



### Chamber Hears from New Navy Commanding Officer



Key West Chamber of Commerce President Greg Sullivan thanks Capt. Bobby Baker, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Key West, for his presentation at the chamber's January luncheon.

The Fly Navy building and the presence of a naval air station on the island of Key West were all Capt. Bobby Baker knew about Naval Air Station Key West before he took command of it a few months ago.

But the captain is a quick learner, and he was eager to share details and insights about the military's missions, economic impacts and future goals with members of the Key West Chamber of Commerce during their January 25th luncheon at the Doubletree Grand Key Resort.

Baker stood in front of a satellite, aerial image of the Lower Keys, with all navy-owned property highlighted in yellow, from the Saddlebunch Keys down to Truman Annex next to Fort Zachary Taylor.

"The Navy owns about 5,800 acres of property with 27 miles of shoreline," Baker said. "And ours is a unique mission here in the Keys, because we're a detachment location, meaning we do have some permanent detachments living and working here, but others come here for various types of training. You can imagine why. It really doesn't get any better than Key West as a place to train war fighters."

The captain then looked at the numbers.

"The navy represents a \$1 billion annual economic impact to Monroe County and we provide 8,600 jobs. Our property is valued at \$2 billion and I get \$38 million a year to operate the base, which, of course in my opinion, is not enough," he said, adding that the military's population in the Lower Keys includes 1,500 active-duty personnel and 1,500 civilian employees for a total of 5,500 people once you count their spouses and children.

"This is the last stop for fighter pilots to get fully qualified before they go out and do God's work, as I call it, in the Middle East, or wherever we're called to serve and defend our country," Baker said.

But not all military personnel are sailors, he reminded the audience. There are actually more Coast Guardsmen in the area than Navy sailors, "but we are still a navy base," he said, laughing and adding that NAS Key West also

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### Message from President Greg Sullivan



We are off to a busy 2017. While the board meets monthly to review and discuss issues, the staff works tirelessly every day to support our great chamber. Our mission statement is: "The mission of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce is to serve its members and maintain

and promote a viable economy for the businesses and working people of Key West."

Therefore, we are researching for our members the following; Uber and Lyft ride sharing; we are surveying our members to obtain information to make an informed decision on what best serves everyone's needs. We are awaiting to see the legislation the state addresses for regulating ride sharing as well as the parameters the county and city will put in place as licensed vehicles for hire. Once our survey is complete we will share the information with our members and our local leaders in an effort to make an informed decision. We are also following the FDOT project for South Roosevelt Boulevard. From what we are hearing the traffic pattern will remain, the drainage will be corrected and of course signage will be addressed... we will work with FDOT to limit the number of

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## Key West Chamber of Commerce Extends Highest Honor to Esther Tupino



*Esther Tupino humbly thanked the Key West Chamber of Commerce for honoring her with induction into its prestigious Hall of Fame.*

The Key West Chamber of Commerce paused during its annual Installation & Awards Banquet to reflect on the importance of community and compassion by honoring Esther Tupino with induction into the organization's prestigious Hall of Fame.

In announcing Tupino as the 2017 inductee, Bascom Grooms reminded the packed ballroom that membership in the chamber's Hall of Fame is reserved for local leaders who are at least 55 years old with 15 to 20 years of service in the

local business community and at least 10 years commitment to the chamber's board of directors.

The chamber's past presidents select any new inductees, though the honor is not presented annually. New members are inducted only when a qualified candidate emerges, and Esther Tupino, a vice president with Centennial Bank, not only meets, but exceeds all the criteria.

Bascom Grooms introduced Tupino by showing a touching documentary called "Connecting Islands" about her recent battle with leukemia and her renewed commitment to family, friends and the important things in life.

Tupino narrated the video, saying, "In early April 2016, I was diagnosed with leukemia. You never think it's going to be you. I felt sad, alone, like I was an island out in the sea. But it also did something wonderful. It reinvigorated me to keep going. To spend time with family and friends, to do good in the Key West community and to go out and make a difference is what it's all about."

She reminded everyone, "There's too much negativity in the world, and if we can't reach out to people in our community and form a bond, then, really what's the point?"

The formally dressed audience that packed the ballroom on January 21st at the Marriott Beachside Hotel nodded in agreement and inspiration.

"There has to be a passion for what you do,"

Tupino continued in the film. "We're all here together, so why not make it easy to help someone? The key is to remember that we are all connected islands. We are all here to help one another."

Before calling Tupino to the podium, Bascom Grooms listed just a few of her previous honors and accomplishments. AIDS Help named Tupino an Unsung Hero in 2013 and in 2015, she was selected by Samuel's House as a Woman of Integrity.

In accepting the honor and joining some of the other Hall of Famers who were present – Ed Swift, Frank Toppino, John Parks, Jr., David Paul Horan, Virginia Panico, Sue Barroso, Randy Moore, Daniel Toppino, Alton Weekley, Kim Works and Greg Sullivan — Tupino was the epitome of gratitude and humility.

"This is truly an amazing honor," she said. "And this is an amazing, amazing, amazing community. It doesn't matter what color you are, what gender you desire or what status you hold, we all come together when someone is in need, and I'm so proud to be a part of that. Thank you."

And with that, the audience rose to its collective feet to show its appreciation for Esther Tupino as the latest inductee into the Key West Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.

