



March 1, 2024

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## Golden Pineapple Awards



On **Thursday, February 22nd**, CFHLA hosted our annual **Golden Pineapple Awards** dinner and celebration at the [Orlando World Center Marriott](#) (Thank you **Robert Bray**, General Manager).

This year, **CFHLA recognized 230 “front line” employees from 60 different Central Florida lodging properties**, that were also nominated for each of the categories for their exemplary service and outstanding customer satisfaction throughout 2023. Thank you to **Ybeth Bruzual of Spectrum News 13**, who served as our guest emcee for the event which attracted **over 950 attendees** this year.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR NOMINEES  
AND 2024 GOLDEN PINEAPPLE AWARD  
WINNERS!**



**Outstanding Back Office Employee of the Year**

Laura Grisales

[Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando - Lakewood](#)

**Outstanding Bell Person/Concierge Employee of the Year**

Anthony Dunn

[Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress](#)

**Outstanding Community Service Employee of the Year**

Steve Averitt

[Reunion Resort & Spa](#)

**Outstanding Convention Center/Banquet Employee of the Year**

David Munoz

[Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes](#)

**Outstanding Culinary Employee of the Year**

Maria Sandoval

[JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes](#)

**Outstanding Engineering Employee of the Year**

William "Bill" Warren

[Sheraton Suites Orlando Airport](#)

**Outstanding Food & Beverage Service Employee of the Year**

Leidy "Paola" Marin

[Homewood Suites Orlando I-Drive Convention Center](#)

**Outstanding Front Office Employee of the Year**

Glenda Baker

[Marriott's Royal, Sabal & Imperial Palms](#)

**Outstanding Housekeeping Employee of the Year**

Camille Hall

[Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport](#)

**Outstanding Laundry Employee of the Year**

Zenaida Ibanez Gamboa

**[Hampton Inn & Suites Orlando / East UCF Area](#)**

**Outstanding Recreational Employee of the Year**

Travis Buffenbarger

**[Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center](#)**

**Outstanding Security/Loss Prevention Employee of the Year**

Fidel Cosbert

**[Hyatt Regency Orlando](#)**

**Outstanding Steward/Dishwasher Employee of the Year**

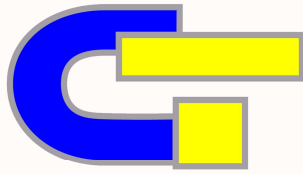
Weendy Gomez De Lopez

**[Universal's Aventura Hotel](#)**

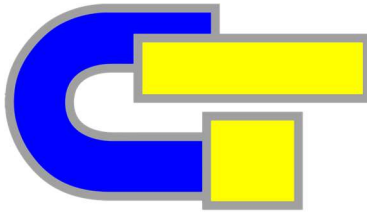
Each honoree, through generous donations from CFHLA Members, also received a large gift basket filled with attraction and entertainment tickets, gift cards and more. Thank you to the following companies who contributed to these honoree baskets: **[Andretti Indoor Karting & Games Orlando](#)**, **[AV Media](#)**, **[B&H Towels & Linens](#)**, **[Boca Terry](#)**, **[CP Rankin](#)**, **[Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center](#)**, **[Experience Kissimmee](#)**, **[Florida HIA](#)**, **[Fortis Pay Pro](#)**, **[Global Sourcing International, LLC](#)**, **[Golden Bee Tree Services & More](#)**, **[SeaWorld Parks & Resorts](#)**, **[Universal Orlando Resort](#)**, **[Visit Orlando](#)**, and **[Wild Florida](#)**.

CFHLA would like to thank our

Golden Pineapple Award Corporate Sponsors:



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OUTSOURCING**



**CLEAN TEC  
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**MASSEY**  
**SERVICES INC.**



**Staff Pro**  
Workforce Solutions



A/V Provider:

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In Kind Donors:



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTOS FROM THE GOLDEN PINEAPPLE AWARDS](#)

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**Welcome New CFHLA Members!**



On **Tuesday, February 27th**, CFHLA welcomed the following **24 Member** businesses to the Association at our first **New Member Orientation** of the year.



**Tom Crews & Adam Gregory II**  
**Advanced Business Solutions**

**Martha Drinan**  
**Alliance Abroad**

**Inoel Rivera / Dwane Smith / Beth Vasquez**  
**Ambius**

**Adam Weinstein**  
**BlueTeam**

**Colleen Hazen**  
**Brush and Brand**

**Heather Mosier**  
**Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC**

**Shane Lantz**  
**Climate Control Group**

**Rob Molnar**  
**DBK, Inc.**

**Amy Welhouse**  
**Delintz Dryer Vent Cleaning**

**Barbara Angel-Contreras & Justina Maria Guerrero**  
**FCS North America, Inc.**

**Virginia Allen**  
**Financial Systems Consulting, LLC**

**Gregg Rothberg**  
**Florida Paints & Coatings**

**Jason Johnson**  
[FutureWRX Solutions](#)

**Llerenia Zarate**  
[Golden Bee Tree Services & More](#)

**Jason Blanton & Steve Golba**  
[Intex Coatings, LLC](#)

**Megan Evans**  
[Kid's Nite Out](#)

**Holly Fox**  
[Natura](#)

**Sara Collard**  
[Premier Linen Services, Inc.](#)

**Ray Wehr**  
[Rinnai](#)

**Keith Durand**  
[Royal Plus. Inc.](#)

**Dan Wirtz**  
[Standard Textile Co.](#)

**Sherry Osborne**  
[System Tech Services, Inc.](#)

**Alejandro Arenas & Gabriel Parra**  
[Tiger Roofing](#)

**Michelle Lomelino & Jovanka Romero**  
[TopTalent Staffing LLC](#)

Welcome again to CFHLA and we look forward to your involvement throughout 2024 and beyond!

