

From: CFHLA_info@cfhla.org
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Subject: CFHLA - Tourism's Voice: Your Political Advocate - March 26, 2009



Tourism's Voice

Your Political Advocate

March 26, 2009

CFHLA

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CFHLA Visits Legislators In Tallahassee

On Tuesday, March 24th CFHLA Membership visited **Tallahassee** to meet with **Elected Officials** from Central Florida.

Every year, CFHLA travels to the Florida Capitol to meet with legislators and other state officials. This year, CFHLA met with **14 Elected Officials**, with each meeting being approximately 15 - 20 minutes in length.

The following topics were discussed with each elected official:

1. The importance of preserving the integrity of the **Tourist Development Tax**.
2. Discussing the significance of maintaining funding for **Visit Florida**.
3. Emphasizing CFHLA support for **SunRail**.
4. Supporting the **Hospitality Education Program (HEP)**.



CFHLA President Rich Maladecki declared this day as a “**successful**” public policy activity.

CFHLA Members met with the following elected officials:

Majority Whip, Senator Andy Gardiner, District 9
Senator Lee Constantine, District 22
Senator Mike Bennett, District 21
Speaker-Designate, Rep. Dean Cannon, District 35
Rep. Darren Soto, District 49
Rep. Bryan Nelson, District 38
Rep. Chris Dorworth, District 34
Rep. Mike Horner, District 79
Rep. Eric Eisnagle, District 40
Rep. Geraldine Thompson, District 39
Rep. Steve Crisafulli, District 32
Rep. Scott Plakon, District 37
Rep. Scott Randolph, District 36
Rep. Sandra Adams, District 33



CFHLA met with **Rep. Bryan Nelson** who expressed his support for Commuter Rail in Central Florida.



Rep. Darren Soto met with CFHLA and recognized the importance of preserving the current use of the Tourist Development Tax.



Rep. Chris Dorworth was receptive to news of “added transparency” at Visit Florida.



Senator Andy Gardiner reinforced his ongoing commitment to the success of the hospitality and tourism industry in Central Florida.



CFHLA is proud to announce that Florida Senator Lee Constantine will serve as a 2009 Bacchus Bash Judge on Friday, April 3rd at the Orlando Premium Outlets - LBV.



Rep. Mike Horner was receptive to maintaining funding for Visit Florida and encouraged collaboration with elected officials.



Rep. Geraldine Thompson advised CFHLA Members of the obstacles in the Florida Senate relating to SunRail.



CFHLA Members met with Rep. Scott Plakon, an avid supporter of SunRail.



Rep. **Scott Randolph** understands the importance of tourism in Central Florida's economy.



Rep. **Eric Eisnaugle** recognized the importance of tourism and the generation of sales tax dollars.



Rep. **Sandra Adams** continued to show her support of the Central Florida hospitality and tourism industry.

CFHLA sincerely **THANKS** the following individuals who contributed to the success of this "influential" day:

- **Cindy Andrews**, [Sunbrite Outdoor Furniture, Inc.](#)

- **Jeff Brinda**, [Sheraton Safari Hotel & Suites](#)
- **Ron Caimano**, [Embassy Suites I-Drive / Jamaican Court](#)
- **Brent Dickson**, [Coastal Reconstruction, Inc.](#)
- **Mitch Doren**, [Universal CityWalk](#)
- **Pat Engfer**, [Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport](#)
- **Greg Hauenstein**, [Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa](#)
- **Erin Hellkamp**, [CFHLA](#)
- **Rich Maladecki**, [CFHLA](#)
- **Brian Martin**, [Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)
- **Debra Ray**, [Morris Visitor Publications, LLC](#)
- **Shelly Sicheloff**, [FRLA](#)
- **Ron Silveira**, [F.P.I.S., Inc.](#)

CFHLA would also like to recognize the entire team at

GrayRobinson

for their hospitality industry support.

Thank You - **Fred Leonhardt**, **Chris Carmody**, and **Robert Stuart Jr.!**



After meeting with elected officials, CFHLA Members attended a reception for the University of Central Florida at the Old Capitol Building.

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[Elected Official Attends St. Patrick's Day Golf](#)

On Friday, March 13th at [Hawks Landing Golf Club](#) at the [Orlando World Center Marriott](#), the following elected officials and candidates joined CFHLA President Rich Maladecki's golfing foursome: **Orange County Commissioner, District 1: Scott Boyd and Candidate for 2010 Orange County Commissioner, District 4: Jennifer Thompson.**



CFHLA President Rich Maladecki with Commissioner Scott Boyd, Candidate Jennifer Thompson, and CFHLA Board Member Dennis BeMent

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Bill Sublette



Bill Sublette, P.A.

The next CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting is set to occur on Wednesday, April 8th at the [Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate](#) and will feature special guest Bill Sublette, a potential Candidate for Elected Orange County School Board Chair.

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Call For Action: Meetings Mean Business



At the CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting of Tuesday, March 10th the Board Members were alerted of a grassroots campaign to promote corporate business travel.

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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