



Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
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Your Political Advocate

June 11, 2009

CFHLA

Governmental Links

Florida

[Governor Charlie Crist](#)

[State of Florida Senate](#)

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[Orange County](#)

[Osceola County](#)

[Seminole County](#)

[City of Orlando](#)

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Mayor Crotty



On Friday, June 5th at the [DoubleTree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando](#), CFHLA hosted the 2009 State of Orange County Address presented by the Honorable Richard T. Crotty, Mayor of Orange County. The title of this year's presentation was **"Building a Strong Future on Conservative Principles."**

This year, CFHLA partnered with the [Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida, Inc.](#) for this event.



Orange County Commissioner Mildred Fernandez speaks with CFHLA Board Member Jeff Brinda of the Sheraton Safari Hotel.

At this event, Mayor Crotty remained optimistic for Orange County during these difficult economic times, stating “**The state of the county remains strong, no matter the weather, because we have built a strong foundation from which to launch a strong recovery.**” Regarding the community venues, Mayor Crotty praised the protections put in place for local taxpayers. This speech also recognized the importance of the tourism and hospitality industries to the overall health of Orange County.



Mayor Dyer's Chief of Staff Brie Turek, City of Orlando Commissioner Phil Diamond, CFHLA Board Member Ron Caimano of the Embassy Suites I-Drive / Jamaican Court and City of Orlando Commissioner Tony Ortiz enjoy lunch before Mayor Crotty's address.

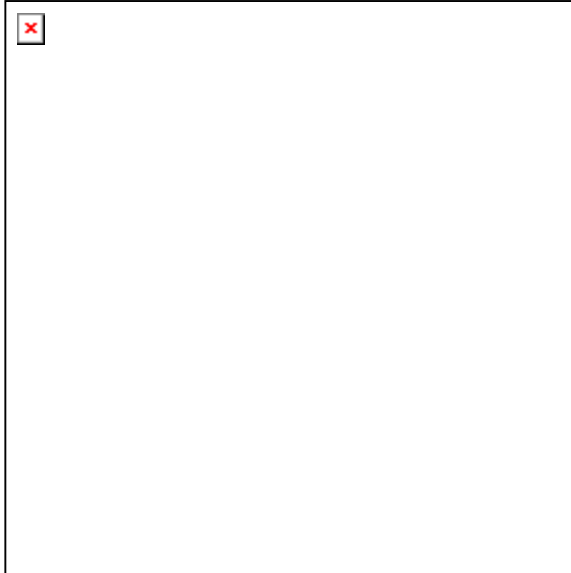
The following elected officials attended this event:

- Attorney General Bill McCollum
- State Senator Lee Constantine
- State Senator Andy Gardiner
- State Senator Gary Siplin

- State Representative Bryan Nelson
- State Representative Scott Plakon
- State Representative Scott Randolph
- State Representative Darren Soto
- Orange County Commissioner S. Scott Boyd
- Orange County Commissioner Mildred Fernandez
- Orange County Commissioner Bill Segal
- Orange County Administrator Ajit Lalchandani
- Orange County Attorney Tom Drage
- Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings
- Orange County Clerk of Courts Lydia Gardner
- Orange County Supervisor of Elections Bill Cowles
- Orange County Comptroller Martha Haynie
- Orange County School Board Member Christine Moore
- Orange County School Board Member Nancy Robinson
- Chief of Staff to Mayor Crotty George Rodon
- 9th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Jenifer Davis
- 9th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Bob LeBlanc
- 9th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Marc Lubet
- 9th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Tim Shea
- Orange County Court Judge Martha Adams
- Orange County Court Judge Maureen Bell
- Orange County Court Judge Heather Higbee
- Orange County Court Judge Steve Jewett
- City of Orlando Commissioner Phil Diamond
- City of Orlando Commissioner Sam Ings
- City of Orlando Commissioner Daisy Lynum
- City of Orlando Commissioner Tony Ortiz
- Mayor Dyer's Chief of Staff Brie Turek
- City of Orlando Chief Administrative Officer Byron Brooks
- Mayor of Windermere Gary Bruhn
- City of Belle Isle Commissioner Lydia Pisano
- Seminole County School Board Chair DeDe Schaffner

Several media outlets covered this event, including [Fox 35](#), [Central Florida News 13](#) (live coverage), and [Orange TV](#).

Marian Johnson



CFHLA Board Member David King of Loews Hotels, Marian Johnson, Vice President of Political Strategy at the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and CFHLA Public Policy Consultant Fred Leonhardt of GrayRobinson.

