



**April 4, 2025**

CFHLA Thanks Our Back of the House Sponsors

A black and yellow advertisement for GFEC. The logo 'GFEC' is in large, bold, white letters with a yellow lightning bolt. To the right, it says 'CELEBRATING 20 YEARS' in yellow. Below the logo, a yellow box contains the text 'Shocking Standards, Electrifying Service.' To the right of this, a paragraph states: 'Specializing in **commercial, industrial, and hospitality** electrical services, we are there for you when you need us **most**.' Below this, a list of services is shown in yellow boxes with lightning bolt icons: 'INDOOR & OUTDOOR LIGHTING', 'EMERGENCY SERVICE', 'PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE', and 'HURRICANE PREPARATION'. To the right of the list are two hexagonal images: one of a golf course at night and another of an electrical control panel. At the bottom, there are two yellow circles: one with a phone icon and the text '24/7 Service 407.207.1769', and another with an envelope icon and the text 'Contact Us info@gfecontractors.com'.

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**CFHLA Board of Directors Holds April Meeting & VIP Member Reception**



This week, our **CFHLA Board of Directors** held their second meeting of the year and VIP Member After Hours Reception at [Disney's Boardwalk Resort](#). Thank you to **CFHLA Board Member Sylvie Dervaux** for your awesome hospitality!

We appreciate the opportunity to hear from **Robert Montgomery** of [Clean the World](#), who shared how the hospitality industry can partner with their organization to create a more sustainable community, and help improve the lives of women, children, and communities all across the globe.



Additionally, we truly appreciate the continued partnership and support of our outstanding VIP Members, including our **April Board Meeting Sponsor**, [AdventHealth Orlando](#). Lastly, a special thank you to our partners [Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream](#) and [Cloudhop Bakeshop](#) for the delicious desserts!



[Click Here to View the Board Meeting & VIP Member Reception](#)

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## Welcome New CFHLA Members!

This week, CFHLA also welcomed the following **24 Member** businesses to the Association at our first **New Member Orientation** of the Year, including:



**Jose Santiago**

**[Able Linen](#)**

**Rachelle Wathen**

**[ASSA Abloy Entrance Systems](#)**

**Peggy Ann Calderon**

**[Better Choice Services](#)**

**Brendan Doud**

**[BluSky Restoration Contractors](#)**

**Jason Mortimer**

**[Business Risk Advisors](#)**

**Rosa Offutt & Michael Broadus**

**[Edward Jones](#)**

**Brooke Ellis / Kamil Honein / Kyle Allison**

**[Evolution Parking and Guest Services](#)**

**Jonathan Williams**

**[Fairy Tale Designs and Concepts](#)**

**Shawn Geddes & Mark Faubert**

**[First Onsite](#)**

**Justin Levine**

**[Fun Spot America](#)**



**Gabriela Speller & Trish Eakin**

**[GP Consulting Orlando LLC](#)**

**Amber Swain**

**[Groundtek](#)**

**Keith Theodorson**

**[Pro Air Mechanical](#)**

**Scott Hill**

**[Proxenia, LLC](#)**

**Matthew Moura**

**[re:fab](#)**

**Ho Gill Yoon & Shirley Marcial**

**[Staff-Clean LLC](#)**

**Pierce Gilden & Nancy McGettigan**

**[Strategic Maintenance & Restoration Services](#)**

**Justin Koegel & Thania Trujillo**

**[The Whiting - Turner Contracting Company](#)**

**Ryan Kelley**

**[Titan Flooring](#)**

**Chris Yeager**

**[Vend Force, A Texas Liability Company](#)**

**Anar Shah & Eugene Nayyer**

**[Vertex](#)**

**Yamile Gonzalez**

**[Waste Management Inc of FL](#)**

Shannon Ortiz

World Wide Cultural Exchange dba Life Traveled

Mark Roberts

Wurth Industry

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

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## CFHLA Keynotes Tourist Intelligence Crime Meeting at Orlando World Center Marriott

Did you know that every month, law enforcement officials and security professionals from across the Central Florida region gather for a **Tourist Intelligence Crime Meeting**? These meetings are designed to share information on best practices and how to partner on a variety of initiatives that will help keep our future guests and community safe.

