



CHAMBER CHOWDER®

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

Chamber Recognizes Local Businesses and Individuals At Annual Awards Luncheon



The *Business for Beauty* recipients were honored for major capital projects or extensive renovations that added to the beauty of Key West. Pictured here are: Bo and Kris Pabian of *Sunset Marina Apartments*; Johnny and Peggy Newberry of *Mangoe Tree Inn*; Mark Vose of the *Laureate*; Steve Mungall of *Parrott Key*, chamber Past President Suzanne Moore, and Natalie Cardenas with *Havana Cabana*.

The Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce recognized some of the people, projects and programs that have helped make this community what it is over the past year. The annual awards luncheon was held December 19th at the Key West Marriott Beachside. More than 160 members celebrated their friends and neighbors as the awards were given amidst a festive lunch time gathering.

The *Business for Beauty Awards* were given to celebrate major capital projects or extensive renovation that add to the beauty, and contribute to the overall attractiveness, of Key West. The yearly award may be given to businesses, as well as non-businesses, government, or civic projects.

Havana Cabana Key West won the award for their major renovation following Hurricane Irma and for reopening with a newly launched brand. Originally known as the Inn at Key West, the property recently underwent significant capital improvements to the guest rooms, common areas and also the amenities. The landscaping upgrades were to accentuate what is considered Key West's biggest swimming pool and they also created a food and beverage program with the purchase of their Floridita Food Truck which offers a Cuban themed menu. The entire hotel property was redesigned with a Cuban-inspired theme. On hand to receive the award was Natalie Cardenas.

Parrot Key Hotel & Villas received the award for a recent multimillion-dollar renovation touching every part of the guest experience. General Manager Steve Mungall accepted the award. The Parrot Hotel and Villas rooms have been redesigned to leverage the water views and to add a measure of sophistication to the suites and villas. The property now has a bar and restaurant, The Grove, which will serve a number of cocktails and fresh food offerings to their guests in a newly designed space. In addition, the property was improved with resiliency of the hotel in preparation for any future weather events.

The Laureate Key West was honored as well. Aptly named for the many creative minds who have called Key West home, The Laureate Key West draws inspiration from past literary greats while offering a modern coastal design and luxury amenities. It was designed to be a traveler's haven, where guests can rest, recoup, and reflect after a sun-filled day. The new property features 64 modern, coastal-chic guest suites with an array of amenities ideal for extended stays in Key West, including beautiful bay views, private balconies and fully equipped gourmet kitchenettes. The property also features a tropical pool surrounded by lush landscaping, and a large cabana available to guests. General Manager Mark Vose accepted the award.

The Mango Tree Inn and its continued upgrades also won. Peggy and

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Message from President Michael Morawski

As 2019's incoming president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, let me wish you a successful and prosperous New Year. I, like many, use this time of the year to reflect on the path just traveled and recharge my batteries with renewed enthusiasm, looking towards the opportunities that will enhance my personal, civic, and professional growth, for the betterment of myself, family, staff, friends, and community.

As I reflect on my business development over the last 40 years; my single wisest decision was to be an active participant as a volunteer within my professional association. From the moment I joined my first committee long ago I enjoyed success, not individually but as one of many. It was apparently clear within this dynamic that "I" or "me" doesn't flourish; it's about one contributing; credit for doesn't exist. The people whom I met and served with have enriched me, both personally and professionally.

One such person was last year's chamber president Suzanne Moore. However, I wasn't the only beneficiary of this person's good will, incredible business talents, and infectious spirit. Each and every one of us, as members of the chamber, were the recipients of this amazing person's energy and spirit.

She took the reins of this legacy organization, wrapped within traditional and entrenched foundational dynamics and infused it with the freshness

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Spotlight Shines on ... Cara Higgins, Horan and Higgins, LLC



Each month, the Key West Chamber of Commerce spotlights a business or professional person whose business card is drawn at the Business After Hours. This month's winner is Cara Higgins, Horan and Higgins, LLC.

A Key West resident since 2003, Cara Higgins prides herself on being a part of a local firm in a town where there are many good lawyers, but few local law firms, she said. She is a partner in Horan and Higgins, LLC, a full-service firm that focuses on business, family and criminal law.

And thanks to Key West being a small town within a city, Horan and Higgins can also pass a client along if there is a more specialized need.

