

# SUMMIT FLORIDA RESTAURANT & LODGING ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 13-15, 2024 | SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> – WELCOME RECEPTION

5:00PM-7:00PM

WELCOME RECEPTION (COCKTAILS PROVIDED)

OUTDOOR TERRACE

- **ENTERTAINMENT:** Bridgette Tatum, Nashville Singer Songwriter

Sponsored by:



## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup> – DAY #1

7:00AM-9:00AM

SPONSOR SET-UP

SPONSOR MARKETPLACE

9:00AM-5:00PM

REGISTRATION

SPONSOR MARKETPLACE

9:00AM-11:30AM

BLOODY MARY BAR

SPONSOR MARKETPLACE

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10:00AM-11:00AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- **Harnessing AI in Foodservice and Hospitality: Discover Innovative AI Solutions Tailored for Your Business**

SALON EAST

**Moderator:**

**Fred LeFranc**, Chaos Strategist & CEO | Results Thru Strategy

**Panelists:**

**Dave Lu**, Co-Founder & President | GetExpo

**Oliver Vagner**, Chief Product & Technology Officer | SignalFlare.ai

**Alex Sambvani**, Co-Founder & CEO | Slang.ai

*Join us for an enlightening panel discussion that dives into the transformative power of artificial intelligence in the foodservice and hospitality industry. As AI continues to revolutionize various sectors, two pioneering companies will share their unique approaches to integrating AI into your operations, offering you a competitive edge. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from industry leaders who are at the forefront of AI technology in foodservice and hospitality. Discover how these advanced solutions can enhance your business performance and customer satisfaction.*

Sponsored by:



- **How to Thrive in the Future of Search**

*TERRACE AC*

**Speaker:** Karin Mast, Senior Vice President | Miles Partnership

*As Google's Search Generative Experience (SGE) continues to evolve, hotels and restaurants face both challenges and opportunities in adapting to this AI-driven search initiative. This session is tailored to hotel and restaurant professionals looking to navigate the complexities of SGE and position their businesses for success. We'll discuss best practices for profile maintenance across online platforms, proactive reputation management strategies and effective content optimization techniques.*

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- **The Win-Win of Non-Profit Collaboration**

*TERRACE BD*

**Moderator:** Jill Chapman, Corporate Partnership Director | CORE Gives

**Panelists:** David Miller, Corporate Director Beverage Operations | HEI Hotels

Tisha Bartlett, Vice President of Marketing | Fazoli's & Fat Brands Foundation  
Director

Andrea Eastaugh, Southeast Field Sales Director | Tito's Vodka

*How partnering with non-profits can enhance your financial and community goals.*

Sponsored by:



- **Influencing Hospitality: The Power of Social Media Influencers in Shaping the Industry**

*SALON WEST*

**Moderator:** Alexis Espejo, Director of Marketing | W Fort Lauderdale

**Panelists:** Kara Rosner, Founding Partner | Diamond PR

Yanni Georgouakis, Travel Influencer | @Foody Fetish

Denisse Montero, Travel Influencer | @LovelyDMax

*In today's digitally-driven world, social media influencers play a pivotal role in shaping consumer perceptions and driving trends within the hospitality industry. This breakout session will delve into the profound impact that influencers have on hospitality businesses, from hotels and restaurants to travel agencies and tourism boards.*

**11:00AM-11:30AM**

**SEMINOLE BALLROOM**

**LUNCH**

**11:30AM-1:00PM**

**WELCOME & KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**SEMINOLE BALLROOM**

- **Welcome:** **Gene Deckerhoff**, Announcer | NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers  
**Carol Dover**, President & CEO | Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
- **State of the Industry:** **Fred LeFranc**, Chaos Strategist & Founding Partner | Results Thru Strategy
- **Deliver Results with High Energy and High-Impact Leadership!**  
**Keynote Speaker: Scott "Intake" Kartvedt**, Stunt Pilot | Top Gun: Maverick  
*Learn how to motivate your team to embrace a fresh perspective & tackle challenges with a growth mindset while building trust and respect.*  
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**1:00PM-1:15PM**

