



August 18, 2023

Calling All Lodging Members, It's Time to Enter the Comic Universe

On behalf of CFHLA, we invite all lodging professionals to enter the Comic Universe at the upcoming **2023 HEAT Tradeshow** (Hospitality Expo and Tradeshow) on **Tuesday, August 29** at the [Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center](#)!

There's no cost to attend this Tradeshow and it's an incredible opportunity to **meet over 200 CFHLA Allied (vendor) Members and learn about all of the services they can do/provide for your company and/or property.**

Also, don't miss out on the amazing complimentary food too, as we will have several **properties showcasing their top culinary skills**, including **Michelin Star and Michelin Recommended** restaurants at this year's Ultimate Chef Competition!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register you and your team(s) today!

The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
HOSPITALITY EXPO AND TRADESHOW
The Largest Hospitality Tradeshow in the Southeast Region of the USA



THE HEAT COMIC UNIVERSE

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.cfhla.org/heat-tradeshow/



Complimentary
Admission

Tuesday, August 29, 2023
10am - 3pm
Gaylord Palms
Resort & Convention Center

Sponsored by:



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UCF Area General Managers Meeting



On **Tuesday, August 15**, the **UCF Area General Managers** held their quarterly meeting and luncheon at the [Holiday Inn Express & Suites Orlando East-UCF](#) (Thank you **Stuart Bloomberg, General Manger**).

A special thanks to **Jason Siegel**, President/CEO for the [Greater Orlando Sports Commission](#), who updated our members on a number of upcoming professional and amateur sporting events within the region, including the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Marathon that will be occurring in downtown Orlando this February.

CFHLA would also like to thank our 2023 UCF Area General Managers meeting sponsor, CFHLA VIP Member [Landform of Central Florida, Inc.](#), for their continued support!



The **2021-2022 CFHLA Foundation Impact Report** is now available and can be viewed on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

Over the past two years, and with the tremendous support of our CFHLA partners and members, the CFHLA Foundation was able to have a positive impact on **24 different organizations, awarded nearly \$130,000 in educational and community grants, and distributed more than 176,000 items to individuals and students in need** through the support of our CFHLA CARES Collection Drives.

The Impact Report also highlights the efforts and work of each of the CFHLA Council's, as they generously give back and make a difference throughout our Central Florida community.

Additionally, since 2000, we are proud that the CFHLA Foundation has now **awarded over \$1.2 million** in Hospitality Student and Family Member Scholarships.



Airport Area General Managers Meeting



On **Wednesday, August 16**, the **Airport Area General Managers** held their quarterly meeting and luncheon at the [Holiday Inn Orlando Airport](#) (Thank you **Laetitia Perkins, General Manger & R.P. Rama**).

A special thanks to [Mayra Uribe, Orange County Commissioner, District 3](#) for speaking to our airport area hoteliers about the importance of the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) and the county's plans moving forward to support the tourism and hospitality industry. Commissioner Uribe also thanked CFHLA and our Members for the consistent support of our educational partners within the region.



CFHLA would also like to thank our 2023 Airport Area General Managers meeting sponsor, CFHLA VIP Member [Landform of Central Florida, Inc.](#), for their continued support!



FY 2024 Per Diem Rates Are Now Available

The U.S. General Services Administration establishes the per diem rates for the continental United States (CONUS), which includes the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Federal agencies use the per diem rates to reimburse their employees for subsistence expenses incurred while on official travel.

For FY 2024, the standard CONUS lodging rate will now increase from \$98 to \$107. All current NSAs will have lodging rates at or above FY 2023 rates. The M&IE per diem tiers for FY 2024 are unchanged at \$59-\$79, with the standard M&IE rate unchanged at \$59.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the per diem calculator.



Osceola County General Managers Meeting



On **Thursday, August 17**, the **Osceola County General Managers** held their quarterly meeting and luncheon at the [Celebration Hotel](#) (Thank you **Amber Johnson, General Manger**).

A special thanks to [Ricky Booth, Osceola County Commissioner, District 5](#) for providing an update on several priorities for the county including, transportation and workforce housing to our area hoteliers.



CFHLA would also like to thank our 2023 Osceola County General Managers meeting sponsor, CFHLA VIP Member [Spinout Guest Laundries, Inc.](#), for their continued support!



CFHLA Meets with Orange County School Board Members Felder and Gould

This week, CFHLA President/CEO **Robert Agrusa**, **Melanie Anesh**, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, and **Tammie Watts**, Government Affairs Manager, met with [School Board Member Vicki-Elaine Felder, District 5, of Orange County Public Schools](#) and [School Board Member Pam Gould, District 4, of Orange County Public Schools](#).

Robert shared the twenty-year history of our CFHLA members partnering with OCPS schools through **CFHLA's Adopt-A-School Program** and our newly created partnerships with local Culinary and Hospitality programs through our **High School Outreach Subcommittee**.

CFHLA remains committed to investing in our future workforce, by strengthening our partnerships with local educators. Through the 2023-2024 school year and beyond, we will be increasing mentorship opportunities, field trips, student scholarships, and educational grant opportunities to help our students succeed in the workforce and in post-secondary education, as we develop the future leaders of the Central Florida Hospitality Industry.

Thank you, School Board Member Vicki-Elaine Felder and School Board Member Pam Gould for your time, commitment, and dedication to the students of Orange County!





Making an Impact - The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North

Recently, CFHLA Board Member, General Manager Don Dougherty, and his team at [The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North](#) underwent guest room renovations.