"We have fostered relationships with other law firms we can refer to and they are people we would use," she said, "We focus on the areas that are important to the people here in Key West and who have their businesses here."

Key West is home for Cara and her family. Like her colleagues, she is raising her family here and is committed to the community she serves.

She jokes that as a full time Key West resident and lawyer she is always available by phone and email and "even Publix on the weekend!"

Sometimes she even runs into clients or would-be clients at the hockey rink while she is with her own family. She and her husband, Mike Horvath, have two children ages seven and 11.

"We love to spend time out on the water to go fishing and we have made great friends in this community," she said.

At work, "We are always focused on the business community and we want everyone to succeed," she said. "That is why the chamber is so important."

Speaking of her firm, she said "We enjoy using our talents to make this a better place to live."

Cara is the Past President of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce (2011) and the Monroe County Bar Association and currently serves as a director on the chamber board, and also is a board member for both the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and the Lower Florida Keys Hospital District.

She graduated magna cum laude, from West Virginia University in 1995 and from Villanova School of Law in 1998.

In 2017, Cara was presented with the William "Billy" Appelrouth Award by the Key West Chamber of Commerce, and was presented the prestigious Athena Award in 2018.

When asked what she enjoys about being a lawyer, Cara doesn't even hesitate: "I love that it is never boring. I handle a wide array of cases. Everything from code enforcements to federal court litigation and everything in between. In other areas of the country this variety would never happen." 🍷

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Key West Roosevelt:
305-676-3100
2514 N Roosevelt Blvd.

Key West Old Towne:
305-676-3140
1229 Simonton St.

Key West Whitehead:
305-676-3160
701 Whitehead St.

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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

“Annual Awards Luncheon” continued from page 1 ▶



The Venture Award recipients posed after being recognized for making a bold investment in a new business or enterprise that exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that adds to the Key West atmosphere. Pictured are: Bookie Henriquez, Ed Swift, Sheldon Davidson, Sandy Higgs, Joan Higgs, Jody Gross, Karen Lockwood, and John Dolan-Heitlinger representing the Florida Keys Assisted Care Coalition; Joe Madaus, Comedy Key West; Eugenia Simmons, The Gates Hotel and 24 North for “Sunset Green Event Lawn Space”; Eric Castellanos, Addison’s Barber Parlor; Eddie Aguilar, Mile Zero Fights and Past President Suzanne Moore.

Johnny Newberry accepted the award for their property. The Inn is a charming 1850s house located at 603 Southard St. (on the corner of Simonton and Southard). The renovations on the Inn began in 1999 and continue through today. The Mango Tree Inn is run by Peggy and Johnny Newberry. They have worked tirelessly for 20 years on their property, which is also their home. They strive to keep the property well kept, freshly painted and their garden full of tropical flowers and plants.

Stock Island Apartments, LLC received the award for having developed 60 apartment units under the name Sunset Marina Apartments. Each apartment is two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The apartments offer either waterfront or waterview decks. The 15 buildings with four apartments per building are modular homes constructed by Palm Harbor Homes in Plant City, Florida. Resident amenities include a 24-hour gym and swimming pool. This project is managed by Pelagic Property Management Company from Key West. The award was received by Bob and Kris Pabian.

The five Key West businesses that received **The Venture Awards** were honored for a bold investment in a new business or enterprise that exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit and adds to the Key West atmosphere.

Addison’s Barber Parlor was established in October, 2016 by local barber Eric Castellanos who also owns Stock Island Fades. Eric accepted the award for his business. He had a vision to bring back traditional barbering in Key West and opened his shop at 1075 Duval Street, conveniently located in Duval Square. Addison’s Barber Parlor has a classic vintage feel, and provides its gentleman clients with a high level of service.

Comedy Key West is an entertainment company established in 2016 by Joe Madaus who accepted the award for his business. The club showcases the best in stand-up live comedy and a variety of short films at various venues in Key West. Also in 2016, they launched a small show in the Happy Body fitness studio as an experiment to see if Key West could support a weekly comedy offering and they have now expanded it to three nights a week.

