celebration Area](#) is hosting a blood drive today from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All donors will receive a \$20 eGift Card, long sleeved donor T-shirt and a wellness checkup.



DONATE BLOOD

**Wyndham Orlando Resort &
Conference Area Celebration Area
Friday, January 3
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

All donors will receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **Long-sleeved T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 68206**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



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Congratulations to Our Partners on Bringing Three Exciting College Football Bowl Games to Orlando

CFHLA congratulates [Florida Citrus Sports](#) and our other partners, who brought three exciting college football bowl games to downtown Orlando last week. The bowl games

attracted thousands of visitors to Central Florida and gave a huge economic boost over the holidays, especially to many of Central Florida's local small businesses.

The first bowl game at [Camping World Stadium](#), featured the CUSA Champion Jacksonville State Gamecocks and Mid-American Conference Champion Ohio Bobcats in the **2024 StaffDNA Cure Bowl**. The Bobcats prevailed 30 - 27.

Then, #18 Iowa State Cyclones defeated the #13 Miami Hurricanes 42 - 41 in a classic matchup of the 2024 **Pop-Tarts Bowl** held at [Camping World Stadium](#).



Lastly, the #15 South Carolina Gamecocks and #20 Illinois Fighting Illini squared off in the 2024 **Cheez-It Citrus Bowl** at [Camping World Stadium](#). Illinois won this close contest 21 - 17. The annual matchup has featured top SEC and Big Ten teams since 1993.



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**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
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[Vista Resort](#)

Akai Baker

[Daisy Baker Cakes](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [Allied Relations Council Breakfast - January 2025 \(1/14/2025\)](#)
 - [CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting \(1/14/2025\)](#)
 - [CFHLA Board of Directors Meeting - January 2025 \(1/22/2025\)](#)
 - [2025 CFHLA January After Hours Reception \(1/22/2025\)](#)
-

[Click Here to View Upcoming
CFHLA Meetings & Events](#)

JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

CONNECT WITH CFHLA



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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.