### CHAMBER EMPLOYEE DOROTHY SCHMIDA IS LVA TUTOR OF THE MONTH

"What I like best about my student is his sense of humor," says Lower Keys LVA tutor Dorothy Schmida with a smile. Dorothy works at the Key West Chamber of Commerce and has been tutoring Jamaican student Patrick Cook for the past six months. Every Thursday night they can be found at LVA working on spelling, reading and pronunciation skills. Dorothy's favorite thing about tutoring, "Seeing Patrick's sense of accomplishment. He's come so far in such a short time. And of course - I like to give back." Congratulations Patrick and Dorothy! **We are proud of you!**



### The Chamber Chowder Heartily Thanks These Businesses for Their Generous Support of this Issue of the Newsletter

**Ernest Hemingway House Museum**  
907 Whitehead Street  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-294-1136

**La Concha Crowne Plaza**  
430 Duval Street  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-296-2991

**Horan & Higgins, L.L.P.**  
608 Whitehead Street  
Key West, FL 33040  
(305)294-4585

**Porter Allen Insurance Company**  
513 Southard Street  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-294-2542

**Old Town Key West Development**  
201 Front Street, Suite 301  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-294-3225



*“Navy Commanding Officer” continued from page 1 ▶*

includes an underwater construction team, marine special operations, an Army dive school on Fleming Key, the Joint Interagency Task Force and a host of other highly skilled and specialized units that utilize Key West’s strategic location, be it in the air, on land, on the water and under water.

When one considers the air space, ocean, land and underwater areas to which the Navy has access, you’re looking at more than 40,000 square miles of space for training and missions, Baker said.

“And most of it is unencumbered space,” Baker said. “For instance, we had 43 fighter planes in the air doing tactical training the other day. We also have seven annexes throughout Key West, which means we have a great deal of cooperation with the City of Key West.”

Baker said the navy now takes pride in being surrounded by a marine sanctuary.

“And we spend millions of dollars a year to correct environmental mistakes that were made in the past,” he said, turning to the commitment his personnel have both to the navy and the community.

Earlier during the chamber’s luncheon, local military personnel received awards for the volunteer efforts they put forth to better their adopted communities. And that sense of volunteerism is seen throughout the military stationed in Key West.

“We have lots of good people on base, who are dedicated wholly to the Navy and to this community,” Baker said, introducing his Public Affairs Specialist Trice Denny, who retired from the Navy after being stationed in Key West, and stayed here to work as a civilian spokeswoman for NAS Key West. And she’s not the only one. Jim Scholl was in Baker’s position when he retired from the Navy, and then became Key West’s city manager. And former NAS Key West commander Patrick Lefere is now a top-level administrator at the Monroe County School District.

Baker then explained that the military’s population in Key West is growing. The Coast Guard is adding personnel to the area, and the navy is waiting to hear whether NAS Key West will be home to a new detachment of unmanned drone fighters.

If selected, the local navy base will welcome more than 100 full-time personnel in conjunction with the drone mission.

“We’re waiting any day now to hear what the drone decision is from the acting secretary of the navy,” Baker said, adding that the

potential sites have been narrowed to Key West, Jacksonville and Virginia.

But the potential increase in personnel also furrowed some brows in the audience, which was concerned about the city’s housing shortage.

In reviewing the navy’s economic impact in Monroe County, Baker said 45 percent of navy personnel live in rented homes and apartments instead of in base housing.

“What are you and the navy doing to alleviate the housing shortage here in Key West?” businessman Clinton Barras asked when Baker opened the floor to questions.

“We’re working closely with the city, county and Department of the Navy,” Baker said, acknowledging that there are still 166 empty Navy-owned homes at Sigsbee Park naval housing community. “We’re waiting for approval so we can bring those units up to code and seek a private bidder who would operate them as a landlord for the navy. Then we can get them occupied.”

He added that there is currently a nine- to 12-month waiting list for base housing.

“Is the fact that 45 percent of navy personnel live off base not an incentive to make those Sigsbee units available?” another chamber member asked him.

Baker emphasized that it is. But the decisions and power of approvals do not lie with him, and government doesn’t always move quickly.

Baker did say that if Key West is selected as the drone site, then he hopes the arrival of additional personnel will accelerate the approval process for the Sigsbee homes.

And finally, Baker said in answer to a question from the chamber’s Executive Vice President Virginia Panico, that he would like to build another lodging establishment, like the Fly Navy building somewhere in the Lower Keys.

“Believe it or not, the lack of such a lodging facility is the limiting factor of how many people I can train at a time down here,” he said. “I can’t currently bring a whole air wing here. We can only accommodate about half an air wing. Another Fly Navy building would allow us to bring an entire air wing down here for training and missions.

“Now, is that going to happen anytime soon? I don’t know,” Baker said, closing his presentation and thanking the chamber for the opportunity to speak with them and continue the cooperative spirit among businesses, the military and the community they all share. ▶

*President’s Message cont. from page 1 ▶*

unnecessary signs as we did on the North Roosevelt Boulevard project.

We celebrated our annual awards banquet recently, what a wonderful event. A big thanks to Virginia and chamber staff for this successful event. Additionally, I would like to thank the Appelrouth Family for sponsoring the cocktail hour.

We had three well deserving women presented with the following awards. The most prestigious Hall of Fame award given with the following criteria; an individual over 55 years old, a director that has served on the board for over ten years and a strong community service background for over twenty years. This year’s recipient is Esther Tupino.