More than 20 years ago, the **Florida Keys Assisted Care Coalition** was formed to bring assisted care to our community. At that time the local elderly had very few options when they reached a point that living alone was no longer practical or desirable. In fact, many of our local elderly were moved out of Key West and had to leave friends and family behind. The results were often tragic. The coalition held fundraisers, raised awareness, led a successful referendum effort, lobbied politicians, sent thousands of mailings and collected funds over the past 20-plus years. They overcame multiple setbacks and continued to work on behalf of our seniors without pause. The not-for-profit was entirely self-funded and continued the fight to get this important job done.

The Key West Housing Authority, led by the board and executive director Manny Castillo, dedicated the land and provided tax free bonds to build the 108 bed facility. Those involved in the organization accepted the award together. They included: board members Sheldon Davidson, John Dolan-Heitlinger, Jody Gross, Joan Higgs, Sandy Higgs, Bookie Henriquez, Karen Lockwood, and Ed Swift.

Mile Zero Fights also won. The award was accepted by Eddy Aquiar who founded the Mile

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President’s Message cont. from page 1 ▶

of new. She offered sound advice and encouragement, to everyone. She was our tireless ambassador and serves as an inspiring example to all. She has set a new standard of excellence and I’m so privileged to have served and learned from her, over the last couple of years.

Suzanne is the prototypical of all that serve within a volunteer organization. A selfless individual with enormous talents and varying skill sets, dedicated to accomplishments far greater than self.

In addition to Suzanne, I am extremely honored and blessed to be working with the incredibly talented board members, whom you elected to serve. This group is different from any volunteer group I’ve worked with in the past. The moment of this revelation came at the beginning of this year’s board retreat in Islamorada. As each and every one of these elected members, entered the room and took their seats, I realized how special of a gift I was given by you the membership. Yes, the talent is extraordinary, the skill levels are exceptional and varying, however, it’s the generational mix that said, “the work of today, will be relevant to those of tomorrow.”

This new generation has an impatience within their DNA, it won’t be business as usual. We have immediate needs that require immediate action. This group isn’t your status quo bunch. They are solution oriented and driven to outcomes. I thank you for the opportunity to lead this iconic organization and close with this small request. As dynamic as our talent is, we still need you.

Should your new year goals include personal, civic, or professional growth take a look at the Key West Chamber of Commerce, for fulfillment. We will benefit, you will benefit, and our community will benefit. That’s a win-win-win for all.

Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you.

“Year-end Honor Awards” continued from page 3 ▶

Zero Fights as a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) organization established in January, 2016 to showcase local talent against fighters from around the world. The idea came from Eddy realizing after his second fight that he had to fight locally to make the biggest impact for his gym, Bone Island Jiu Jitsu. He spent a year dreaming and planning and then teamed up with local event planner Karli Thurston to produce Mile Zero Fights hosting Thai Boxing Bouts and Jiu Jitsu matches. They are pleased to announce that at the end of 2019 they will be venturing into Pro Boxing.

Eugenia Simmons accepted the award for the sister properties, **The Gates Hotel Key West** and **24° North Hotel**. The properties unveiled their new 12,105 sq. ft. shared multipurpose Sunset Green Event Lawn on December 30, 2017. Located between the boutique lifestyle hotels, the expansive event lawn serves as the focal point of The Keys Collection, four uniquely distinct Key West hotels managed by Highgate.

Sunset Green, Key West’s newest event venue, provides entertainment for up to 800 seated guests or 1,200 standing guests and is designed to host weddings, as well as concerts, movie nights, fitness and yoga classes, and lawn games such as chess tables, frisbee, and croquet. Its verdant landscape and laid-back environment invites hotel guests, visitors and locals to take off their shoes and experience the best of Key West.

Unfortunately, Lea passed away before they were able to acquire the property. In June, 2016 Bud and their son Preston (both on hand to accept the award) were finally able to purchase the property and their vision to restore the two homes began. A huge concrete façade and years of neglect made this renovation a challenging project. The Brewers sought guidance from local architect Michael Ingram and builder Tim Root, and after 18 months of hard work, negotiations, and a hurricane, this team was able to bring the two houses back to their original glory.

The Piece of the Rock awards are presented to dedicated individuals who have clearly gone above and beyond the scope of their normal responsibilities to help make Key West a better community through the years.



Frank Toppino was awarded the Piece of the Rock award for giving tirelessly to the community of Key West, especially for being persistent for his work on affordable housing with the Quarry Apartments.