This week, **CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa** served as the keynote speaker of the April meeting, which was held at the Orlando World Center Marriott.

During the meeting, Robert provided an overview of CFHLA and our commitment to fostering strong partnerships between the hospitality industry and law enforcement, through the work of our CFHLA Security and Safety Council. Additionally, Robert highlighted the Council's community outreach and impact including **\$15,000 that was donated in 2024 to a variety of public safety initiatives** and its commitment to developing the future workforce in security and safety, including **hosting the first ever OCPS Public Safety Summit** last year.



Thank you again to **Orange County Master Deputy Jim Bridges**, for prioritizing safety and bringing together key industry and law enforcement leaders who are united in ensuring that Central Florida remains a safe and welcoming destination for all visitors.

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## **CFHLA Foundation Board Visits Seminole State College's Food Trailer**



Thank you to our educational partner, [Seminole State College of Florida](#), for inviting our CFHLA Foundation Board members to visit the Raiders Grill this week. This innovative mobile kitchen gives students in the Hospitality and Restaurant Management program hands-on culinary training, equipping them with skills in food prep, operations, cost analysis, safety regulations, and customer service.

The **CFHLA Foundation** is proud to have supported this program and the college's state-of-the-art food trailer for the past three years. By providing students with real-world experience to build their resumes, developing critical thinking skills, and establishing industry connections, we cannot wait to see these future hospitality leaders thrive.

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**CLICK HERE TO  
PURCHASE BODY AD**

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**[CFHLA Discusses Future Partnership Opportunities with  
Seminole State College](#)**





Recently, CFHLA met with [Seminole State College](#) and their senior leadership team, which included **President Dr. Georgia Lorenz**, **Program Manager of the Hospitality Programs**, **Dr. Michael Petrillose**, and many others.

The discussion focused on exploring opportunities that will ensure students gain the skills and experience needed to thrive in the region's dynamic hospitality industry through hands-on training, industry connections, and innovative programming.

Additionally, we look forward to the continued collaboration and partnership, as we work together to develop the next generation of hospitality and culinary professionals.

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## OCPS Recognizes CFHLA Members at Crystal Awards

Today, [Orange County Public Schools](#) held their annual **Community Outreach Recognition Event - the Crystal Awards** at [SeaWorld Orlando](#).

Each year, OCPS recognizes outstanding coordinators, school volunteers, and business partners for their outstanding contributions that impact student success throughout the school year. CFHLA is proud to congratulate and thank the following members, for being recognized for their amazing partnership with OCPS this year and their continuing support of our local

schools! This includes a special congratulations to [Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#), for receiving the prestigious Florida's Education Commissioner's Business Recognition Award – Region III!

- Florida's Education Commissioner's Business Recognition Award – Region III & OCPS Partners of the Year
  - [Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#) & [Hampton Inn & Suites Orlando Airport at Gateway](#) - [Little River Elementary School](#) / [Cheney Elementary School](#) / [Foundation for OCPS Community Outreach Districtwide](#)



#### Outstanding Partners in Education - District Program Honorees

- - [Holiday Inn Express & Suites East Orlando](#) - [Legacy Middle School](#)
  - [McCoy Federal Credit Union](#) - [Hamlin Elementary School](#)
  - [Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel](#) - [Conway Elementary School](#)
  - [Walt Disney Orlando](#) - [Foundation for OCPS Community Outreach Districtwide](#)



Congratulations to this year's winners and we appreciate all you do to support our local students and educators!

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## Partners In Action - Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Gives Back Through CFHLA's Adopt-A-School Program

As part of CFHLA's **Adopt-A-School Program**, the [Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista](#) recently thanked the incredible teachers and administrators at [Tildenville Elementary School](#), by gifting a sheet cake for their end-of-the-year celebration. Additionally, the team supported [Lake Whitney Elementary School](#) by serving as guest speakers for their 3rd grade teach in!



