



December 20, 2024

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CFHLA Wishes You a Joyous Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the **Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association**, we'd like to wish all of our members, hospitality workers, community partners and their families a **joyous holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year!** We look forward to an exciting 2025 and thank you again for your continued support, dedication and commitment to making the Central Florida Hospitality Industry simply amazing!

The CFHLA office will be closed from December 23, 2024 through January 1, 2025, reopening on Tuesday, January 2, 2025.



CFHLA Celebrates 2024 at the Hospitality Gala



Thank you to the more than 1,000 members, sponsors and community partners who attended our **2024 CFHLA Hospitality Gala**, presented by [Orlando Health](#) and [Xpodigital](#), this past Saturday, December 14th, at the **Loews Sapphire Falls Resort (Thank you Barb Bowden)!**

This year, CFHLA celebrated and honored our 2024 award winners including the Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award for Community Leadership, Lodging Member of the Year, Allied Member of the Year, Engineer of the Year and PAC Board Member of the Year. We also honored our 2024 Legends Hall of Fame recipients at the Gala.

Additionally, the **2025 CFHLA Executive Committee**, along with our re-elected and newly elected/appointed 2025 CFHLA Board of Directors, were announced.

Congratulations again to all of our 2024 honorees including:

2024 Engineer of the Year



Christopher Chosay

Director of Engineering

[Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center](#)

2024 Allied Member of the Year



Linda Grier Hanson

Owner & Managing Director

[Greenery Productions, Inc.](#)

2024 Lodging Member of the Year



Jorg Heyer

Vice President of Operations

[Marriott Vacations Worldwide](#)

2024 PAC Board Member of the Year



Jacqueline Bozzuto

Co-Chair of Hospitality & Leisure

[Lowndes](#)

2024 Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award for Community Leadership



Mark Woodbury

Chairman & CEO

[Universal Destinations & Experiences \(UDX\)](#)

2024 Legends Hall of Fame Honorees



2024 Legends Honorees include (L to R): Ron Silveira, Jay Hunt (posthumously), Jeff Brinda & Louis Robbins

Also, congratulations to our **\$4,000 Holiday Cash Raffle Winner, Trevor Dasch** with [Yes Hotel Services](#)! Trevor generously donated the \$4,000 cash prize to the [CFHLA Foundation and the Gives](#) Program, which supports our local students pursuing careers in our hospitality and tourism industry with a much needed scholarship.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket, as 100% of the proceeds went to the [CFHLA Foundation](#), which donates to causes that advance hospitality and tourism initiatives, youth-related initiatives, and community advocacy.



Lastly, CFHLA would like to thank **Barb Bowden, Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando**, for her strong and steady leadership while serving as the **2024 Chair of the [CFHLA Board of Directors](#)**. We are extremely grateful for her dedication and commitment to the success of the association and we look forward to welcoming our **2025 Board Chair, Chris Mueller, General Manager, [Hilton Orlando](#)** when he begins his tenure on January 1, 2025.



CFHLA would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2024 Hospitality Gala. This successful event would not have been possible without your generous support!

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CFHLA Cares Shoe Drive Collects More than 1,000 Shoes for Local Students in Need

Thank you to each of you who generously donated sneakers and socks for our final [CFHLA Cares Collection Drive](#) of 2024. Thanks to your donations, we are proud to announce that we collected more than 1,000 pairs of socks and shoes, which will be donated to students in need throughout **Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties**.

The results of this year's collection drive were announced Saturday night at our [2024 Hospitality Gala](#), and this year we doubled the number of shoes collected compared to last year.

Your generosity captures the spirit of this Holiday Season and wraps up a strong year of community service for CFHLA, our members and partners.





[Click to See More Cares Collection Drive Photos](#)

Welcome New CFHLA Members!

This week, CFHLA welcomed the following **10 Member** businesses to the Association at our final **New Member Orientation** of the year.



Roy Figueroa

Amano McGann-Parking Solutions

Arlyn Moore

Massey Service, Inc.

Brian Miller & Bia Martin

Paylocity

Nate Adrian

Power Washing Services, Inc.

Justin Florence

Rapid Response Team

Austin Cotton

Stephens & Company

Jon Nobles & Johan Barrios

Sun Hospitality Resort Services

Sigfredo Rivera

Wash Me Fly

James Ambuehl

Weber Environmental Services,

[a Continuum Services Company](#)

Fabiola Armenta & Jeffrey Juri

[Z&CJS, Inc.](#)

Welcome again to CFHLA, and we look forward to your new involvement throughout 2025 and beyond!