Frank Toppino was honored for all of his efforts to make the Quarry Apartments housing project come to life. He accepted his award on behalf of many years of work. Frank and his family began their journey for affordable housing in 1997 with a proposed 90 unit development on Rockland Key. The Navy/DEO rejected the project and the re-zoning, litigating against the proposed units citing their proximity to the Navy’s AQ Zone. In 2012, Frank began exploring the option to have the industrial property on Big Coppitt and Rockland Key re-zoned to accommodate the need for Affordable Housing in the Florida Keys. The DEO and Navy once again rejected the proposal, but were defeated after showing a greater public need. Six years later they have broken ground on the Quarry Apartments, 208 units of much-needed affordable housing to be available early fall of 2019.



Amy Lay received the Piece of the Rock award for her many efforts with the SPCA and her boundless energy in giving back to the community.

Amy Lay, Director of Catering for Catered Affairs of Key West was honored for playing a big role in organizing fundraiser events for the SPCA through the restaurant “La Trattoria” and other off-site events such as POSH, Spayghetti and No Balls Dinner, the Pet Masquerade, and more.

She accepted her award, which honored her work in the community. In addition to working tirelessly for the SPCA, Amy also gives back in time of need. After Hurricane Irma, Amy organized and executed the distribution of food and water in the back of their restaurant. She also organized cooking nightly for many of the first responders and essential personnel who remained in Key West and worked day and night to get Key West back up and running so residents could return home. Amy also played an important part of setting up an emergency veterinarian clinic for people with injured pets due to the storm. This past year Amy also assisted with selling raffle tickets for a scooter being raffled for the “Tiger in the Woods” Golf Tournament every Monday at their Martini Monday.



Kim Works poses after being recognized for 30 years of service to the chamber. She received the Piece of the Rock award on behalf of the board, members, and staff who appreciate her continued commitment.

Kim Works was also honored and accepted her award. She is a current board member who has spent the last 30 years serving the chamber and the Key West community. On behalf of the board, chamber members and staff Kim was

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Bud Brewer and Preston Brewer pose with Suzanne Moore after being presented with the Historic Preservation Award for the renovation work on twin properties at 421/423 Simonton Street.

The Historic Preservation Award acknowledges an individual, organization, business, or government entity who has been instrumental in preserving our historic resources and plays an active role in preserving and protecting our historic structures through renovation, restoration, and preservation.

Bud and Lea Brewer long wanted to purchase the property located at 421/423 Simonton St., so they could bring it back to its past splendor.



"Year-end Honor Awards" continued from page 4 ▶

honored for her countless hours and dedicated service. Kim has served on the board since 1989, quickly moving up the ladder serving as president of the chamber in 1996. Kim's hard work and dedication have shown through the many awards she has been presented over the years including the William "Billy" Applerouth Award in 1996, the prestigious Athena Award in 1997 and most recently was inducted in the Key West Chamber

of Commerce Hall of Fame in 2014.

She has also been involved with the TDC District Advisory Council as a DAC I Board Member since 2012, and is a former graduate of Leadership Monroe County and served on their board for twelve years. Kim was a longtime member of the Key West Sunrise Rotary, and a supporter of the arts with her contributions as past president and board member of the

Tennessee Williams Fine Art Center Founders Society and a Red Barn Theater Board member since 2001, currently serving as their President.

After all the awards were given, the many recipients gathered with their friends, families, and fellow award recipients for official photos and many congratulations. The luncheon wrapped up another successful year of business helping businesses through their involvement in the chamber. 

"If it's free, it's for me!"

Information from the Key West Chamber of Commerce

Do you have an upcoming Family/High School Reunion, a Key West Wedding, or Business Retreat?

The Key West Chamber of Commerce is offering FREE VISITOR INFORMATION for you to place in your welcome bags!

Your welcome bags can be stuffed with visitor's guides, coupons, maps, brochures for shopping in the Key West area, different accommodations for hotels, resorts and bed & breakfasts, Key West museums and attractions, restaurants, watersports, eco-tours, sunset cruises; you name it!

Have an event coming up with out of town guests, give us a call today! We are here to help you and your visitors' Key West stay more enjoyable and worry free. The visitor information packets are free for pick up in the Key West Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Lobby or only a nominal charge if shipped.