The Billy Appelrouth award is given to someone who has gone above and beyond for the chamber within the year was awarded to Cara Higgins. The third award is the Athena Award sponsored by Niles Sales & Service on behalf of the chamber. This national award is designed to recognize the achievements of an outstanding business and professional women in communities across the country and around the world. This year’s recipient was Joan Allen Leggett. A Key West gem who has touched many folks over a fifty-year span of community service. Congratulations to these three wonderful Key Westers.

At our most recent general membership meeting we had a full agenda to start off the New Year. The Military Affairs Committee honored their service member of the year from each service branch, Navy, Coast Guard, JIATIF and Special Forces. Followed by our teacher recognition program for January, where the chamber honored seven teachers. Our speaker C.O. Bobby Baker of N.A.S. briefed the crowd on NAS current missions and possible future plans. Still no update on the Triton Drown project, but good news that the 166 dormant units in Sigsbee are in the process on being reviewed to hopefully come back on line for housing.

We are enjoying great weather and a busy season and the chamber is here to serve our members so don’t hesitate to reach out to Virginia or her staff. ▶

## Key West Chamber of Commerce Installs New Leaders

The Key West Chamber of Commerce celebrated the start of another successful year at its annual Installation & Awards Dinner on January 21st.

The black-tie banquet at the Marriott Beachside Hotel provided the perfect setting for chamber members to recognize incoming officers, raise a glass to three longtime leaders and renew their commitment to the Key West community.

In passing the presidential gavel to Greg Sullivan, Kim Works wrapped up her second term as chamber president – exactly 20 years after her first.

“I won’t soon forget the day I received the call,” Works told the audience. “It was Virginia, who explained that with the departure of Nicki Will, I was the new chamber president, by default. I was the fill-in girl.”



*Key West Chamber of Commerce President Greg Sullivan presented a past president plaque of appreciation to outgoing President Kim Works at the chamber's January 21st banquet.*

Works laughed when she recalled her service years ago as chamber president, Sunrise Rotary Club president and queen of Fantasy Fest.

“Bam bam bam, and I figured I was finished,” she recalled with a laugh. “Well, not exactly. But it’s OK, because other than writing the monthly president’s message for the newsletter, which I hate, I deeply love the chamber and the work we do for Key West.”

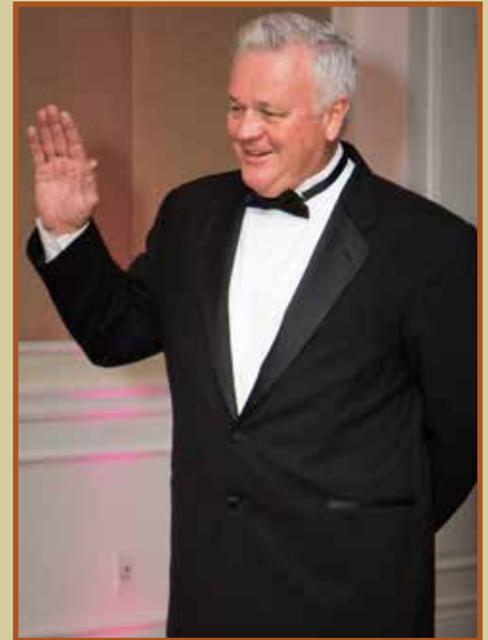
Works emphasized the chamber’s impact on and investment in education and the island’s economy. She recognized the work done by its various committees.

“Work like that of the Economic Affairs Committee that delves into all the current issues and budgets,” she said, adding her thanks to the Membership Committee for constantly enrolling new members; to the Image Committee that recently hired a new social media director and the Education Committee, which helps local businesses support students, teachers and entire classrooms while awarding more than \$31,000 in college scholarships each year.

“Thanks to all of you, the board members, committee members, the staff and membership for making the Key West Chamber of Commerce as successful as it is,” Works said before introducing Judge Edwin Scales of the Florida Third District Court of Appeal, who installed the incoming board of directors, officers and President Greg Sullivan.

With his usual quick wit, Scales administered the oath of office to the 2017 board of directors: John Anderson, John Bartelmo, Jed Dodds, Cara Higgins, Sam Holland, Darren Horan, Melissa Kendrick, Michael Morawski, Monica Munoz, Randy Moore, Britt Myers, Mark Rossi, Karen Sharp, Catherine Smiley, Lynne Tejada, Danny Toppino, Esther Tupino, Joseph Walsh, Jim Wilson and Kim Works.

Judge Scales then installed the officers who will support the efforts and initiatives of President Greg Sullivan: 1st Vice President Billy Spottswood, 2nd Vice President Scott Duszynski,



*Greg Sullivan took the oath of office as the 2017 president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce at the organization's Installation & Awards Dinner on January 21st. This will be Sullivan's second term as president.*

Treasurer John Toppino and Secretary Suzanne Moore.

Finally, President Greg Sullivan, who served his first term as president 10 years ago, solemnly swore to “faithfully execute the office of president of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce.”

With that, 15 past presidents lined up to pass the gavel through 36 years of history and down the line to Sullivan, who welcomed the addition of new faces to the board, “that bring diverse perspectives and ideas.”

Sullivan also reiterated the importance of the work done by the chamber’s various committees and emphasized the important work to be done in 2017.

“Our work plan for the year includes FDOT issues, Uber, TDC legislation, workforce housing, government budgets and legislation that affects all businesses,” he said, signing off with a pledge to the chamber membership.

