



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'm going to take a personal moment in this space to talk about the passing of **Anthony "Tony" Marshall**.

As I write these words I can hear his voice booming with a tone that sent shivers down the spine of not only his students, but presidents of corporations and universities.

His ability to cut through useless verbiage that was continually thrown around by those who loved to hear themselves talk, is a constant reminder to me that the shortest way to resolve any issue to "cut to the chase".

He was intimidating; he dripped with sarcasm and cynicism but through it all he was an educator. All of us, and you who read this know who you are, learned from him. He could stare a hole through you and he could reduce you to a normal person who left their ego at the door.

Above all Tony was a friend, a friend whose loyalty never wavered, nor his focus on what needed to be done.

His passing leaves a tremendous void in the field of hospitality but there are thousands of us who will carry on his legacy and his message.

One can only picture him now with his booming voice, lecturing those who are wearing wings and constantly reminding them to watch over his flock.

Stuart L. Blumberg, President/CEO

"ONE MORE DOLLAR-ONE MORE MEMBER" GOAL IS ACHIEVED IN THE 2007 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The results are in and the **2007 GMBHA Membership Campaign** exceeded all its goals!!

Hats off to the Membership Committee, co-chaired by Spero Canton and Armando Valdez. They, along with a dedicated committee of

GMBHA members were able, for the 6th straight year to get that "one more dollar-one more member".

Along with the combined efforts of the GMBHA Board of Directors, this year's campaign reflected the great strides made by GMBHA since its formation back in 1994.

Those who joined us this year, and those who renewed understand "The Power of Partnerships". The strength of GMBHA lies in the ability of its members to interact with each other and showcase its hotels along with product & services offered by the Allied members.

We at GMBHA are proud to list the following hotels, companies and individuals who have joined in this "partnership" and made the commitment:

HOTELS: Indian Creek Inn; AmeriSuites Airport West; Newport Beachside Resort; Catalina Hotel; Hotel Chesterfield; Hotel Chelsea; Hotel Shelly; Mercury Resort; Lily Leon; Whitelaw Hotel; Golden Glades Inn Conference Center; Hotel Nash; The Brown Hotel; Thunderbird; Howard Johnson Resort-Dezerland Plaza;

ALLIED: Country Club of Miami; DW Uniform Creations; Serta International; Windward Design Group; Lydecker, Lee, Behar, Berga & De Zayas, L.L.C.; Holsen Inc Merchandising; Great Bay Yacht Charters; Nemo Restaurant; Shoji Sushi; Fispal Miami, Inc.; Downtown Development Authority; Systems Products International; ACT Productions, Inc.; Garden Techs Landscaping Contractors; Mark's; Vistar Electric; Mary Brickell Village; Opalocka Flea Market; DMX; In Good Taste Services; IGT Media Holdings; Clear Channel; IKON Office Solutions, Inc.; Playground Maps; AirTran Airways; Worldwide Laundrvs, Inc.; Coco Lopez; Gevity; Colliers Abood Wood-Fay; New World Travel; DRT Security Services, Inc.; Lynn University-College of Hospitality Management; Bacardi, U. S. A. Inc.; Miami Dade Sports Commission; Carnevale Restaurant; Phoenix Upholstering and Refinishing; ABS Unlimited, Inc.; Professional Window Tinters; Baron Messenger Service; Shutts & Bowen, LLP.; S & S Painting & Waterproofing, LLC.; Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of

Commerce; Macy's; Esserman Automotive Group; Miami Nice Excursions; PBS & J; Navigant; Historical Museum of South Florida; Viscaya Museum & Gardens; Medallion; Art Miami; Fine Design;

(These are new members as of this printing. Additional new members will be listed in the June edition of the "Hotelier")

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR GMBHA

While you're filling in your important dates on your 2007 Calendar, do not forget the following events:

20th Annual "PARTNERS" Golf Tournament supporting the Transplant Foundation of Florida and the Miami Beach Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

**Thursday, April 19, 2007 at Don Shula's Hotel and Golf Club
13th Annual "Inn Key" Awards Luncheon, Monday May 14, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Miami**

**For additional information
Call 305-531-3553**

WHAT'S HAPPENING

With the Legislative Session underway, GMBHA and the Legislative Coalition are focused on two items of great importance to our industry.

