



April 5, 2024

An advertisement for Withum's Hotel Services Group. The background is a blurred image of a hotel lobby with a brass bell in the foreground. A teal cross-shaped logo is in the top right corner. The text 'Elevate Excellence' is in large white font. Below it, a paragraph describes the group's commitment to quality and service. A 'LEARN MORE' button is present, and the website 'withum.com/hospitality' is at the bottom left.

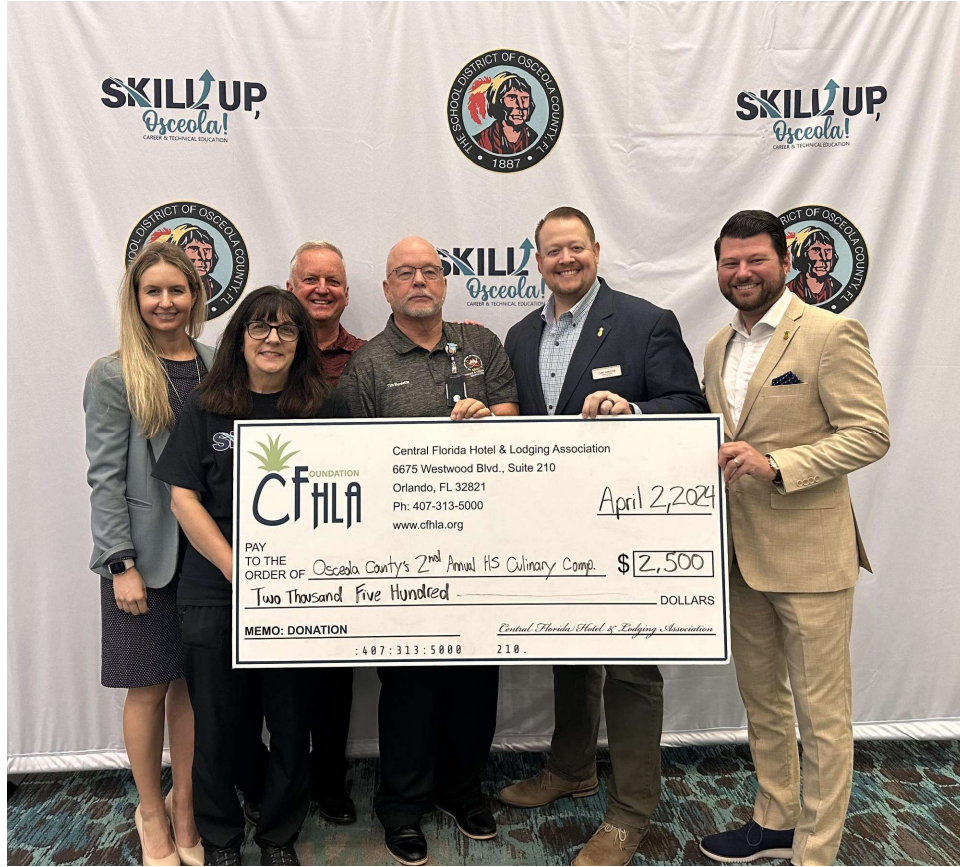
Elevate Excellence

Withum's Hotel Services Group recognizes the importance of quality, world class service and is dedicated as your trusted partner to provide accounting and advisory services.

[LEARN MORE](#)

withum.com/hospitality

Osceola Cooks Culinary Competition



On Tuesday, April 2nd, more than 130 students from five hospitality and culinary schools across the [Osceola County School District](#), competed in the **2nd Annual Osceola Cooks Culinary Competition**. CFHLA was proud to support this fantastic opportunity once again this year, which allowed our local Osceola students to showcase their outstanding culinary skills and prepare each of them for future state-level competitions.



Thank you to our **CFHLA Board Member Clint Miltzer** for hosting this awesome workforce development initiative at the [Wyndham Orlando Resort & Conference Center/Celebration](#) and we appreciate all of our CFHLA members who also helped to make this year's competition incredibly impactful and successful!



[Click Here to View More
Photos From the Osceola
Culinary Competition](#)

CFHLA Annual New Member Reception



Earlier this week, CFHLA also had the opportunity to welcome 25 new members to the Association at our annual New Member Reception!

A special thank you to our **CFHLA Board Member and Membership Committee Chair Jonathan Raz** for hosting this wonderful evening at the [Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek!](#)

Additionally, we'd like to thank to all of our Membership Committee members who joined us as well, as we welcomed these new allied and lodging members to the association!



[Click Here to View More Photos From the New Member Reception](#)

OCPS Crystal Awards

Today, [Orange County Public Schools](#) held their annual Community Outreach Recognition Event - the **Crystal Awards** again 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 on stage for their amazing partnership with OCPS this year and their continuing support of our local schools!

