



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Everytime** I turn around it's Christmas, a New Year is right around the corner and another birthday on the horizon.

Christmas of course brings the joy of the Holiday Season. It's such a festive time of the year when hotels and restaurants are filled to capacity; shopping malls are packed and traffic becomes a little more frustrating.

The New Year brings anticipation of what will take place the next 12 months. On both a personal and business level we all look forward to seeing the clock turn to another year.

**However** this year when it comes to birthday's, this writer turns **70!**

There, I said it, "70". A year ago, upon the publication of "Woggles and Cheese Holes", I reflected back on my 50 years in the hotel industry. In re-reading that column in the December 2005 "Hotelier", I found it hard to believe all those people who made the 50 years such an interesting journey.

**Looking back on 70 years brings forth a new set of thoughts and emotions.**

**I don't intend to use this space to go back to childhood days and take all of you through what is basically a personal retrospective as to how I got to this point.**

**One does not travel this road alone and to name 100 people who helped me along the way would leave out hundreds more.**

The question is always asked, "if given the opportunity would you do anything different?" The answer is "no". I'm looking forward to the next 70 years. (I can hear all the moaning and groaning now throughout the community and industry.)

There is much more to do and my passion and commitment remains as strong as ever. Thank you all for helping me along the way.

Stuart Blumberg, President/CEO

## KIMBERLY WILSON MAKES HISTORY AS THE NEW GMBHA CHAIRMAN

On October 10, 2006, as she stepped to the podium to accept the gavel as Chairman of GMBHA, Kimberly Wilson, General Manager of the Marriott Miami Biscayne Bay Hotel became the first woman to chair the organization.

Because of this historical moment, the expression "she will have tough shoes to fill" does not apply since she and outgoing Chairman Charlie Hines have a size discrepancy.

Hines who in his two years of leadership saw the membership grow to over 500 members; the passage of local and state legislation which made our industry stronger and his steady steering of the GMBHA ship, leaves a tremendous legacy and yes "tough shoes to fill".

In assuming the gavel of leadership, Wilson brings a vast knowledge of our industry and a commitment to make it better. She has been involved ever since she first came to this community and there has never been a day that she has not been the eternal optimist.

Over the years GMBHA has been most proud of being involved in innovative programming, notably Best Buddies, Academy of Hospitality and Tourism; Visitor Industry Council and others.

Wilson pledged to continue growing these programs and also ensure that the future of the hotel industry, both locally and statewide remain strong.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MAYOR CARLOS ALVAREZ TO ADDRESS GMBHA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

GMBHA is pleased to announce that Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez will be the guest speaker at the GMBHA Holiday Luncheon to be held Thursday, December 14, 2006, at the Miami Beach Resort Hotel.

This is the first time that the Mayor has addressed our hotel industry. Luncheon begins at 12 noon and reservations can be made by calling (305) 531-3553.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SENATE PRESIDENT KEN PRUITT ADDRESSES GMBHA ANNUAL MEETING

GMBHA members, over 300 strong, were treated to remarks given by **State Senator Ken Pruitt who is the incoming President of the Florida Senate.**

In making his observations at the association's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting, Pruitt re-affirmed his commitment to the tourism industry through a process of open communications with the leaders of our association.

Pruitt, who is from South Florida, will compliment incoming House Speaker Marco Rubio of Miami Dade County, giving our destination the first joint leadership in many years.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MANDARIN ORIENTAL TEAM CAPTURES 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL "CHAIRMAN'S CUP"

The team of Fred Fung, Andy Armstrong, Carlos Moreno and Martin Alvarez representing Mandarin Oriental, emerged victorious in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "Chairman's Cup" but only after winning the tie breaker with the team from Don Shula's Hotel and Golf Club. Finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> was the Savoy Hotel-Miami Beach.

Other participating hotels were **Park Central/The Hotel, InterContinental Miami, Delano/Shore Club, Radisson Miami, Miami Airport Marriott, Loews Miami Beach, Four Seasons Miami, Marriott Miami Biscayne Bay, Sea View Hotel, Hyatt Regency Miami, The Standard/Raleigh, Ritz Carlton So. Beach/Embassy Suites Airport, and Wyndham Miami Airport.**



**“INN KEY” 2007 SCHEDULED FOR HYATT REGENCY MIAMI**

Incredible but true. Here we are saying goodbye to 2006 and we are already in the planning stages for the 2007 Annual “Inn Key” Awards Luncheon which is right around the corner.