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**UCF Area General Managers Meeting**



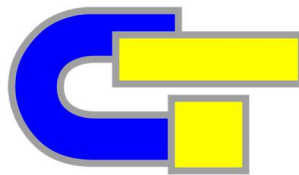


On **Wednesday, February 28th**, the **UCF Area Hoteliers** held their first luncheon of the year at the newly renovated [Courtyard by Marriott Orlando East / UCF Area](#) (Thank You **Adriana Rosario- Londoño**).

This meeting featured an update on Addition Financial Arena from **Jason Reformat, the Director of Marketing**.

Additionally, we'd also like to thank **Captain Todd Gardiner** who provided an update on behalf of the [Orange County Sherriff's Office](#).

Lastly, CFHLA would like to thank our 2024 UCF Area General Managers meeting sponsors [Clean Tec Services](#) and [Gas South](#) for their continued support throughout the year.



**CLEAN TEC  
SERVICES**

**GAS**   
**SOUTH**





## State of Seminole County Address



On **Thursday, February 29th**, CFHLA was excited to attend the **2024 State of Seminole County Address** at our member property, the [Orlando Marriott Lake Mary!](#)

Thank you to the Seminole County Chamber for hosting the event and we look forward to continuing to work with **Chair Zembower** and the rest of the Seminole County Commissioners, as we continue to grow the hospitality industry throughout the year and beyond!



## **Courtyard by Marriott Orlando East/UCF Area Re-Launch**

Congratulations to the [Courtyard by Marriott Orlando East/UCF Area](#) on their official Re-Launch this week! After completing an eight-month, \$5 million renovation project to its 123 Room Hotel, several of our members were excited to see the significant updates this week!

These renovations included modernized guest rooms, as well as an expanded and upgraded meeting space (now 1,175 sq. ft. total). Plus, the hotel now features a new bistro, lobby, and pool area, along with a newly added patio/firepit area, landscaping and a repaved parking lot.



On behalf of the CFHLA, we wish all the best to **General Manager Adriana Rosario- Londoño** and her entire team on this wonderfully upgraded addition to our East Orlando/UCF Area hotels!





## Congratulations to Hotel Management's 2024 "Forty over 40"

CFHLA is thrilled to announce that one of its distinguished members, **Amaury Piedra** of the [Caribe Royale Orlando](#), has been named among the "Forty over 40" in the prestigious [Hotel Management Magazine](#)!

This recognition is a testament to his outstanding leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence in the hospitality industry. Amaury's exemplary contributions have not only enhanced the reputation of his respective property, but have also elevated the standards of our CFHLA community.

Please join us in congratulating Amaury on this recognition!



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## Exciting Soccer Announcement: USA VS Brazil in Orlando this Summer!

CFHLA is thrilled to announce that on **Wednesday, June 12th**, **Camping World Stadium** will host the **USA Men's National Team** and **Brazil** in a thrilling matchup in preparation for the **Copa America 2024**.

This is a huge win for our region and this year's match is being dubbed the the second edition of the "Allstate Continental Clasico." This highly anticipated match will also bring more visitors from across the globe to our region and continues to show why we've become the premier sports event destination in the country.

The match will be broadcast live on TNT, Telemundo, Universo, Max, and Peacock and on Fútbol de Primera radio. Coverage begins at 6:30 p.m. ET, with kickoff set for 7:07 p.m.

Tickets for the match went on sale to the public **today, Friday, March 1st** and the hospitality industry is ready to support this spectacular event that will help generate millions in local economic impact.

Get ready to cheer on the USA Men's National Team as they take on Brazil in what promises to be an unforgettable soccer experience!



**Partners in Action - Celebration Hotel**





CFHLA lodging member Seilly Pacheco of [Celebration Hotel](#) recently had the opportunity to be a guest speaker at their Adopt-A-School partners [Oak Ridge High School](#).



**Thank you Celebration Hotel for your support of the CFHLA Adopt-A-School Program and for helping to inspire the next generation of industry leaders!**

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MARCH MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



**Stacey Herndon**

[Westgate Vacation Villas & Town  
Center Resort](#)



**Glen Lyons**

[ATMFLA, Inc.](#)

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### MEET THE VIP



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**Did You Know...**“Giving back to the community as well as supporting the hospitality industry are at the core of [ATMFLA](#)’s mission. Through CFHLA and other trade associations that we are members of we support their scholarships, school drives and charitable foundations by contributing our time, talent and treasure. Additionally outside of these associations we also have proudly supported for many years Edgewood Children’s Ranch and Monarch Learning Academy.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [Diversity Committee Meeting \(3/4/2024\)](#)
- [2024 STR Breakfast \(3/5/2024\)](#)
- [St. Patrick's Day Golf Open Committee Meeting \(3/6/2024\)](#)
- [Engineers Council Board Meeting \(3/7/2024\)](#)
- [Adopt A School & CARES Committee Meeting \(3/7/2024\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(3/12/2024\)](#)
- [CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting \(3/12/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday AM Leads Group Meeting \(3/13/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(3/13/2024\)](#)
- [Governmental Affairs Committee \(3/13/2024\)](#)

Click Here to View  
Upcoming

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## JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

VIEW JOB POSTINGS

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## CONNECT WITH CFHLA



[WWW.CFHLA.ORG](http://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.