



## **GENERAL MANAGERS NEWSLETTER** (April 2016)

***"No problem can withstand the assault of sustained thinking."...Voltaire, French writer, historian & philosopher***

### **Golf Registration Going Well...But Hurry & Register If You Haven't**

Golf registrations are coming in almost daily so it's going to be a really great tournament! You're going to want to be a part of it. Remember, **Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** at **Pine Island Country Club**. Registration will open at 10:00 AM and **tee-off is 12:15**. We also have our first **Tournament Sponsor** (there's only one available each year), the **Gaston County CVB**.

If you've registered, we've got you down. If not, go to our website at <http://www.charlotteareahotels.org/> and click on "CPCC Scholarships." The registration form and all information is available right there.

### **Johnson & Wales: Invitation Special Presentation**

Johnson & Wales has extended an invitation to a special event on campus **April 20**. The School of Hospitality is having the Tiefel Chair, George Palladino, President of the Palladino Group LLC will make a presentation at 1:45 PM in the Academic Center, Hance Auditorium on that date. RSVP to [Courtney.stephens@jwu.edu](mailto:Courtney.stephens@jwu.edu).

### **New Hotels Coming In**

Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants announced it will continue its Southern expansion for the brand with the addition of two new hotels in Charlotte, one in the heart of the city's uptown and the other in the historic neighborhood of Dilworth. Both are slated to open in 2017.

The uptown Charlotte Kimpton will be part of a major mixed-use project with a 25-story office tower being developed by Spectrum Properties and Cornerstone Real Estate Advisors that broke ground in 2014. Located at the corner of Third and Church Streets, the 216-room hotel will include 9,175 square feet of meeting space complete with a ceremonial staircase, a signature restaurant, a fitness center and a large indoor/outdoor rooftop bar overlooking Romare Bearden Park that can accommodate private events including weddings.

The Dilworth/South End Charlotte Kimpton will be a more intimate six story lifestyle boutique in one of Charlotte's most sought-after neighborhoods. Intended to serve as a community gathering place, the hotel will be developed by Charlotte-based Catellus Group and will include 128 rooms, 4,500 square feet of meeting and event space, a neighborhood restaurant, fitness center, outdoor pool and bar, and a rooftop lounge venue with private event space and sweeping views of uptown. The hotel is just a block away from a light rail station.

The two new Charlotte hotels will join The Brice in Savannah and The Kimpton Cardinal in Winston-Salem (opening later this spring), along with a Nashville hotel (scheduled for a 2017 opening), as part of the brand's recent expansion through the South.

And Crescent Communities unveiled plans for an ambitious office and hotel development on Tryon Street, the same day the Charlotte City Council approved the firm's \$10.3 million bid to buy a city-owned parcel near the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

The firm wants to build another mixed-use project on the second site, which would include a 450-room hotel, 70,000 square feet of retail, including a grocery store, and 600 apartments, according to a city memo. Another company could still present an "upset bid." But if no one puts forth an offer, Crescent will move ahead with its plan to create another mixed-use development there.

The land was created roughly 10 years ago when the city was preparing to build the NASCAR Hall of Fame. The city and N.C. Department of Transportation remade the I-277 interchange with Caldwell Street by narrowing the on and off ramps. That created surplus land, which the city would sell.

The proceeds must go to pay off a \$20 million loan for the NASCAR Hall. The city must also repay the State DOT the \$5 million it spent reconfiguring the interchange.

### **Are You Recycling Your Soap**

Is your hotel participating in our program with Clean the World? Many of our members (your peers here in Charlotte) are. Yes, it costs a few bucks, but you're (1) reducing the cost of your solid waste disposal, (2) reducing what goes into our local landfills, and (3) helping a great cause that is helping children in need. Need any more reasons? At least 12 of our CAHA members at last count were. To get started, contact Riki Katherine Iverson with Clean the World at [riverson@cleantheworld.org](mailto:riverson@cleantheworld.org)

### **Robots May Soon Take Over...**



Robots may soon take over ... the hotel concierge desk that is. Hilton Worldwide and IBM announced a collaboration to pilot "Connie"—the first Watson-enabled robot concierge in the hospitality industry. "Connie" draws on domain knowledge from Watson and WayBlazer to inform guests on local tourist attractions, dining recommendations and hotel services.

Watson is a cognitive computing technology platform that marks an era where systems understand the world in the way that humans do—through senses, learning and experience.

And yes, "Connie" is named after Hilton's founder Conrad Hilton

## LEED Report: Hospitality Efficiency Growing

The U.S. Green Building Council's "LEED in Motion: Hospitality" report found that more than 109 million square feet of hotel space is LEED-certified, according to the organization.

More than 1,400 hotels, which represent 638.7 million square feet, participate in the LEED program. The release cites a McGraw Hill Construction study that found that green construction in the hospitality segment increased by half between 2011 and 2013. It now accounts for 25 percent of new hospital construction.

The release points out that the hospitality sector is one in which close control of operations and environmental factors – including use of energy and other resources – are especially important because of the 24/7 nature of operations.

While you may not be pursuing LEED certification, everybody is interested in saving money. Locally, the best place to learn and keep up with what others are doing is the Charlotte Green Team, which is co-sponsored by CAHA and CRVA. If you want to be on the distribution list for these quarterly meetings, send us an email to [www.charlottehotels@aol.com](mailto:www.charlottehotels@aol.com)

## Retail Sales Muted in February

Growth in consumer spending remained slow in February, according to figures released by the National Retail Federation (NRF). Excluding automobiles, gasoline stations and restaurants, seasonally adjusted retail sales increased 0.1 % from January, according to NRF. That's the same as January's increase over December, which was originally reported at 0.6 % but later revised. Seasonally adjusted February sales were up 3.8 % from February 2015. NRF is predicting an annual retail sales growth of 3.1% in 2016.

## Talent Works: A Free Tool for Employers

The Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) recently launched TalentWorks, a free online tool that can help employers and human resources professionals ensure their online job applications and other eRecruiting technologies are accessible to job seekers with disabilities. The tool was announced by Deputy Secretary of Labor Christopher P. Lu during his keynote address at the International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference in San Diego—the nation's premier event focused on accessible technology. Go check them out at <http://www.peatworks.org/talentworks>.

## Future CAHA Events

**CAHA Annual Charity Golf Tournament for CPCC Scholarships:** *April 27, Pine Island Country Club (go to our website at [www.charlotteareahotels.org](http://www.charlotteareahotels.org) for registration information)*

**CAHA General Membership Meetings:** *April 21 (special time 4:00 PM); May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15 (Third Thursday of each month, 3 pm, subject to change.)*

**CAHA HR Committee Meetings:** *April 27, CAHA Golf Tournament; May 12; July 14; September 15; November 10 (Second Thursday of even-numbered months, 9 AM, subject to change.)*

**CAHA Security Committee Meetings:** *May 18; July 20; September 21; November 16 (Third Wednesday of even-numbered months, 10 AM, subject to change.)*

***Support Our Supplier Members:***

***Afterdisaster-Metrolina; Charlotte Paint/Pro-Tec Finishes; Gordon Food Service; Ipswich Shellfish Group; Konica Minolta Business Solutions; Moneysworth Linen Services; MSS Solutions; PIVOTek; Regency DKI; Show Pros Event Staffing Services; Tarheel Linen Service; The Charlotte Destination Group; TruGuard Construction Group; U.S. Foodservice; Visit Charlotte; and Where Charlotte Magazine***

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