Thank you to the team of Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista for your time and support of each of your Adopt-A-School partners!

## Metro Orlando Scouting America Recognizes Hospitality and Community Leaders at Golden Eagle Dinner



Congratulations to two of our incredible CFHLA partners and outstanding community leaders - **Tony Jenkins** of [Florida Blue](#) and **Steve Hogan** of [Florida Citrus Sports](#) - on being recognized this week as the 2025 Golden Eagle Honorees at the **Metro Orlando Scouting America Golden Eagle Dinner**.

Scouting continues to make a lasting difference in Central Florida by building character, leadership, and a strong sense of civic responsibility in our youth — values exemplified by both Tony and Steve.

Your impact is truly inspiring and CFHLA was honored to sponsor such a meaningful event. Thank you to all of the CFHLA Members and partners who



joined us to celebrate the recognition of these exceptional community leaders!

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## CFHLA Members Honored at the 2025 ARDA Awards

Lastly, congratulations to another two of our CFHLA Members who were winners at the recent [2025 ARDA Awards Program](#)!

First, David Siegel of [Westgate Resorts](#) was presented with the ACE Lifetime Achievement Award. Secondly, we'd like to recognize **CFHLA Security & Safety Council** Board Member **Keith McRae**, [Holiday Inn Club Vacations- Orange Lake Resort](#), who was named a winner in the Safety & Security Professional or Team Category.

Congratulations again to both of these outstanding leaders on this recognition!



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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR APRIL MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

### Meet Our April Members of the Month

CFHLA is proud to recognize our **April Lodging Member of the Month**, **Cindy Staley, General Manager** for [Mission Resort + Club](#). We are all grateful for Cindy's incredible help in hosting the 2025 CFHLA St. Patrick's Day Golf Event, as well as her continued support for many of CFHLA's initiatives and participation at our signature events. Furthermore, Cindy has been a huge support in recruiting new lodging participation from Lake County, which will be integral to the future success of our organization and the Central Florida Hospitality industry.

Moreover, we are also proud to recognize our **April Allied Member of the Month**, **Maribel Alicea, Tourism Strategy Manager** for [AdventHealth Orlando](#). CFHLA is extremely grateful for Maribel's outstanding involvement, participation, and phenomenal support as a VIP Member of CFHLA. This includes her continual participation and involvement in numerous CFHLA events such as the St. Patrick's Day Golf Open and so many others.

It's because of these positive contributions and continued partnership, we are eager to recognize both of them this month!

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



**Cindy Staley**

Mission Resort + Club



**Maribel Alicea**

AdventHealth Orlando

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## MEET THE VIP



### Did You Know...

"The Sunbrite Outdoor Furniture family is a melting pot of cultures? We are proud to represent six (6) different countries including Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico! We even rescued three shop assistants, Hershey, Opie, and Irene; our favorite four-legged friends!"



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(4/8/2025\)](#)
- [Vacation Ownership Council Meeting \(4/8/2025\)](#)
- [New Member Reception \(4/8/2025\)](#)
- [Wednesday AM Leads Group \(4/9/2025\)](#)
- [Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(4/9/2025\)](#)
- [Seminar #2 - 2025 Leadership Development Series \(4/9/2025\)](#)
- [Security & Safety Council Board Meeting \(4/10/2025\)](#)
- [I-Drive/LBV Area General Managers Meeting \(4/10/2025\)](#)
- [2025 Hob Nob \(4/15/2025\)](#)
- [CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting \(4/22/2025\)](#)

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CLICK HERE FOR A GUIDE  
TO REGISTER AN  
INDIVIDUAL FOR EVENTS

CLICK HERE FOR A GUIDE  
TO REGISTER A TABLE/  
TEAM FOR EVENTS

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## JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

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## CONNECT WITH CFHLA



[WWW.CFHLA.ORG](http://WWW.CFHLA.ORG)

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.