On Wednesday, June 10th, 2009 at the [Hard Rock Hotel](#), the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting featured luncheon guest **Marian Johnson, Vice President of Political Strategy at the [Florida Chamber of Commerce](#)**. Johnson provided a presentation entitled 'Moving Forward - 2010' that focused on the upcoming 2010 election races in the state of Florida.



Marian Johnson speaks on the upcoming 2010 election.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Job Approval Ratings**
- **2010 Election Races**
- **Term Limited Senators and Representatives**

CFHLA Public Policy Consultant, Fred Leonhardt and his team, Chris Carmody

and **Robert Stuart, Jr.** of [GrayRobinson](#), were instrumental in coordinating this strategic opportunity.

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Fred Brummer



Fred Brummer,
Orange County
Commissioner - District 2

The next CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting is set to occur on Wednesday, July 8th at The Wave Restaurant at [Disney's Contemporary Resort](#) and will feature **Fred Brummer**, Orange County Commissioner - District 2. Please note that attendance at this meeting is by invitation only.

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Breakfast With Stuart

The first **CFHLA Breakfast Club** of 2009, sponsored by [Moran-Kidd](#), is set to occur on Thursday, July 23rd, 8:00am. This breakfast event will feature **Jacob Stuart**, **CEO / President of the [Central Florida Partnership](#)**, who will speak on the topic of: "**The Future of Central Florida Rail.**" The [Orlando Business Journal](#) is the Media Sponsor for this event.



Jacob Stuart, CEO/President
of the Central Florida
Partnership

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Adopt-An-Elected Official



As discussed at a recent CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting, the members of the Governmental Affairs Committee will each **'adopt'** an elected official for the purpose of maintaining an ongoing communication / relationship to advance the interests of our Central Florida hospitality community. This initiative will allow CFHLA to enhance important relationships with their elected officials.

More information on this new initiative will be included in future issues of this communication.

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Nelson



Your CFHLA Public Policy Consultant, Fred Leonhardt of GrayRobinson, is working to secure a meeting with U.S. Senator Bill Nelson to discuss the inevitable re-emergence of the 'Employee Free Choice Act.'

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Did You Know ...



- The CFHLA - PAC monitors all elections in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.
- Importantly, the CFHLA - PAC invites qualified candidates to interview, to seek endorsements, and to seek support (of their elections) by CFHLA and the hospitality industry.
- 92% of the November 2008 CFHLA endorsed political candidates earned election victories.
- In April 2009 in Tallahassee, your CFHLA-PAC successfully fought proposed changes to the Tourist Development Tax – thus preserving the integrity of the Bed Tax.
- In April 2009, CFHLA effectively lobbied for a second seat on the Tourist Development Council, to monitor TDT use in Orange County.
- In 2008, the CFHLA - PAC purchased 15 electronic billboards in 3 counties to support candidacies of PAC endorsed candidates (both in August and November timeframe).
- For 2010, the CFHLA - PAC has estimated involvement in 39 state and local election races, based on traditional CFHLA ‘active’ races. For each of these races, donations may be made for each election cycle - this includes: primary elections, general elections and run-off elections.

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Save The Date

The CFHLA - PAC Golf Outing is set to occur on **September 24, 2009** at the [Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress](#). New this year, Central Florida elected officials will be invited to participate at this "fun-filled" golf outing.

The CFHLA - PAC Golf Subcommittee will meet on Friday, June 12th in the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress to discuss a new format for this outing. Marketing for this event will begin in July 2009.

For your information, the following PAC Board Members agreed to serve on the PAC Golf Outing Planning Committee:

Paul Tang of [Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress](#)

Rick Allen of [Walt Disney World](#)

Michael Hanley of [AXA Advisors, LLC](#)

John Parkinson of the [Embassy Suites I-Drive / Convention Center](#)

Debra K. Ray of [Morris Visitors Publications, LLC](#)

Chip Weddington of [First Payment Systems](#)

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Vose Law Firm



CFHLA - PAC is working with **Sara Rumpf** of the [Vose Law Firm](#) to complete the formation of the CFHLA OSCEOLA - PAC. CFHLA Board Members **John Brost** of [Best Western Lakeside](#) and **Duane Winjum** of [Royale Parc Suites](#) are streamlining these efforts and sit on both political action committees. This 'reincorporation' will seek to allow CFHLA to increase candidate support in Osceola County.

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Signs

The CFHLA "Crime Prevention Task Force" Safety Sign has been finalized and is currently being marketed to all CFHLA Members. Help keep your hotel guests safe by displaying these 'friendly reminders'.

If you would like to purchase a sign or signs for your property, please order via return email to kragone@cfhla.org. Please indicate the number of signs and/or posts to be ordered.



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