**GET CONNECTED-NETWORKING BREAK!**

**SPONSOR MARKETPLACE**

**1:15PM-2:15PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- **Cryptocurrency for your Business - Blockchain is revolutionizing how the world pays**  
*TERRACE AC*  
**Moderator:** **Ryan Giffin**, Founder | Commercial Kitchen Stop  
**Kyle R. Greene**, President | Kyle G's Restaurants  
**Merrick Theobald**, VP of Marketing | BitPay  
*The way customers pay for things is changing, are you ready? The Crypto Market has grown and matured exponentially. Hear from a crypto payment processor, a customer using crypto on chain and a new customer accepting this payment method. Learn how to begin accepting cryptocurrency for payments and gain an understanding of the process.*

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- **Hospitality, Licensing, and Simplicity**  
*TERRACE BD*  
**Speaker:** **Neil Sudaisar**, AVP | Commercial National Accounts  
*Creating memories with less effort.*

Sponsored by: **DIRECTV**

- **Evolution of the Commission Based Tipping Model**  
*SALON EAST*  
**Moderator:** **John Horne**, Owner | Oysters Rock Hospitality  
**Panelists:** **Marc Brown**, President | 23 Restaurant Services

**Matt Loder**, CEO | Crabby Bills Family Brands-Big Claw Management

*Explore the dynamic landscape of the commission-based tipping model. We'll start with an introduction of commission-based tipping and how it contrasts with traditional models and move into the economic theories, such as incentive structures and principal-agent theory. Discover how others in the industry implement these models, with real-world case studies illustrating both successes and challenges. We'll examine the impact on employees and customers, considering motivation, satisfaction, and perceptions of fairness.*

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- **Profitability for Your Hotel in an Uncertain Economy**

*SALON WEST*

**Moderator:** **Michael Cheng**, Dean | Chaplin School of Hospitality

**Panelists:** **Thomas Meding**, SVP of Operations | Highgate

**Philip Goldfarb**, Chief Operating Officer | Fountain Bleau Development

*Making sure our hotels are performing flawlessly is always the goal, but it may be even more of a focus given the variables in today's operating climate. Engage with a panel that represents a variety of brands and independent properties, owners, operators, and markets; This session will explore the challenges and opportunities hotels face in today's volatile market. Topics include adaptive revenue management strategies, cost control measures, leveraging technology for operational efficiency, and innovative marketing approaches to attract and retain guests. Gain practical insights and actionable strategies to navigate economic uncertainties and drive sustained profitability. Whether you are a hotel owner, manager, or industry professional, this panel will equip you with the knowledge to thrive in a dynamic economic landscape.*

**2:15PM-2:30PM**

**GET CONNECTED-NETWORKING BREAK!**

*SPONSOR MARKETPLACE*

**2:30PM-3:30PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- **Food Delivery Platforms: A New Policy for Stronger Partnership**

*SALON EAST*

**Moderator:** **Samantha Padgett**, VP Government Relations & General Counsel | Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association

**Speakers:** **Javier Correoso**, Director, Policy & Communications | Uber Technologies

**Chad Horrell**, Head of Regional Government Relations | DoorDash

**JR Starrett**, Director, State & Local Government Affairs | Grub Hub

*A new law passed during the 2024 legislative session will set the standard for transparency, consent, and communication in restaurants' relationships with food delivery platforms. Learn more about this new law, how this law may impact your restaurant operations, and how you can use this information to build a more effective partnership with food delivery platforms.*

Sponsored by:



- **BS You Can Use: Behavioral Science that Explains Why We Like What We Like**

*TERRACE AC*

**Speaker:** **Dr. Melissa Hughes**, Keynote Speaker & Author | The Andrick Group  
*We'd like to think of ourselves as independent actors who make rational decisions, but the brain is far more complicated. Many times, we are completely unaware of the root causes of our preferences, and often those preferences are influenced by unrelated experiences. What the consumer brain likes can be shaped using a few simple psychological rules.*

- **Don't Fight the Change: The High Cost of Resisting Innovation**

*SALON WEST*

**Speakers:** **David D'Alleva**, SipMarket Advertising Strategy & Operations | Reyes Beverage Group

**Joey Wilson**, Partner | GluelQ

*The world isn't going back to the way it was. Consumers act differently. Employees act differently. Suppliers act differently. Things change. Some see the opportunities. Some see the challenges. We want to show you how embracing the changes means more time to spend on your business, more customers in you restaurant, bar, hotel, or resort, and an ability to empower your employees. They'll stay longer and create better experiences for you customers. Your business will thrive.*

Sponsored by:



- **Strategies for Inclusive Workplaces: Addressing Discrimination and Retaliation**

