



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Not being one who avoids walking under ladders or jumping when a black cat crosses my path, let me be the first to say that GMBHA is now celebrating its Lucky "13" anniversary.**

As I sat down to write this column in August for publication in September, I made note that school had not yet started thanks to the efforts of GMBHA in reestablishing later opening dates for the school year.

I also took time to look back on the two years that I was privileged to work with GMBHA Chairman **Charlie Hines of Loews Miami Beach**. **Charlie was the consummate professional when it came to industry issues on all levels. He was always there when called upon and though his leadership will be missed, we at GMBHA look forward to working with our incoming chair, Kimberly Wilson of Marriott Biscayne Bay.**

**Kimberly's ascent to the chair is also a historic moment for GMBHA because she is the first woman to chair this organization.**

What year 13 will bring is not known but in this industry which continues to be challenged in its efforts to provide careers, jobs and quality of life to the community, we know it will be another exciting ride.

**Stuart Blumberg, President/CEO**

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## GMBHA AND THE COALITION ARE SUCCESSFUL ONCE MORE

In the last issue of the "Hotelier" we wrote about our legislative success in passing the "Save Our Summers" bill which in 2007 will move the opening of school to the 21<sup>st</sup> of August. We had one more issue pending, our opposition to a bill allowing a **Surcharge on Car Rentals**.

We are pleased to report that Gov. Jeb  
(continued on page 2)

## PRUITT TO ADDRESS ANNUAL MEETING

Following in the tradition of remaining relevant on the issues and programs that impact our industry as part of the legislative process, GMBHA is honored to announce that **Senator Ken Pruitt, designated to be Senate President for the 2006-2008 term, will keynote the association's upcoming Annual meeting.**

**The event, which will be held on October 10, 2006 beginning at 4 PM at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel, not only celebrates a successful year for GMBHA and its members, but it also allows us, along with community and industry leaders to hear first hand what to expect from our legislators and how we can assist in their efforts.**

**Pruitt, who has had a distinguished career in the Florida legislature, joins Lt. Governor Toni Jennings and former Senate President Jim Kings as GMBHA keynoters.**

**It's significant to our industry that Pruitt has chosen to address our association because the designated Speaker of the House during the same term is Miami-Dade's Rep. Marco Rubio. South Florida will truly be represented in the upcoming 2007 session.**

**Representing District 28 which includes Martin, Indian River, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties, Pruitt has served in various leadership positions in both the House and Senate before assuming his new role.**

**His accomplishments include passage of the Bright Futures Act which rewards achieving students with college scholarships; passage of the Bert Harris Property Rights Act and the landmark Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan.**

For additional information on the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting please call our office 305-531-3553 or email us at [gmbha@bellsouth.net](mailto:gmbha@bellsouth.net)

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## WILSON INSTALLED AS GMBHA CHAIR

On October 10, 2006, history will be made at the **GMBHA Annual Meeting, when Kimberly Wilson, General Manager of the Marriott Biscayne Bay assumes the chairmanship of the association.**

**Wilson's taking of the gavel marks the first time that the Greater Miami and The Beaches Hotel Association will be led by a woman.**

**Wilson assumes the mantle of leadership having served as co-chair of the Community/Education Committee; a member of the Board and member of the Executive Committee.**

**Her community involvement with the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism and her role as Chair of the Annual Student Conference allows her to bring a wealth of knowledge to her new role.**

This year's team in support of Wilson will be: **Chair-elect, Tim Nardi, Eden Roc Renaissance Resort & Spa; Vice-Chairman, Gino Caliendo, Hyatt Regency Miami; Secretary, Spero Canton, Comcast; and Treasurer, Steve Nostrand, Codina Realty Services.**

**Executive Committee: Linda Harvey, Don Shula's Hotel & Golf Club; Jorge Gonzalez, Mandarin Oriental; George Cozonis, Sonesta Hotel & Suites Coconut Grove; John Mulrey, Marriott Miami Airport; Felix Madera, Sonesta Beach Resort.**