“I am here to work for you as members of the Key West Chamber of Commerce,” he said, before presenting Works with a past president’s plaque.

## Key West Chamber of Commerce honors 10 Extraordinary Educators



The Key West Chamber of Commerce honored seven area teachers during the organization's January 25th luncheon. Pictured left to right, Jennifer Barrios of the Monroe County School District; honored teacher Samantha Batty, school district administrator Theresa Axford, honored teacher Kaitlyn O'Connell, Education Committee Co-Chair Suzanne Moore, honored teachers Betty Shapiro, Kym Momaly, Key West Chamber of Commerce President Greg Sullivan, honored teacher Rebecca Provost, Education Committee Co-Chair Billy Spottswood and honored teacher Sarah Smith. (Not pictured: Honored teacher Kimberly "Dawn" Albury)

As part of its ongoing commitment to education and the future of the community, the Key West of Chamber of Commerce regularly honors some of the area's best and brightest teachers.

These individuals, nominated by their peers and school principals, leave a legacy in each of the students they teach and contribute to a brighter outlook for everyone.

Each honoree is invited to lunch and receives a commemorative plaque, an apple lapel pin, and a gift bag of appreciation from chamber members who show their support of teachers through gift certificates, merchandise or cash donations.

The Key West Chamber of Commerce, as always, is proud to recognize the following teachers for their tireless dedication to the island's youngest residents:

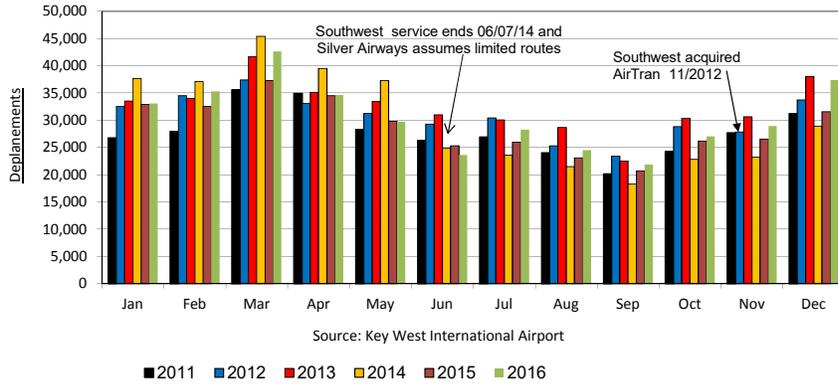
- ▶ **Samantha Batty, third-grade literacy teacher, Sigsbee Charter School**  
Samantha Batty's students don't just learn to read. They learn to love reading. "Sam spends hours creating lessons, and tailors them to be differentiated to meet the needs of each student," said Sigsbee Principal Eli Jannes. "Her colleagues selected Samantha for this honor because of her dedication to the development of the whole child." Next month, she'll present some of her successful teaching methods at the Colorado Council's International Reading Association Conference, where videos of her teaching will be shown to a national audience.
- ▶ **Betty Shapiro, ESE resource teacher, Poinciana Elementary School**  
Betty Shapiro is an ESE teacher at Poinciana who, after 32 years in the classroom, continues to go above and beyond. "This year alone, Betty stepped up to support our intervention initiative for ELA and math, which serves students at all grade levels," said Principal Larry Schmiegel. She also facilitates a daily science lab for all fourth-grade students, serves as the school's webmaster and even obtained her commercial driver's licenses so she could drive a school bus for the students' annual Everglades Camping Adventure.
- ▶ **Kym Momaly, kindergarten, Horace O'Bryant**  
Kym Momaly's calm demeanor and welcoming personality make nervous kindergartners comfortable and confident in their new classroom. "She is compassionate and has a great relationship with the parents of her students,

both past and present," said Principal Christina McPherson. "She lends a hand any way she can to colleagues at all levels and attends countless before- and after-school activities to support the whole school community." Momaly is one of the teacher sponsors for HOB's Relay For Life Cancer Fighters and is vice chair of the School Advisory Council.

- ▶ **Rebecca Provost, exceptional student education teacher, Key West High School**  
Rebecca Provost has been recognized by students, parents, fellow teachers and administrators for her successful and effective work with special-needs students, said Principal Amber Archer Acevedo. "She's being recognized for her work with students and other teachers to help ESE students maximize their potential," Acevedo said.
- ▶ **Sarah Smith, media specialist, Key West High School**  
In her role as media specialist, Sarah Smith is able to support and supplement the lessons being taught in the classroom. She also prepares lessons on literature and library research. "She collaborates with teachers and leads our efforts to promote literacy," said Principal Amber Archer Acevedo, who added the Smith has also assumed several leadership roles in the school."
- ▶ **Kimberly Dawn Albury, STEM, History, gifted teacher, Horace O'Bryant School**  
Kimberly Albury was selected for the chamber's honor for her outstanding contributions to her students and the teaching profession, said Principal Christina McPherson. "She is an exemplary teacher sharing best practices with colleagues and is constantly refining her practice," McPherson said. "Most recently, she organized a mock election for the students at HOB. She clearly exemplifies the highest ideals of the teaching profession."
- ▶ **Kaitlyn O'Connell, second grade teacher, Gerald Adams Elementary**  
Kaitlyn O'Connell goes above and beyond to meet the needs of all students, said Gerald Adams Principal Fran Herrin. "Her classroom is rich with technology and cooperative learning," Herrin said. "She also trains staff members and works as a valued team member of the second grade."