Don and his team, then generously gave back to our community by **donating the linen, pillows, blankets, and duvets from 253 guest rooms to local organizations in need.**

The inventory was distributed to the [Foundation for Orange County Public Schools](#), [SafeHouse of Seminole](#), [Step Up on Second Street](#), and [The Lifeboat Project](#).

Thank you to the team at the Westin Lake Mary Orlando North for your kindness and generosity, by providing these items to those in our community with the greatest need!



Bon Appetit! Magical Dining Kicks Off Today!

Bon Appetit!

[Visit Orlando](#)'s **Magical Dining** kicks off its 18th year today, running through October 1.

Enjoy three-course, prix-fixe dinners at many of Orlando's most popular restaurants — including MICHELIN Guide honorees — with tiered pricing set at just \$40 or \$60 per person plus tax and gratuity.

Up to \$2 from every meal will benefit local nonprofits, including our CFHLA partner, [The Lifeboat Project, Inc.](#)

Check out all of the participating restaurants & menus at <https://www.magicaldining.com/>



Benefitting the



THE
Lifeboat
PROJECT

MAKING WAVES,
BATTLING HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

Orange County Convention Center Celebrates 40 Years



Congratulations to the **Orange County Convention Center**, who celebrated its 40th anniversary on **Thursday, August 17** with a celebration event in the Valencia Ballroom!

As the premier venue and meetings destination, the OCCC is dedicated to creating Transformational Experiences. With its customizable spaces, 40 years of leadership in the business, world-class customer service and industry-leading partnerships, The Center of Hospitality is committed to bringing your imagination to life.

CFHLA and our members are very grateful for the continued partnership with the OCCC over the past 40 years, and we look forward to many more!

Click on the link to check out this video on the history of OCCC, [Celebrating Transformational Experiences](#).



Adopt-A-School Partnership, Waldorf Astoria Orlando

The [Waldorf Astoria Orlando](#) recently stopped by their Adopt-A-School partner, [Lake Buena Vista High School](#), to drop off breakfast and supplies to the staff as they prepared for the start of the new school year.

Because of the property's incredible generosity, the staff also shared the food donation with the students who were attending band camp and practicing outdoors in the Florida sunshine.

Thank you to the team at the Waldorf Astoria Orlando for your continued support of Central Florida education and the CFHLA Adopt-A-School program.

For more information or to register to be a 2023-24 Adopt-A-School, Partner, please contact Melanie Anesh at melanie.anes@cfhla.org.



CFHLA Heart of Hospitality

The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association would like to congratulate this week's **"Heart of Hospitality"** professionals!

If you haven't been following us on our social media channels this summer, you should! We've been sharing the stories of our incredibly diverse hospitality professionals who are truly the "Heart of Hospitality" throughout Central Florida. Each industry professional has also been recognized and highlighted on the [CFHLA WEBSITE](#).

[Click here to learn more](#) about the recognition series and please help us share their amazing stories! Do you know someone that is the "Heart of Hospitality" and should have their story shared? If so, please email us at communications@cfhla.org.



[Patricia Griesemer](#)
[Omni Orlando Resort at](#)
[ChampionsGate](#)



[Efrain Amaro](#)
[Signia by Hilton Orlando](#)
[Bonnet Creek](#)



[Aliyah Grinel](#)
[Marriott Vacation Club](#)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
AUGUST MEMBERS OF THE MONTH**



Ally Martin

[Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#)



Anna Territo

[Territo Electric, Inc.](#)

MEET THE SILVER

Did You Know... [Sod Depot](#) is Central Florida's Leading wholesaler of St Augustine, Bahia, Zoysia and Bermuda turf that sells direct to Consumers in Central Florida.

Buying your landscape supplies directly from us can significantly save you on your yearly landscape budgeting by buying only what you need when you need it and using your existing Landscape Labor hours.

Did you know Sod Depot sells over 30K Bales of Pine Straw a year and over 900 yards of Pine Bark directly to Customers per year delivered!

Our Drive to be your go to Landscape Supply provider does not stop at Sod and Mulch We provide Plants Rocks and Irrigation parts at wholesale pricing with Delivery and Expedited turn around. Just send us your request to SALES@SODDEPOTFLORIDA.COM and get a quick response and pricing on your product needs.

The logo for Sod Depot, with "Sod" in green and "Depot" in orange, both in a bold, sans-serif font.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [Patriot Day Committee Meeting \(8/21/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Foundation Board Meeting \(8/22/2023\)](#)
- [ARC Bowling Bash \(8/22/2023\)](#)
- [Halloween Golf Open Committee Meeting \(8/23/2023\)](#)
- [HEAT Tradeshow Vendor Set Up \(8/28/2023\)](#)
- [HEAT Tradeshow \(8/29/2023\)](#)
- [HR Seminar Series #2 \(8/29/2023\)](#)
- [Resilient Leadership for Hospitality Professionals \(8/29/2023\)](#)
- [Engineers Council Board Meeting \(9/7/2023\)](#)
- [Patriot Day Remembrance Breakfast \(9/8/2023\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(9/12/2023\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Breakfast \(9/12/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting \(9/12/2023\)](#)

[Click Here to View
Upcoming](#)

JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

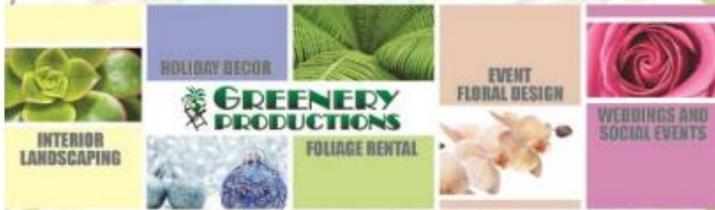
[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

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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.