If you would like your business coupon or brochure involved in our welcome bags and presented in our Visitor's Lobby please join our Rack Card Program. To advertise with your business card it is only \$5.00 a month, for a brochure just \$10.00 a month.

For more information on **FREE STUFF** from the Key West Chamber or joining our Rack Card Program please contact Shay at the Key West Chamber (305) 294-2587 or by email: info@keywestchamber.org.



The Key West Chamber of Commerce Presents a seminar on:

Exceptional Customer Service

Wednesday, January 30, 2019
The Doubletree Grand Key Resort
8:30a.m. to 11:30a.m.

Elisa Levy is an internationally known speaker and author who specializes in conflict resolution, team building, leadership and customer service. For the last 18+ years, she has been working with organizations and individuals to improve their businesses and working relationships. Her clients run the gamut, from the United Nations, to Fortune 500 companies, hotel chains, restaurants and non-profit organizations. Elisa travels the world teaching, and has authored two books and countless articles on conflict resolution.

Learn easy-to-use tools to:

- ♦ "Wow" every customer that walks through the door.
- ♦ Communicate effectively with people from other cultures.
- ♦ Understand what your customers want and need from you.
 - ♦ Turn an unhappy customer around in seconds.
 - ♦ Handle even the most difficult customers.
 - ♦ Have a great attitude every day.

Customer service is imperative because a dissatisfied customer will tell between 9 & 15 people about their experience. Around 13% of dissatisfied customers tell more than 20 people.

***65% of business comes from repeat customers, and 72% of the reason people stay loyal to a business is due to customer service.**

Enrollment forms and payment must be received in the chamber's office by Noon, Friday, January 25, 2019 to guarantee seating.

Email to: committees@keywestchamber.org or call Dorothy at 305-294-2587

Both chamber members and non-members are urged to attend.

Complete and email your enrollment form today!

Cost: Members—\$76.00 per person, Non-Members—\$99.00 per person

(*Price includes continental breakfast)

Name: _____ Company: _____

Job Title: _____ Email: _____

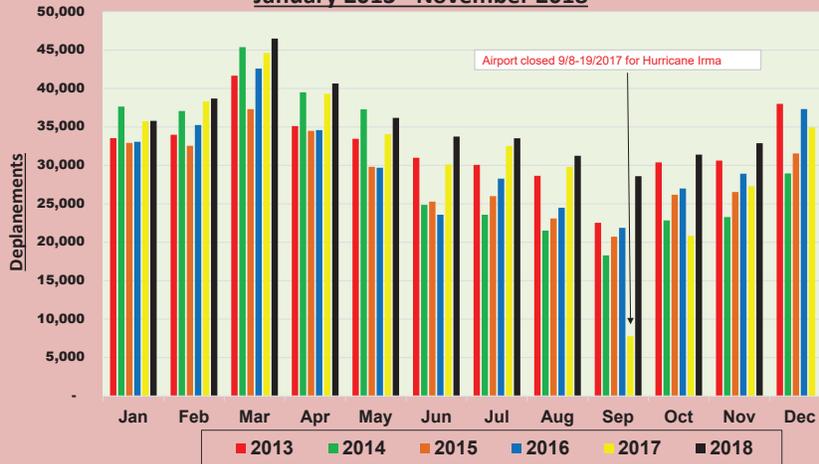
Phone: _____

Please contact the Key West Chamber of Commerce with credit card information or bring in registration and payment to the chamber office. **SPACE IS LIMITED**, no refunds will be offered after Noon on Friday, January 25, 2019. Include the names, job title & email of additional attendees on a separate piece of paper.

Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce—510 Greene Street—Key West, FL 33040—305-294-2587



Key West International Airport Arrivals January 2013 - November 2018



Source: Key West International Airport

Passenger arrivals to the Key West International Airport in November, 2018 totaled 32,880. This increase of 20.6% compared to November, 2017 is indicative of the trend towards increasing deplanements each month. The 32,880 passengers is the most ever for the month of November.