*TERRACE BD*

**Speakers:** **Salley Culley**, Partner | Rumberger Kirk

**Chase Hattaway**, Partner | Rumberger Kirk

*Fostering a diverse, inclusive, and productive workplace is a strategic advantage. However, the journey towards workplace equality is not without its challenges. Discrimination and retaliation claims can arise, causing reputational damage, legal complications, and employee dissatisfaction. To navigate these issues successfully, organizations must proactively address discrimination and have effective response strategies in place. RK presenters will help equip employers with the knowledge and tools needed to prevent discrimination and retaliation claims and effectively respond when they do occur.*

Sponsored by: **Rumberger|Kirk**

**3:30PM-4:45PM**

*SPONSOR MARKETPLACE*

**GET CONNECTED-NETWORKING BREAK!**

**3:45PM-4:15PM**

*SEMINOLE BALLROOM*

**CECIL B. DAY AWARDS PRESENTATION**

**4:15PM-5:15PM**

**AFTERNOON KEYNOTE**

*SEMINOLE BALLROOM*

- **Making a Difference-Constantly Evolving-Strengthening the Industry**

**Keynote Speaker:** **Jim Connelly**, President, Marriott U.S. Eastern Region, Full Service MxM  
*In this insightful session, Jim Connelly will discuss the FRLA's impact on Florida, Marriott's key growth priorities, and the power of culture and opportunity within the hospitality industry.*

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**5:15PM-7:00PM**

**HOSPITALITY HAPPY HOUR**

*SPONSOR MARKETPLACE*

*Network with supplier partners, speakers, and attendees.*

## **THURSDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>- DAY #2**

**8:00AM-10:00AM**

**BREAKFAST**

*SPONSOR MARKETPLACE*

**8:00AM-10:00AM**

**REGISTRATION**

*SPONSOR MARKETPLACE*

**8:30AM-11:30AM**

**MIMOSA BAR**

*SPONSOR MARKETPLACE*

Sponsored by:



**9:00AM-10:00AM**

**MORNING KEYNOTE**

*SEMINOLE BALLROOM*

- **Emergency Operations Keynote Session: Jim Cantore & Kevin Guthrie**

**Keynote Speakers:** **Jim Cantore**, On-Camera Meteorologist & Co-Host America's Morning Headquarters  
**Kevin Guthrie**, Executive Director | Florida Division of Emergency Management

**10:00AM-11:00AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- **Creating an Intentional & Healthy Culture**

*SALON WEST*

**Moderator:** **Isabel Porzecanski**, President, People Traction

**Panelists:** **Keith Space**, President | Fort Hospitality (Four Seasons)

**Joy Boyd**, Area General Manager | Key West Historic Inns

**Steve Keup**, VP Operations | Hersha Hospitality

Analyze the impact of culture in today's business environment and discuss the three pillars necessary to creating an intentional and healthy culture in your organization.

- **Incoming! New Employment-Law Compliance Challenges for 2024 & How to Neutralize Them**

TERRACE AC

**Speaker:** Kevin Johnson, Shareholder | Johnson Jackson

Kevin Johnson will provide a wide-ranging update on new issues confronting hospitality employers, including new requirements for pregnancy accommodations, the latest updates on salary thresholds for exempt employees, compliance with Florida's E-Verify requirements, the proliferation of single-plaintiff 80/20 cases, and Florida's new child-labor laws.

Sponsored by:  **JOHNSON JACKSON** LLC  
EMPLOYMENT DEFENSE COUNSEL | TRUSTED ADVICE. STRATEGIC DEFENSE.

- **People Who Do Creative Things to Attract & Retain Labor**

SALON EAST

**Moderator:** Peter Ricci, Director, Hospitality & Tourism Management Program | FAU

**Panelists:** Danielle Rosse, Owner & Operator | OCEANS 234

Greg Cook, GM, The Ritz-Carlton | Amelia Island

Laura Ciampa, VP HR & Training | Ocean Reef Club

Hear from the leader of a top education program along with a club, restaurant, and hotel professional what WORKS in terms of the "new day of recruitment and retention." We will hear live examples as to what does and doesn't work in our historic business models across these three important pillars of FRLA membership: Restaurants, Hotels, and Country Clubs posed by the ever-changing delivery landscape.

Sponsored by:  **PAYCHEX**  
HR | Payroll | Benefits | Insurance

- **Reputation Matters: How to Build Trust & Boost Revenue**

TERRACE BD

**Speaker:** Cameron Reid, Account Director, Hospitality Division | Miles Partnership

Explore the latest advancements in reputation management and its growing importance in establishing trust and increasing online visibility for your business. In this session, attendees will discover how to leverage both positive and negative reviews, capitalize on the latest industry trends, and strengthen your brand's digital footprint.