Key West International Airport Arrivals  
January 2011 - December 2016

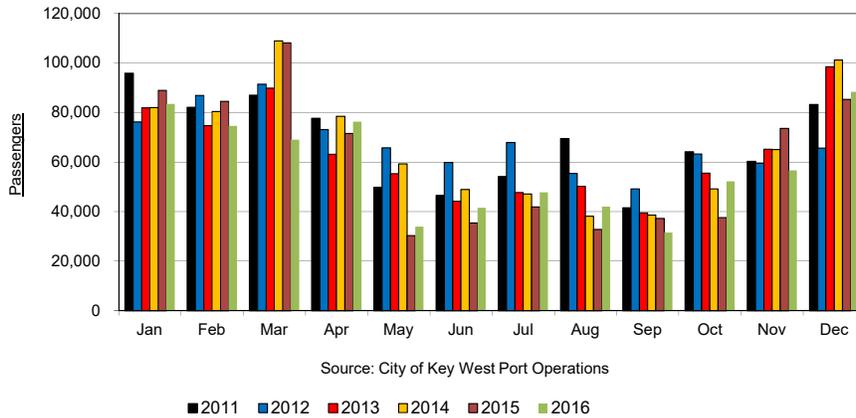


Passenger arrivals to Key West International Airport in December 2016 totaled 37,329. **This is an increase of 18.4% when compared to December 2015.**

Total passenger arrivals for the twelve months of 2016 were 366,649. That is a 5.8% increase over the same period in 2015.

With this year's airport arrivals producing marked highs and marked lows, December's deplanements marked a six straight month of steady year over year increases; ending the year producing the second highest deplanements on record for December.

Key West Cruise Ship Passengers  
January 2011 - December 2016



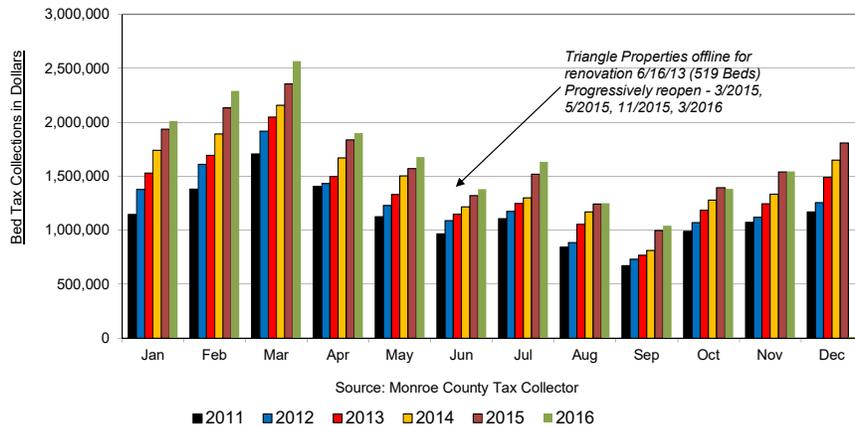
A total of 88,264 cruise ship passengers disembarked in Key West during December 2016. **This was 3.5% higher than December 2015,** which saw 85,260 passengers disembark.

For the twelve months of 2016, cruise ship arrivals saw 696,887 passengers disembark from 321 port calls. While port calls are up 4.9% so far for 2016, passenger counts are still down 4.1% over the same period in 2015.

The cruise ship schedule for February to April compared to the same three months in 2016 is shown below:

	Number of Ships	
	2016	2017
February	35	40
March	33	41
April	34	32

Key West Bed Tax Collections  
January 2011 - November 2016



Reported Bed Tax Collections for Key West were **\$1,543,141 for November 2016, 0.26% higher than November 2015.**

According to Smith Travel, **November 2016 occupancy was 82.5%, a 0.3 percentage point decrease from the November 2015 occupancy rate of 82.8%.**

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) was reported at **\$270.81 for November 2016, a decrease of 1.1% from the ADR of \$280.94 posted in 2015.**

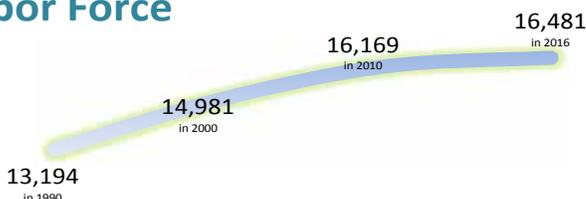
February broke the six year trend in which the monthly ADR had been higher than the previous year. With the number of hotel rooms available returning to normal, increasing by about 7% over the past year, occupied room nights have begun the climb back to historical levels.



## Key West Chamber of Commerce Wage & Benefit Survey

The Key West Chamber of Commerce annually surveys members on employment conditions including compensation, benefits, trends and expectations.

## Key West Labor Force



## What are communities' mooring fields?

A city, a community, is comprised of a place, people, and a way to make a living.

The *Soul of the Community* project identified three things ("mooring fields") that cause people to invest and stake their future in a place. And it is the size of the anchors that people set down in a place that separates cities, defining the endurance of economies and creating a community. The project found cities with (1) physical beauty, (2) entertainment venues and places to meet, and (3) an openness that built networks and quality of life options for all kinds of people were the most likely to have anchors dropped by those sailing through.