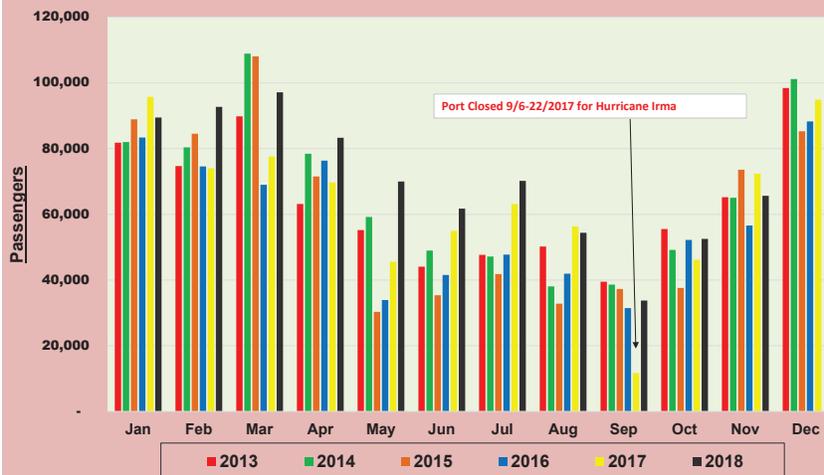
Total passenger arrivals for the first eleven months of 2018 was 389,187. That is 14.3% more passenger arrivals than the first eleven months of 2017.

November, 2018 deplanements marked the eleventh straight increase in month over month comparisons compared to 2017. For the first time ever Key West International Airport will reach over 400,000 passenger arrivals in a single year.

November, 2018 is the sixth straight month where the number of deplanements was the most ever for that month.

Not to be outdone ferry passenger arrivals to Key West will top 100,000 for the first time ever. Over 125,000 people will visit by ferry in 2018.

Key West Cruise Ship Passengers January 2013 - November 2018



Source: City of Key West Port Operations

A total of 65,623 cruise ship passengers disembarked in Key West from 32 ships during November, 2018. This is 9,355 less than November, 2017 which saw 72,358 cruise ship passengers visit Key West.

For the eleven months of 2018, cruise ship arrivals saw 770,729 passengers disembark from 336 port calls. Port calls are up 14.7% for the year and passenger counts are up 15.5% over the same period in 2017.

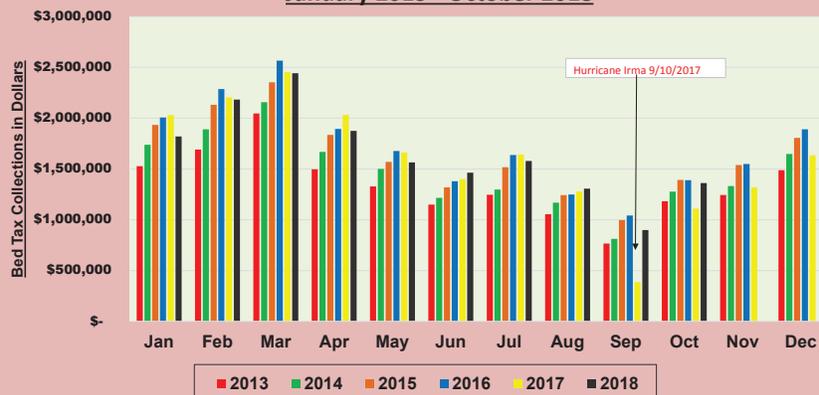
The Port of Key West will welcome over 800,00 cruise ship passengers for the first time since 2012. In 2002 and 2003 Key West had over one million people visit by cruise ship, but those numbers have mostly declined every year since then.

The cruise ship schedule for January thru March, 2019 compared to the same three months in 2018 is shown below.

	2018	2019
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January	47	50
February	36	47
March	44	42

Key West Bed Tax Collections January 2013 - October 2018



Source: Monroe County Tax Collector

Reported bed tax collections for Key West were \$1,361,955 for the month of October, 2018, which represents an increase 22.8% over October, 2017.

According to Smith Travel, the October, 2018 occupancy rate in Key West was 62.4%, a 9.3% decrease from the October, 2017 occupancy rate of 68.8%.

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) was reported at \$216.34 for October, 2018. That is a 11.4% decrease from the ADR in October, 2017 of \$244.24.

Since Hurricane Irma passed on September 10, 2017 and caused damage to some hotels, the number of rooms available rooms declined. Since then most of them have reopened and several new properties have gained traction creating more competition.

Preparing for our 2019 Wage and Benefit Survey!

Please fill out your Wage and Benefit Survey when it arrives in your inbox! We look forward to your responses and sharing the consolidated Wage & Benefit Survey information with you.