Watch the CFHLA 2024 Year in Review Video

We are celebrating an amazing year of accomplishments for CFHLA, our Members and Partners! Check out the **CFHLA 2024 Year in Review** by **clicking on the video below**. Hear directly from our partners, regarding CFHLA's success stories in 2024 and how our industry continues to make a positive difference for visitors and Central Florida families.



Save the Date: 2025 State of Hospitality & Tourism

Save the date for **CFHLA's second annual State of Hospitality & Tourism breakfast** that will be held on **Thursday, February 6, 2025** at the [Caribe Royale Orlando](#). This important industry event will feature presentations on Central Florida's market trends, including ADR and occupancy in 2024, as well as national and local forecasts for 2025. Plus it will include newly released workforce data and career growth opportunities for the hospitality industry moving forward.

This can't miss breakfast will feature **Nilda Blanco**, Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at [CareerSource Central Florida](#) and **Isaac Collazo**, Vice President of Analytics at [STR](#).

The cost is \$75 per person, and registration closes on January 31st.





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Partners in Action - Colonial HS Students Explore Careers at Hyatt House Orlando Airport

Students from [Colonial High School](#) recently visited [Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#) to see what it's like working in a hotel. This site visit wraps up a strong year of CFHLA working closely with [Orange County Public Schools](#) to help students explore careers in the hospitality and tourism industry.



During the visit, students enjoyed the opportunity to see how front desk workers create memorable guest experiences. They learned about the proper way to fold linen and maintain hotel pool areas. **General Manager Ally Martin** and other team leaders shared their career stories and answered questions about how students can have rewarding careers in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Thank you to all of our CFHLA partners who gave their time and talents this year to help students through the 2024/2025 [Adopt-A-School](#) Program.



Partners in Action - Embassy Suites LBV South Provides Gifts to Westside K-8 Families

CFHLA also thanks [Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista South](#) for spreading some holiday cheer this month at [Westside K-8](#) in Osceola County.

Volunteers brought holiday gifts for families taking part in the school's Families in Transition program, which serves temporarily homeless families.

The Embassy Suites team dropped off **gifts for 32 children**, including Walmart gift cards and board games for the children to play with their families. The presents in festive gift bags will help brighten the holidays for these children and their families.



Partners in Action - Staybridge Suites Orlando Team Delivers Turkeys to Deerwood Elementary



[Staybridge Suites Orlando Royale Parc Suites](#) in Kissimmee is also giving back to students and their families during this holiday season. Volunteers spent 2024 supporting children at [Deerwood Elementary School of Innovation](#) through the CFHLA [Adopt-A-School](#) Program.

They recently dropped off fresh turkeys for the school's yearly Turkey Trot event to support students and their families. **Angel Rodriguez, Assistant General Manager** at Staybridge Suites, and **Breakfast Supervisor Clara Tapia** led this effort to help families have happy, healthy holidays.

Central Florida Prepares to Host 3 Exciting College Football Bowl Games



Thank you to all of our partners who worked so hard this year to bring three exciting college football bowl games to Orlando this month. This caps off an amazing year of sports tourism in Central Florida, and to helping Orlando maintain its position as the **top sports tourism destination in America**.

The **2024 StaffDNA Cure Bowl** returns to Orlando and will feature **CUSA Champion Jacksonville State Gamecocks** and **Mid-American Conference Champion Ohio Bobcats** at **Camping World Stadium**! Kickoff is set for Noon ET on **Friday, Dec. 20**, and will be aired on **ESPN**. The StaffDNA Cure Bowl is celebrating its 10th anniversary by matching two conference champions for the second time in the game's history.



Next, America's favorite bowl game returns to Orlando on **Saturday, Dec. 28** when **No. 13 Miami Hurricanes** will face **No. 18 Iowa State Cyclones** for the first time in program

history! Kickoff is slated for 3:30pm ET at [Camping World Stadium](#), and will air live on [ABC](#). The 2024 [Pop-Tarts Bowl](#) will be the 35th edition of the game, which has been held at Camping World Stadium since 2001 after 11 years in South Florida.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about tickets.



Lastly, the **No. 15 South Carolina Gamecocks** and **No. 20 Illinois Fighting Illini** will square off at [Camping World Stadium](#) on **Tuesday, Dec. 31** in the 2024 [Cheez-It Citrus Bowl](#)! Kickoff is set for 3:00pm ET, and will air live on [ABC](#). This season's Cheez-It Citrus Bowl will be the 79th edition of the game, an annual matchup of top SEC and Big Ten teams since 1993.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about tickets.

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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 Board of Directors Meeting - January 2025 \(1/22/2025\)](#)
 - [2025 CFHLA January After Hours Reception \(1/22/2025\)](#)
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CFHLA Meetings & Events](#)

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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