Making a city a desirable place to live, and not just visit, is important because the most successful cities are able to attract and retain the talent that strengthen communities and grow economies. Economic development is about longevity; it is about creating viable and sustainable economies where people can afford to stake their futures.

## 2017 Wage & Benefit Survey

2 Sections - 6 Clicks



### What to expect when you accept your invitation -

The survey is comprised of two sections and as few as six clicks from start to finish. And while the survey takes less than 15 minutes, your answers are saved as you go along and you can return via your invitation link at any time to complete or review prior to submission.

Upon using your invitation link to access the survey, as you click a second, third, and fourth time you will provide information about your staff size, work hours, paid time-off, insurance & other benefits, and your types of pay as section one is completed in only four pages. Section two is where you will provide specific compensation information for each of your distinct job positions. We provide the most common job titles and descriptions for your ease in providing this information, while allowing you to provide any alternate job titles you use or adding unique positions not pre-coded. On the section two navigation page you will find the pre-coded jobs organized on category or industry sub-pages for ease in finding the jobs relevant to your organization. And now you only need to navigate to the pages you want and can click straight through to the end of the survey at any time. If you are a sole proprietor with no employees, with only one click you can finish and submit your survey.

Copies of the 2017 complete report will be sent to those members who participate in the survey. Copies of the Key West Chamber's 2016 Wage & Benefit Survey are also available at a cost of \$75 to non-participating members of the Chamber and \$150 for non-members. Call the Chamber at (305) 294-2587 to receive a copy.

Sources: US Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Florida Dept of Economic Opportunity; SoulOfTheCommunity.org

## Chamber Honors Joan Allen Leggett with Prestigious Athena Award



*The Key West Chamber of Commerce honored Joan Allen Leggett's contributions to the Key West community by presenting her with the prestigious and international Athena Award for professional women.*

Joan Allen Leggett never expected or received more than a simple "thank you" for the time, talent and tireless dedication she has given to every facet of the Key West community.

She created and directed the Blessed Community Gospel Choir, and was a leader within Trinity Presbyterian Church. She opened her home and heart to hundreds of homesick sailors. She counseled grieving families and guided them through painful funeral arrangements. She instilled confidence and character in her own four children and countless other Key West kids.

Leggett left every situation better than she found it, and the Key West community is immeasurably better because Joan Allen Leggett has been a part of it for 80 years.

On January 21st, during its annual Installation & Awards Dinner, the Key West Chamber of Commerce honored Joan Allen Leggett for her countless and continuing contributions to this community with more than a simple "thank you."

The chamber presented Leggett with its prestigious Athena Award, sponsored by Niles Sales and Service which celebrates the achievements of outstanding business and professional women in communities across the country and around the world.

In accepting the award, Leggett joined more than 5,000 women in 500 communities who have earned the honor.

Chamber leader Sue Barroso explained the significance of the Athena Award, which was created in 1982 by the Lansing, Michigan Chamber of Commerce to honor exceptional female leaders who inspire others to achieve excellence in their professional and personal lives.

Following Barroso's explanation of the Athena Award, Leggett's daughter, Adriene Casamayor presented the marble, bronze and crystal statue to her surprised and speechless mother.

Casamayor described her mother's early life in Key West. Leggett was the eldest of nine children. She was raised by her mother, a maid, and her grandmother, who was a wet nurse.

"But if you ever witnessed my grandmother or my great-grandmother going to or from work, you would assume they worked in an office," Casamayor said proudly.

"They made it clear to my mother, and later to us, that these were the jobs they held, not who they were, Casamayor continued.

"These amazing ladies taught, through their actions, strength, character and poise, traits my mother has carried throughout her life in this community that she loves," the proud daughter said, describing her mother's natural leadership ability and desire to serve others.

Joan Allen Leggett worked for decades as a nurse's assistant at Monroe

General Hospital and then at the navy hospital, often befriending and inviting young service men and women to her home for Sunday dinners.

After her first retirement, Leggett was hired as the first director of the Frederick Douglass/Wesley House day care facility in Bahama Village, where not only took care of the children, but also mentored their young parents.

"She counseled the mothers on their attire and on how to carry themselves in public while always encouraging them to get an education," Casamayor said.

Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Leggett to the Key West Hospice Board and she later served on the board of Florida Keys Memorial Hospital.

Leggett also founded and directed the Blessed Community Gospel Choir and was a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Trinity Presbyterian Church, which she has attended for 65 years.

Following her second retirement, Leggett was asked to join the staff of Castillo & Thurston Funeral Home, where she counseled families in their time of loss.

"Miss Joan" suffered a stroke last year, but after rehabilitation and recovery, she was able to declare that, "God has much more for me to do."

The Key West Chamber of Commerce is eager to see what the future holds for unstoppable and inimitable Joan Allen Leggett, and is proud to honor her unending efforts with its 2017 Athena Award.



*On behalf of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, Kim Works, left, presented Cara Higgins with the Billy Appelrouth Award during the organization's Installation & Awards Dinner on January 21st.*

## Cara Higgins Honored with Billy Appelrouth Award

family and friends for the betterment of their community, its economy and the Key West Chamber of Commerce.

"This is an award that recognizes a pinnacle of service that goes way beyond traditional volunteerism," said Past President Kim Works when presenting the Appelrouth Award at the chamber's January 21st Installation & Awards Dinner at the Marriott Beachside Hotel.