As an employer in Key West, and the Florida Keys, you face many challenges in hiring and retaining qualified employees. You have the responsibility to balance viable compensation packages to retain qualified employees along with the necessity of maintaining your budget. The Key West Chamber of Commerce developed our annual Wage and Benefit Survey to provide our members with a tool to view the Key West employment market in terms of average wage levels by industry, specific job class, benefit standards and general turnover rate.

FAQs

What information is collected? We collect information on standard work weeks, paid time off (holidays, sick, floating and vacation days), benefits (qualifications, covered persons, health, dental, vision, disability, life, AD&D, retirement plans, tuition assistance & development, memberships, and housing) and compensation (current, raises & bonuses). Base pay, commissions and tips are collected for each position. Information is gathered for all positions across an array of job categories, from controllers to waitresses to pilots. The chamber wants to gather as much raw data as possible in order to aggregate the data into a useful tool for local businesses.

Is my shared information kept confidential? Absolutely! The only person in the chamber that has access to your submitted information is the Director of Research. Your organization's specific data will never be shared with anyone, at any time, for any reason.

Why is my participation important? The Chamber strives to have meaningful final numbers that participants can use to manage their workforces effectively. More participants lead to more accurate and meaningful results. All participants receive a complimentary copy of the completed Wage & Benefit Survey report. Reports are available to non-participating members for a charge.

What does the final report include? The final report is a 40 page, bound document that summarizes the area's wages and benefits by business sector. It also includes a breakdown of hourly wages for every position reported; this breakdown includes the lowest, highest, mean, median, first quartile, third quartile and annualized mean amount for each position.

How will the final Wage and Benefit report benefit me? The final report will let you know how your organization measures up against other organizations, as a whole and by position. With this report you can compare where your organization's wages are relative to similar positions locally. This is a useful management tool for hiring and retaining employees. Additionally if your organization is a corporate subsidiary, branch or franchise, you may use the survey results to relay and justify higher local labor costs to your company's corporate office. If your corporate office will be responsible for filling out the survey, please let them know that it will be coming out shortly.



Community Calendar

January 2019

1/1-8/31	Key West Fishing Tournament, 305-294-8843	20	21st Annual Key West Half Marathon Run & 5K 305-240-0727
1/5	Pole Vault in Paradise-Truman Waterfront Park 9:00 AM, 512-470-8076, FOR KWHs Track Team sahanes@kwffc.com	20	Rotary Club of KW Golf Tournament – KW Golf Club 305-587-6741
5-6	Darius by Jean-Benoit Patriotic to benefit Hugh's View 8:00pm	21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 12pm-4pm MLK Comm. Center, 300 Catherine; 305-809-3700
6	HTA Local's Day	22-29	Kelly McGillis Classic International Female Flag Football Championship 305-896-8678
6	Locals Day at Key West Botanical Gardens; 305-296-1504	22	Conch Revival Picnic at East Martello (5:30 – 8:30pm) Shawn 305.295.6616 x 111
6	Sunday Ramble at Key West Theater	23-27	I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard (Wednesdays & Sundays) Key West Theater 8:00pm
10	The Wailers at Key West Theater	23-27	9th Annual Key West Food & Wine Festival; 800-474-4319; info@keywestfoodandwinefestival.com; www.keywestfoodandwinefestival.com
10-13	36th Annual Key West Literary Workshop - www.keywestliteraryseminar.org, 888-293-9291	24	Craig Robinson & The Nasty Delicious at The Key West Theater
11	Gary Puckett & The Union Gap at Key West Theater	24-2/9	Waterfront Playhouse presents: A Doll's House, Part 2; 305-294-5015
1/12	Wounded Warrior's Soldier Ride starts at 10:30a.m. at Boca Chica, ends around 11:45 at the Military Memorial, Bayview Park	26	Shawn Colvin at The Key West Theater
12	7th Annual Mayors Ball 6pm - Casa Marina – FOR: FL Keys Children's Shelter; 305-852-4246	26	Key West Historic Cemetery Stroll 9:30am, 9:50am, 10:10am 305-304-1453/305-304-9931
13	Dar Williams at Key West Theater	26	American Red Cross Florence Spottswood Humanitarian of the Year Gala; 305-296-4033; Key West Beachside Marriott
13	Gospel of a Good Time Key West Theater 6:00	26-27	33rd Annual Key West Craft Show, 10am-5pm www.keywestartcenter.com; 305-294-1243
17-20	Key West Kingfish Mayhem Fishing Tourn. Stock Island Marina Village	27	Annual Key West Master Chefs Classic (always the last Sunday of Jan); 305-294-9526 ext. 25
18	Kim Gordon: Music with Heart at Key West Theater	30-2/2	I'm Gonna Pray for You So Hard (Wednesdays & Sundays) Key West Theater 8:00pm
18-19	59th Annual HOME Tours (2 of 4), www.oirf.org, 4pm-8pm, 305-294-9501	31	David Bromberg at The Key West Theater
19	Key West Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation & Awards Banquet; 305-294-2587; 6:00p.m.-11:00p.m., Marriott Beachside Hotel membership@keywestchamber.org		
19-20	14th Annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival, Sat 11:00am-8pm, Bayview Park; 813-362-9555; Sun Noon - 5pm		
20	Rumours: A Fleetwood Mac Tribute at Key West Theater		
20	Songwriters Speakeasy Series: Back room at the Key West Theater		