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PARTNERSHIP

**11:00AM-11:15AM**

**GET CONNECTED-NETWORKING BREAK**

**SPONSOR MARKETPLACE**

**11:15AM-12:15AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- **Digital Accessibility 101**

TERRACE AC



**Speaker:** **August Erickson**, Development Manager & Digital Accessibility Specialist | Miles Partnership

*In this session you'll learn the history of digital accessibility, the existing legal requirements, and the first steps your organization can take to ensure your website is accessible to those with disabilities.*

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- **Catering to Every Generation: Understanding What Different Traveler Demographics Seek in Hospitality**

*SALON WEST*

**Moderator:** **Mychal Milian**, Complex Director of Operations & GM | AC Marriott Dania Pointe

**Panelists:** **Cristy Stewart Hardmann**, FAU Professor/Family Influencer | HappyFamilyBlog

**Jerry Ulrich**, VP Information Technology | Marriott International

**Steve Turk**, Managing Director & Podcast Host | Turk Hospitality

*The hospitality industry serves a diverse clientele, each with unique preferences and expectations. This breakout session will explore how hospitality businesses can effectively cater to the needs and desires of different traveler demographics, from Baby Boomers to Generation Z.*

- **WTF? (What the Font)**

*TERRACE BD*

**Speaker:** **Dr. Melissa Hughes**, Keynote Speaker & Author | The Andrick Group  
*Marketing professionals in the hospitality industry work hard to get the message right to entice customers and prime them for a great experience. New research has determined that the font can be just as important as the words. Typography not only influences our expectations, but also our feelings, senses, and even our perception of taste. Being consciously aware of your guests' emotional response to fonts can give you a significant advantage in how you market to them.*

- **Catering- It's Back Better Than Ever**

*SALON EAST*

**Moderator:** **Fred LeFranc**, Chaos Strategist & CEO | Results Thru Strategy

**Panelist:** **Jim Rand**, Founder & CEO | Rand Parker Group

**Jackie Kurkjian**, Director of Strategic Sales, Catering Partnership | ezCater

**Bobbie Deverall**, Catering Sales Director | 4R Restaurant Group

*During the pandemic, two of the most significant revenue streams for restaurants, in-house dining, and catering, were severely impacted. Now, catering has made a remarkable comeback, offering an extremely profitable opportunity for restaurants. Similar to third-party delivery, catering requires a fundamental shift in how your restaurant operates, but the rewards are substantial.*



Join us for an insightful panel discussion featuring an experienced catering leader and a successful operator. They will share:

- o **Effective Catering Strategies:** Learn the essential requirements for a successful catering approach.
- o **Maximizing Profits:** Discover how catering can be a highly profitable revenue stream for your restaurant.
- o **Residual Benefits:** Understand the additional advantages that come with a robust catering program.

If you're serious about leveraging the power of group sales and boosting your restaurant's profitability, this is a panel you can't afford to miss.

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**12:15PM-12:45PM**

**LUNCH**

*SEMINOLE BALLROOM*

**12:45PM-1:45PM**

**CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

*SEMINOLE BALLROOM*

- **Marketing & Brand Positioning During Constant Uncertainties**

**Keynote Speaker:** **Cindy Syracuse**, Chief Marketing Officer at BurgerFi and Anthony's Coal Fire Italian Restaurants

*Consumer behavior continues to shift dramatically in the hospitality sector and while consumer travel has reached all-time highs pre-pandemic level, restaurants are facing turbulent times and pressures on costs, labor and consumers re-defining what "Value" is. Consumers want – and are willing to pay for - experiences but it MUST be When and Where they want it. As a result, restaurants much create new modes of business; new menu flavors and experiences and **GO TO THE GUEST.***

*Cindy Syracuse, Chief Marketing Officer at BurgerFi and Anthony's Coal Fire Italian restaurants, will share how being nimble and leveraging cultural currency with a clear focus on the guest's needs has allowed these Florida-based brands to "punch above their weight" with world class marketing on a start-up budget. She'll also discuss what these trends mean for the unique Florida market and seasonality impacts. Topics include:*

- *Reimagining marketing strategies for the new normal*
- *Social media and influencer marketing in the hospitality sector*
- *Building a strong online presence through SEO and content marketing*

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