"This award recognizes that every moment of dedication to the chamber is a personal choice to serve others, placed ahead of your own profession, hobbies and family," Works said.

Attorney Cara Higgins does all that and more, rarely stopping for a breath between client appointments, court hearings, board meetings and her two kids' activities.

Works presented the award to Higgins while reviewing her accomplishments, as well as those of the man for whom the award is named.

William "Billy" Appelrouth operated a successful retail shop

in the 600 block of Duval Street, surviving the Great Depression and remaining steadfastly dedicated to the overall improvement of island life, Works said.

"Not only was Billy a big part of the mercantile vitality of the island, but he would lend himself to every facet of his community, including the Key West Chamber of Commerce," she said. "Billy understood that if he was to live and receive from his island, it was also his obligation to give back to that community, which he did unflinchingly, serving an unprecedented three terms as chamber president."

Members of Billy Appelrouth's family were present at the chamber banquet, and graciously sponsored the complimentary cocktail hour that kicked off the elegant evening.

Presenting the award to Higgins, Works reminded the audience that the 2017 recipient is a partner in the law firm of Horan & Higgins who arrived in Key West in 2003.

Higgins has been active the chamber for the past nine years, has served on its board since 2007 and was president in 2011.

"As a director of the board, Cara has reviewed, corrected and handled the chamber's contracts, resolutions, leases and other legal matters pro bono," Works said.

Governor Charlie Crist appointed her to the board of commissioners of the Lower Florida Keys Hospital District in 2010 and she currently serves on its executive committee. In 2015, Higgins received another gubernatorial appointment, this time to the board of the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority.

Higgins is active in several local nonprofit organizations, especially those that support children and education.

Higgins humbly accepted the award, thanked the Appelrouth family for their continued support and thanked the Key West Chamber of Commerce for honoring her work and dedication to the community.



## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017

Sponsored by: **RE/MAX Keys Connection**, 410 Caroline St.  
Co-Sponsored and catered by: **Kelly's Caribbean Bar and Grill**





## Cruise Ship Schedule

### FEBRUARY 2017

2/1	AidaVita	7:30a.m.-4:00p.m.
2/2	Marina	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/2	Enchantment	9:30a.m. -6:00p.m.
2/3	Summit	8:00a.m. -5:00p.m.
2/3	SS Explorer	10:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/4	Disney Magic	7:00a.m.-3:15p.m.
2/4	Oosterdam	11:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
2/5	Norwegian Jade	7:00a.m.-2:00p.m.
2/6	Koningsdam	8:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
2/7	Carnival Victory	7:30a.m.-1:30p.m.
2/7	Carnival Pride	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/7	Empress	8:00a.m.-8:00p.m.
2/8	No Ships	
2/9	Enchantment	9:30a.m.-6:00p.m.
2/10	Eurodam	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/11	Disney Magic	7:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/11	Empress	11:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
2/19	Marina	7:30a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/19	Seabourn Odyssey	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/20	No Ships	
2/21	Carnival Victory	7:30a.m.-1:30p.m.
2/22	AidaVita	7:30a.m.-4:00p.m.
2/23	Enchantment	9:30a.m.-6:00p.m.
2/24	Disney Magic	9:45a.m.-7:00p.m.
2/24	Empress	8:a00.m.-8:00p.m.
2/25	N. Amsterdam	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/25	Oosterdam	11:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
2/26	Celebrity Reflection	7:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
2/26	Brilliance	11:30a.m.-5:30p.m.
2/27	No Ships	
2/28	Empress	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
2/28	Carnival Breeze	10:00a.m.-6:00p.m.



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**APRIL 23, 2017**

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For Tickets and Information contact Monica Muñoz 293-7249 | Key West Chamber 294-2587



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## Community Calendar

### February 2017

- 2-4 Cuda Bowl, info@  
cudabowl.com, 305-744-  
0903
- 2-4 10th Annual Rock 'N Roast,  
Basilica of St. Mary Star of  
the Sea, 305-294-1031
- 3-5 Civil War Days Heritage  
Festival 8am-5pm at Ft.  
Zachary Taylor, 305-292-  
6850
- 9 -11 Sloppy Joe's 13th Annual  
Put-In-Bay Music Festival,  
305-294-5717
- 11 Key West Botanical  
Speaker Series 1:30pm,  
305-296-1504
- 11-12 GardenFest @ Key West  
Botanical Garden, 305-296-  
1504
- 12 Key West Impromptu  
Classical Concerts  
presents: Ethos Percussion  
Group St Paul's 4pm
- 14 34th Annual Valentine's  
Gala at the Curry Mansion,  
fundraiser for Wesley  
House, www.keystix.com,  
305-809-5000
- 17-18 57th Annual House Tours (3  
of 4), www.oirf.org, 10am-  
4pm, 305-294-9501
- 18 Presidential Families  
Series: In the Shadows of  
the White House 4pm, 305-  
294-9911
- 21-3/18 Red Barn Theatre  
Presents: I Do, I Do!, \$25 -  
45 at 8pm, 305-296-9911
- 23 The Studios of Key West  
2017 Gala "Garden of  
Eden", 305-296-0458
- 25 Key West Historic  
Cemetery Stroll 9:30am,  
9:50am, 10am, 305-340-  
1453
- 25-26 Old Island Days  
Art Festival, www.  
keywestartcenter.com  
10am - 5pm, 305-294-1243
- 25 Mystic Krewe of Key West  
- Annual Mardi Gras Ball,  
202-352-1669
- 26 Key West Impromptu  
Classical Concerts  
Presents: Xavier Foley-  
Double Bass, St Paul's 4pm
- 26 Sunrise Rotary 24th Annual  
Golf Classic, gwpa@  
bellsouth.net, 407-416-  
8256
- 28-3/25 Waterfront Playhouse  
presents: Avenue Q  
8pm Box Office@  
waterfrontplayhouse.org,  
305-294-5015



Sixteen past presidents of the Key West Chamber of Commerce expressed support for 2017 President Greg Sullivan in a passing-of-the-gavel ceremony that has become a tradition at the chamber's annual Installation & Awards Dinner.