**Board of Directors: Robert Thrailkill, Conrad Miami; Scott Berman, PricewaterhouseCoopers; James Boucher, Boucher Brothers Management; Dennis Doucette, Biltmore Hotel; Cathy Johnston, National Marine Manufacturers Assoc.; Farooq Rehmatwala, Hilton Miami Airport; Raj Singh, Sea View Hotel; Keith Space, Angler's Boutique Resort; Matthias Kammerer, Canyon Ranch; Dean Joseph West, FIU School of Hospitality Management; Balendra Nagesvaran, Hotel Sofitel, Miami; Rick Baney, Florida Coca Cola Bottling; Jim Bode, The Destination Group; Greg Cook, Marriott Miami Beach at South Beach; Juan Carlos Palacios, Embassy Suites Miami Airport; Howard Fulton, American Express; Leon Manne, Leon Manne Consultants; Eric Eimstad, Miami Seaquarium; Marco Selva, The Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne; Michael Stein, Korn Ferry International; Klaus Voss, and Armando Valdes, Four Points by Sheraton.**



(continued from Page 1)

Bush even though the bill passed both the House and Senate and was supported by the legislative leadership as well as officials in Orange County and the Tri-County area, the Governor listened to our concerns and vetoed the bill.

In carrying our message to the Governor, we emphasized the fact that the proposal was “another tax on tourists” and at some point we will be taxing visitors just to come into the State! The Governor listened.

The coalition we at GMBHA formed with our fellow hoteliers in Palm Beach and Daytona Beach ( Florida Hotel Lodging & Legislative Coalition) was successful in either passing or defeating 8 of the 11 issues we undertook.

We at GMBHA thank David Semadeni of Palm Beach and Bob Davis of Daytona for their hard work and dedication.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING.....  
Johnson & Wales will be holding their Annual Around the World Dinner Tour and Auction on November 3, 2006 benefitting the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism... We are pleased to report that the hard copy edition of **Woggles & Cheeseholes, sold by Books & Books is sold out!**. Soft copies are still available by contacting the GMBHA office... Our thanks go to Barry Moskowitz of the GMCVB and GMBHA Board member John Mulrey and the Airport Task Force in working to raise the government per diem rates for our hotel industry. Great teamwork and even greater results.....

## SAVE THE DATE

## GMBHA 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

### LOEWS MIAMI BEACH

4:00 PM

### KEYNOTER

## Sen. Ken Pruitt President Florida Senate

For additional  
Information please  
Call (305) 531-3553

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### NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

GMBHA continues to partner with Miami Dade County schools in providing an opportunity for our employees with children of school age, to receive **FREE TUTORING** for the 2006-2007 School Year.

GMBHA has sent a mailing to all hotel Human Resource Directors asking them to share this information with their employees. We believe this is a wonderful program and GMBHA is honored to have been asked to participate.

For additional information call (305) 995-2540 or go on line <http://nclbchoice.dadeschools.net>

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### NEW NAME-SAME PURPOSE

In the last issue of the “Hotelier” we announced a partnership between GMBHA, the Transplant Foundation and Miami Beach Kiwanis Club for our annual golf tournament.

We are proud to announce that on April 19, 2007 at Don Shula’s Hotel & Golf Club, the **1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL “PARTNERS “ GOLF TOURNAMENT** will take place.

Though this is in reality the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Transplant tournament, the partnership of the three organizations needed a new look but carry the same message.

Proceeds from THE PARTNERS will go to the Transplant Foundation while the Miami Beach Kiwanis portion will be used for Scholarships.

All of us are very excited about the new partnership and its purpose.

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### BOB BEAMON CELEBRITY GOLF & TENNIS CLASSIC

GMBHA is proud to associate itself with Olympic Champion Bob Beamon and his wonderful event..

Through the generosity of our hoteliers, items will be auctioned at this event which takes place October 19-20, 2006.

Monies raised will go to improve the quality of life for the children of our communities through community based programs using the arts and sports as well as personal attention.

It is a celebration of self empowerment and GMBHA is proud to associate with Bob and his efforts.