[DoubleTree by Hilton located in the Disney Springs Resort Area](#) – [Bay Meadows Elementary School](#)
[Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando](#) – [Jones High School](#)
[Hampton Inn and Suites Orlando Airport at Gateway Village](#) & [Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#) – [Cheney Elementary School](#)

[Holiday Inn Express & Suites Orlando East – UCF Area – Legacy Middle School](#)



Additionally, CFHLA would like to thank this year's award presenters and Co-hosts including **Pam Carson**, Assistant Director District Foundation and Community Outreach for Orange County Public Schools; **Karen Castor-Dentel**, Orange County School Board Member District 6; **Gregory Dotson**, Board Chair, Foundation for Orange County Public Schools and Group Sales Manager at Dr. Phillips Center For Performing Arts; **Alicia Farrant**, Orange County School Board Member District 3; **Jamie Holmes**, Owner and Founder of Top Story Studios; **Scott Howat**, Chief Communications Officer, President of the Foundation Orange County Public Schools; **Maria Salamanca**, Orange County School Board Member District 2; and **Maria Vasquez**, Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools; for their support of today's recognition.

UCF Meet & Greet - Wyndham

This week, CFHLA hosted our final Meet & Greet at [UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management](#) of the spring semester with [Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area and Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area](#).

Thank you to the **CFHLA 2nd Vice Chair** and **PAC/PC Board Chair Jay Leonard** and the members of his team who joined us for this excellent networking opportunity for students.



Dozens of students had the opportunity to speak with members of Human Resources, Food & Beverage, Security, and Sales about the various career paths that are available within Wyndham.



A Special Welcome: CFHLA's First Polk County Member - Staybridge Suites Winter Haven - Auburndale

It is with great pleasure that we extend our warmest welcome to [Staybridge Suites Winter Haven - Auburndale](#) on becoming the **first lodging property from Polk County to join our the association!** This milestone marks a significant step forward as we expand CFHLA's geographical reach and community impact.

We are thrilled to welcome the Staybridge Suites Winter Haven - Auburndale to CFHLA, along with their commitment to excellence and dedication to providing exceptional hospitality. By joining our association, they are not only enhancing their own business but also contributing to the growth and success of the Central Florida hospitality industry as a whole.

As CFHLA continues to expand and grow, we look forward to welcoming many other properties like the Staybridge Suites Winter Haven - Auburndale, as we strive to achieve our mission of promoting and advancing the hospitality industry throughout the greater Central Florida region. We look

forward to working closely with them, along with all our members, as we continue to drive innovation, excellence, and prosperity within our industry.



A blue banner with a white hexagonal logo on the left containing the word "softroc". To the right of the logo, the text reads "Enhance. Refresh. Resurface." in white, followed by "The Ultimate Poured in Place Surface for a Variety of Uses" in red. On the far right, the website address "www.softroc.com/orlando" is written in red. The background of the banner features a pattern of white and blue hexagons.

Reminder - Please Help Us By Supporting Our Next CFHLA CARES Collection Drive for Students Next Thursday!

Collection Drive for Students in Need

Thursday, April 11, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

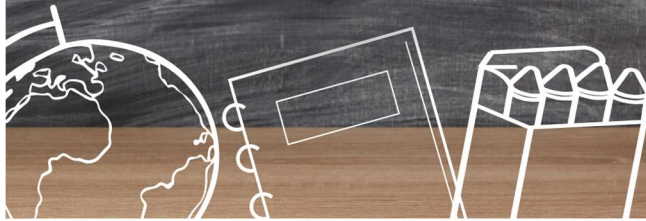
CFHLA Office Parking Lot
6675 Westwood Blvd., Orlando, FL 32821

Toiletry & Hygiene Products Needed:

Shampoo | Conditioner | Bar Soaps | Body Wash
Deodorant | Hair Brushes | Small Blankets
Travel Size Dental Care | Pillowcases
Feminine Products | First Aid Kits & Bandages
NEW Pants, Shoes, Socks, & Underwear

School Supply Items Needed:

Spiral Notebooks | Wide Ruled Paper | Pencils
Dry Erase Markers | Water Bottles
Printer Paper | Earbuds/Headphones
Scissors | 3 -Ring Binders & Folders



CFHLA is Collecting Items for:

OC PS Orange County
Public Schools



School District of
OSCEOLA COUNTY
FLORIDA



Seminole County
Public Schools



Registration Now Open! CFHLA HEAT Tradeshow will be held on August 27th



2024

HEAT TRADESHOW

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 | Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort
1500 Epcot Resorts Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

EARLY REGISTRATION:

Single Booth Fee: \$1,150

Registration fee to increase after June 1st.