On Monday, May 14, 2007, the stars will again shine on your employees as they gather at the Hyatt Regency Miami to celebrate the 13th year of this spectacular event.

It’s that time of the year again when Human Resource Directors thoughts turn to “ I’d better start putting together the nominations so I can be prepared when the packets come from GMBHA”.

Last year, Brigina Lopez of Trump International Sonesta Beach Resort walked off with the top prize when she was named Lodging Employee of the Year.

The new year brings new faces, louder applause, more tears, more smiles and most of all more employees to participate. Competition over the years has been incredible. The selection committee of Allied members is always faced with the difficult task of selecting “the best of the best”.

With so many new properties, new General Managers and Human Resource Directors, it’s important that all of you take the time to make sure that you nominate those employees who’ve been outstanding. With that in mind please read the following:

On March 1, 2007, each GMBHA hotel/restaurant member will receive a packet containing nominating forms and information for all eligible categories.

Both the General Manager and Human Resource Director will each receive a packet. This will ensure that the property has every opportunity to nominate their employees.

Following a tradition, each of the nominees will receive a framed Certificate of Appreciation. Each of the winners in both large and small hotels

as well as free standing restaurants will again receive an engraved plaque and a \$500 US Savings Bond.

We remind you that Individual Hotel properties are eligible for Achievement Awards and the winners will also receive an engraved “Inn Key” plaque.

We again will be naming a recipient for the Meritorious Inn Key Award. Last years winner was Michael Spring, Director of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Department.

This is that one time during the year when your employees are recognized by the industry and community. It is that moment where they are truly appreciated. We urge each of you to participate and give your employees the opportunity to bask in the glow of the spotlight and listen to the cheers and applause that take place when their names are announced. Listed below are the eligible categories:

**2007 “Inn Key” Awards  
(Individual Employees Over/Under  
200 Rooms)**

**Lodging Employee of the Year  
(One Winner)**

**Front Office Employee of the Year  
Bellperson of the Year  
Security Officer of the Year  
Roomkeeper of the Year  
Food & Beverage Employee of the  
Year**

**Recreational Employee of the Year  
Engineering Employee of the Year**

**Restaurant Employee of the Year  
(One Winner)**

**2007 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
FOR INDIVIDUAL HOTELS**  
Employee Relations  
Guest Relations  
Community Service  
Diversity in the Workplace  
Environmental Quality

In addition to the awards, our Allied Members will again be able to showcase their products and services at a Business Expo prior to the

luncheon. As in the past, GMBHA will provide each participating Allied Member with a complimentary exhibit table and signage.

**SHOW YOUR EMPLOYEES  
YOU CARE!**

For additional information please  
Call (305) 531-3553

\*\*\*\*\*

**2007 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN  
IS UNDERWAY**

It’s that time of the year when our attention turns towards the future and stability of GMBHA and that means its membership.

This year’s campaign will be lead by co-chairs Armando Valdes and Spero Canton.

Those assigned this task are: Joyce Kelly, Transworld Systems; Carlos Pereira, 1<sup>st</sup> Rate Merchant Services; Carmine DeSena, Accurate Event Services; Keith Space, Anglers Boutique Resort; Armando Hernandez, Betsy Ross; Alex Contreras, Brown & Brown; Howard Salus, Entertainment News; Sandra McQuinn, HBA Insurance; Patricia Robinson, Hospitality & Tourism Assoc.; Warren Schatzle, Hospitality Recruiting; Patrick Young, Island Queen; Leon Manne, Leon Manne Consultants; Frank Dumond, Merrill Lynch; Marizza Contreras, Miami Massage; Eric Eimstad, Miami Seaquarium; Harvey Dana, Guest Informant; Ben Launerts, Park One; Jack Christy, Professional Pest Solutions; Alexander Worthington, Smith Office Supply; George Cozonis, Sonesta Suites, Grove; Ed Ponder, Concierge Assn.; Rolando Calzadilla, SteriTech; Jason Loeb, Sudsies; Daniele Lomoriello, The Hotel; Otilio Rojas, UniClean; Matthew Hege, Welcome Channel; DeAnne Graham, Welcome Publishing and William Perry Jr. World Wide Concessions.

The campaign ends February 28, 2007.

\*\*\*\*\*