A bill has been filed requiring Carbon Monoxide detectors in every hotel room in Florida.

We are sensitive to the issue but believe the industry would be better served if these detectors were located in hotel areas that have major equipment.

We are also very concerned on the Property/Sales Tax issue which would be negative to our industry.



**PORT DIRECTOR TO ADDRESS
GMBHA MEMBERS**

Bill Johnson, newly named Port Director by Miami-Dade County, will speak at the upcoming GMBHA luncheon, March 15, 2007 at the Miami Shores Country Club.

Johnson who has been part of County government for over 27 years has been a tremendous supporter of the Tourism industry every step of his career.

As our advocate he has worked with us on the establishment of the VESST program. In addition during the time of our ongoing issue of resolving Courtesy Vans at the airport, he was instrumental in working out a settlement.

Bill was the “man on the scene” during the construction of the American Airlines Arena and most recently was the man who rode herd on the completion of the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts.

His appointment to the position of Director of the Port of Miami is the culmination of his public service career. The Port which is a vital component of the tourism industry, faces numerous challenges that Bill will share with our membership. This is one luncheon you don’t want to miss.

For reservations and information please call 305-531-3553

**PARTNERS GOLF TOURNAMENT
IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER**

On Thursday, April 19, 2007, a new chapter begins for GMBHA and its charitable involvement.

Over the past 19 years, in partnership with the Transplant Foundation of Florida, GMBHA through its membership, raised over \$800,000 for this worthy cause.

Leon Manne, long time Board member of GMBHA, approached the association leadership and asked that the Miami Beach Kiwanis Club partner with us in order to provide scholarships to young people who were not able to afford a continuing education.

The result is the 1st Annual “Partners” Golf Tournament which will be held at Don Shula’s Hotel & Golf Club.

Under the leadership of Manne, Linda Harvey, General Manager of Don Shula’s and Eli Compton Executive Director of the Transplant Foundation, “Save the Date” and brochures are already in the mail.

GMBHA hopes that this new partnership will raise the dollars needed to fund both organizations. Based on the results of the past 19 years, we have no doubt that our goals will be reached.

For further information on how to participate in this worthwhile event, please call 305-531-3553

**FLORIDA HOTEL & LODGING
COALITION GETS AN EARLY
START ON LEGISLATION**

Even though the 2007 session of the Florida Legislature has just opened, FHLC got on early jump on the issues.

In January a bill was filed which called for an amendment to the School Year bill that we were successful in passing last year. This bill simply stated said that schools could not start earlier than 14 days before Labor Day.

The January Senate bill asked that this be amended to allow local school boards to override the mandate. It was referred to one committee and heard the latter part of January.

We are pleased to report that by a 4-3 vote, the bill was defeated in committee. In a procedure that

would have allowed it to be heard one more time, there was no effort to have it reheard and as of this writing the issue looks to be dead for this session. We will continue to monitor the situation in case it resurfaces.

**2007 HURRICANE SEMINAR IS
RESCHEDULED IN APRIL**

On April 5th, GMBHA, City of Miami Beach and the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. This 14th annual event at the Miami Beach Convention Center is extremely important to all hoteliers and businesses. Last year over 300 attended. Though we were fortunate that no storm reached our community last year, we must always be on the alert.

For further information please call 305-531-3553

**TO ALL GMBHA
HOTELS**

**DEADLINE FOR THE
“INN KEY” ENTRIES**

MARCH 30th

**13th ANNUAL
“INN KEY”
AWARDS
LUNCHEON
MAY 14, 2007
HYATT MIAMI**

**ACADEMY OF
HOSPITALITY AND
TOURISM CONFERENCE &
ANNIVERSARY UPCOMING**

On Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism will hold its Annual Student Conference.