The 2017 officers of the Key West Chamber of Commerce took the oath of office on January 21st. Pictured, left to right, Secretary Suzanne Moore, 1st Vice President Billy Spottswood, 2nd Vice President Scott Duszynski and Treasurer John Toppino.



Clinton Barras accepted the first-place prize on behalf of Two Oceans Digital for the Key West Chamber of Commerce "Island of Lights" holiday decorating contest.



## CHAMBER CHOWDER®

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Sullivan, President  
*Waste Management/305-434-9140*

Billy Spottswood, First Vice President  
*Spottswood, Spottswood & Spottswood/305-294-9556*

Scott Duszynski, Second Vice President  
*Keys Federal Credit Union/305-293-6017*

Suzanne Moore, Secretary  
*Truman and Company Real Estate/305-292-2244*

John Toppino, Treasurer  
*Monroe Concrete/305-296-5606*

Kim Works, Past President  
*Pirate Radio/294-1017*

Cara Higgins, Appointee  
*Horan & Higgins, LLP/294-4585*

Sam Holland, Appointee  
*The Conch House/305-293-0020*

Mark Rossi, Appointee  
*Ricks/Durty Harrys/305-296-5513*

Virginia A. Panico, Executive Vice President  
*Key West Chamber of Commerce/294-2587*

### CHAMBER STAFF

Virginia A. Panico  
*Executive Vice President*

Steven Weed  
*Director of Research*

Claudia Wilson  
*Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper*

Kerry Baker  
*Membership Director*  
*Special Events Coordinator*

Karrie Bond  
*Social Media Director*

Dorothy Schmida  
*Administrative Assistant*

Nancy Carruthers, Shay Penke  
*Office Assistant/Tourist Information Operator*

Gladys Clarks  
*Tourist Information Receptionist*

Virginia A. Panico  
*Newsletter Editor*

Cindy Jefferson  
*Newsletter Art Director*

### Key West Chamber Calendar of Events

#### February 2017

##### Business After Hours

Thursday, February 23, 2017  
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by: Key West Local Luxe  
Location: 515 Fleming Street  
*Members Only Networking Event*

##### General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2017  
Time: Noon  
Speaker: Judy S. Clarke, P.E., Director  
of Engineering, Monroe County  
Topic: Repair of the Garrison Bight Bridge  
Location: Key West Marriott Beachside  
Please RSVP to the Chamber  
at 305-294-2587 or  
Email: [info@keywestchamber.org](mailto:info@keywestchamber.org)

#### March 2017

##### General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 2017  
Time: Noon  
Speaker: David Clay, Chief Executive  
Officer, Lower Keys Medical Center  
Location: Key West Marriott Beachside  
Please RSVP to the Chamber  
at 305-294-2587 or  
Email: [info@keywestchamber.org](mailto:info@keywestchamber.org)

##### Business After Hours

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2017  
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by: Key West Institute  
for Plastic Surgery  
Location: 3140 Northside Drive Bldg. A  
*Members Only Networking Event*

### Welcome December 2016 New Members!



#### Atlantic Coast Automotive, Inc.

5455 S. University Drive, Davie, FL 33328  
954-434-5995 | [www.universitydodge.com](http://www.universitydodge.com)  
Contact: Chris Ferro  
New and Used Automotive Sales

#### Child Life Society

3720 Northside Drive, Key West, FL 33040  
718-853-7123 | [www.childlifesociety.org](http://www.childlifesociety.org)  
Contact: Andre Wasung/  
Rabbi Chaim Wolkenfeld  
Not-for-Profit

#### Hurricane Harry's Sunset Grille &

Raw Bar LLC (Coming Soon)  
Mailing Address: 2450 Hollywood Blvd.,  
Suite 105, Hollywood, FL 33020  
954-644-9429 | [www.hurricaneharryskw.com](http://www.hurricaneharryskw.com)  
Contact: Toby McRae  
Restaurant/Bar

#### Impromptu Classical Concerts

PO Box 6244, Key West, FL 33041  
Concert Location: St. Paul's Church  
305-293-1871 | [www.keywestimpromptu.org](http://www.keywestimpromptu.org)  
Contact: George Korn  
Non-Profit

#### TENDBAR, LLC

3920 S. Roosevelt Blvd., #1125,  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-998-4081 | [www.tendbar.us](http://www.tendbar.us)  
Contact: Ravi Vaithinathan  
Delivery Service

#### Robert E. Clark, LLC

281 Front Street, Key West, FL 33040  
305-363-5429 | [www.robertclark-cpa.com](http://www.robertclark-cpa.com)  
Contact: Robert E. Clark  
Certified Public Accountant