



Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
The World's Largest Regional Hotel Association

Tourism's Voice

Your Political Advocate

April 9, 2009

CFHLA

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Elected Officials Attend Bacchus Bash

On Friday, April 3rd CFHLA held its annual Bacchus Bash festival at the Orlando Premium Outlets. This year, CFHLA was honored to have **Orange County Commissioner, District 5: Bill Segal** and his wife, **Sara Segal**, participate in the judging process. **Florida Senator Lee Constantine** also returned for another year judging along with several hospitality interns associated with the Charity Challenge. These judges sampled items from over 70 booths!

Other 2009 Bacchus Bash Judges who participated in the event were:

- **Gary Sain, President of the Orlando/Orange County CVB**
- **Megan Stokes, East Orlando Sun**
- **Jacque Sosa, FOX 35 / MY 65**
- **Mike Dunston, FOX 35 / MY 65**
- **Chris Friedrichs, FOX 35 / MY 65**

CFHLA extends a warm 'THANKS' to those who served as judges.



2009 Bacchus Bash Judges

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Bill Sublette



Bill Sublette speaks to CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee about his plans for education

On Wednesday, April 8th the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting at the [Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate](#) featured special guest **Bill Sublette**, a candidate for the Elected Orange County School Board Chair.

The following topics were discussed:

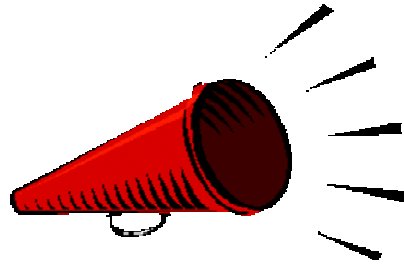
- 2010 Orange County School Board Chair Candidacy
 - Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations
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-



Bill Sublette with CFHLA Board Members David King of Loews Hotels, Pat Engfer of the Hyatt Regency OIA, and Duane Winjum of the Royale Parc Suites - a Quality Suites® Hotel

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Industry Support Needed: CVB Presents To Orange County Commission, April 28th



The Orlando / Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau will be presenting to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, April 28. CFHLA asks its members to lend their support on this important day by attending this meeting. If you wish to attend, please contact via email CFHLA Staff Person, Erin Hellkamp at publicpolicy@cfhla.org.

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U.S. Senator Bill Nelson



CFHLA is arranging a potential meeting with U.S. Senator Bill Nelson to discuss the Employee Free Choice Act.

This publication will discuss the results of the meeting in a later edition.

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Budget Cuts For VISITFLORIDA?



On Monday, April 6 an article in the Orlando Sentinel entitled 'Tourism ads face budget ax' discussed possible cuts in funding for VisitFlorida. Proposals in the Senate would cut funding by 50% - from nearly \$36 million to \$18.3 million and would only allocate money from the state's rental-car surcharge. A proposal in the House would

cut funding by 30% - to approximately \$25 million, but would allow the agency to receive \$4.25 million from general revenue. These potential cuts will have devastating impacts on Florida's tourism marketing agency.

Your CFHLA continues to stress the importance of VISITFLORIDA to Central Florida elected officials.

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Call For Action: Meetings Mean Business



At the CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting on March 10, the Board Members were alerted to a grassroots campaign to promote corporate business travel. A half-page ad for this campaign was featured in the April, 2009 Central Florida **Lifestyle Magazine**.

CFHLA Members should visit <http://www.meetingsmeanbusiness.com> to 'take action' by writing letters to their legislators, signing a petition, talking to members of Congress and spreading the word.



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