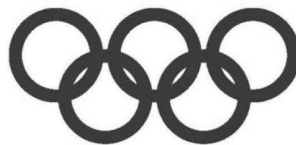
Fee includes: (1) 10'x10' piped & draped booth with 6' skirted table,
(2) chairs, signage, and (3) name badges
(upgrades to a corner or premier row booth will be available at a later date)

BOOTH PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE ELECTRICITY

Cancellations received 30 days prior to the show will receive a 50% refund.
Sorry, NO refunds after Friday, July 26, 2024.

THEME:
“OLYMPIC SPIRIT” Embrace the Olympic Spirit:
Igniting Excellence in Hospitality

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE A BOOTH



Questions - Contact Kim Gordon at kim.gordon@cfhla.org or 407-313-5040

Don't Miss Out! Applications for Class III of the Leadership Mentoring Program is Closing Next Week!

Applications for the 2024 Leadership Mentoring Program, Class III are closing next week!

This program is open to all **CFHLA Allied and Lodging members** and provides a diverse group of mid-level leaders, with the opportunity to develop

transferable leadership skills and mentorship opportunities outside of their current place of business.

The application deadline for mentors and mentees is **next Friday, April 12, 2024**. [CLICK HERE](#) and fill out your application today!

Welcoming 2024 AAHOACON to Central Florida!



This week, CFHLA had the opportunity to attend the **2024 AAHOA Convention and Trade Show Welcome Reception**. Hosted by the **Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA)**, we'd like to thank AAHOA for bringing together more than 6,500 independent hotel owners, hospitality partners and decision-makers to Central Florida for AAHOACON24, as their members fostered connections, celebrated achievements, and charted the course for the future of our industry.

We were so proud to showcase our destination as an incredible place to invest in and we appreciate you inviting our CFHLA Board Members to attend the Welcome Reception! We had a great time connecting with so many wonderful hospitality leaders from across the U.S. and we look forward to our organizations collaborating even more in the future.



Sports Business Journal Reception - Celebrating Orlando as the Best Sports Business City



Recently, the Sports Business Journal honored the city of Orlando (and our region) with the prestigious title of the Best Sports Business City for Event Hosting. This recognition underscores Orlando's exceptional sports tourism achievements, strong partnerships and reinforces our community's standing as both a national and global destination.

To celebrate this remarkable achievement, CFHLA was thrilled to join key leaders from our sports tourism partners, local officials, and community leaders for a reception at the Kia Center this past Wednesday.

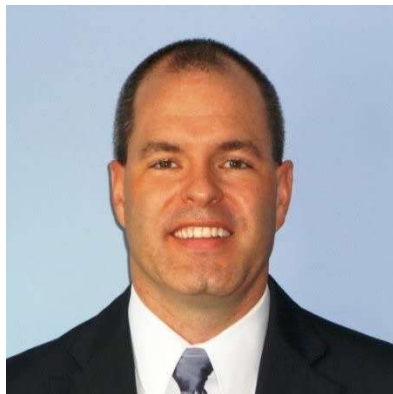


During the reception, our regional sports tourism leaders highlighted Orlando's impressive infrastructure, passionate sports fans, and commitment to delivering exceptional experiences for athletes, spectators, and partners. The event also served as a platform to showcase upcoming sporting events and initiatives that will further solidify Orlando's reputation as a sports business powerhouse.

Let us continue to work together as a region, as we build on this success and further elevate Orlando's status as a premier destination for sports events. Combined with the recent TDT approvals, we look forward to building on this global reputation and completing the vision that we set out to achieve as a community. Congratulations to everyone involved in making this achievement possible!



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



Greg Burnes



Cindy Traenkner

[Domino's](#)

MEET THE VIP



Did You Know... [GFL Environmental](#) has supported and continues to support The Bridge in Deland, FL. The Bridge offers a chance for those struggling with homelessness to find help to successfully navigate their reentry challenges.

The 6,300 square foot facility, called "The Bridge" includes 30 crisis center beds, a communal dining area and commercial kitchen, showers, offices and space to provide coordinated entry and case management, mental health and drug abuse counseling, job counseling, medical care, haircuts, showers and laundry. The goal of this coordinated and comprehensive approach is to transition people to housing within 30 to 90 days.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(4/9/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday AM Leads Group Meeting \(4/10/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(4/10/2024\)](#)
- [Security Council Board Meeting \(4/11/2024\)](#)
- [April CARES Collection Drive \(4/11/2024\)](#)
- [2024 Engineers' Council Clay Shooting Tournament Committee Meeting \(4/16/2024\)](#)
- [2024 Hob Nob Orientation \(4/16/2024\)](#)
- [Governmental Affairs Committee \(4/17/2024\)](#)
- [Leadership Development Series Seminar #1 \(4/17/2024\)](#)

[Click Here to View Upcoming
CFHLA Meetings & Events](#)

JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

CONNECT WITH CFHLA



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.