Cruise Ship Schedule

JANUARY 2019

1	Carnival Victory (B)	7:30am-1:30pm
1	Infinity (OM)	7:00am-5:00pm
2	Majesty (B)	8:00am-5:00pm
3	Crystal Symphony (B)	7:30am-5:00pm
3	Vision (B)	10:00am-7:00pm
4	Disney Magic (B)	6:45am-5:00pm
4	Norwegian Sky (OM)	8:00am-5:00pm
5	No Ships	
6	Sevens Seas Voyager (B)	7:00am-5:00pm
6	Rhapsody (OM)	11:00am-6:00pm
7	Celebrity Edge (OM)	7:00am-5:00pm
7	Rotterdam (B)	11:00am-6:00pm
8	Carnival Victory(B)	7:30am-1:30pm
8	Empress (OM)	10:00am-6:00pm
9	Infinity (B)	7:00am-5:00pm
10	Artania (OM)	7:00am-1:30pm
10	Vision (B)	10:30am-7:00pm
11	Infinity (B)	7:00am-2:00pm
12	Disney Magic	6:45am-3:45pm
13	Celebrity Equinox (B)	7:00am- 5:00pm
13	Norwegian Sky (OM)	9:00am-6:00pm
14	Carnival Freedom (B)	11:00am-7:00pm
14	Rotterdam (OM)	11:00am-6:00pm
15	Carnival Victory (B)	7:30am-1:30pm
15	Carnival Dream (B)	9:00am-5:00pm
16	Majesty (B)	8:00am-5:00pm
17	Norwegian Sky (OM)	8:00am-5:00pm
17	Vision (B)	10:00 – 7:00pm
18	Celebrity Infinity (OM)	10:00am-6:00pm
19	Disney Magic (B)	6:45am- 5:30pm
20	Rhapsody (B)	11:00am-6:00pm
21	Celebrity Edge (B)	7:00am-5:00pm
22	Carnival Victory (B)	7:30am-1:30pm
22	Norwegian Jade (OM)	8:00am-4:00pm
23	No Ships	
24	Victory (M)	9:00am-5:00pm
25	Carnival Sensation (B)	7:30am-1:30pm
26	Disney Magic (B)	6:45am-3:45pm
26	Seven Seas Voyager (OM)	8:00-5:00pm
27	Equinox (B)	7:00-5:00pm
27	Riviera (OM)	8:00am-5:00pm
28	Rotterdam (OM)	11:00am-6:00pm
28	N. Amsterdam (B)	12:00pm-midnight
29	Carnival Victory (B)	7:30am-1:30pm
30	Majesty (B)	7:30am-1:30pm
31	Vision (B)	&:00am-3:00pm



Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



HOLIDAY | BUSINESS AFTER HOURS | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2018

Hosted by: **Rick's/Durty Harry's Entertainment Complex** - 202 Duval Street



Welcome New Members!



The Key West Chamber of Commerce welcomed four new members during its December membership luncheon. Pictured left to right: Chamber Past President Suzanne Moore, new members Ann Jonas from Sarabeth's, George Dumigan, NHCG and 2018 Membership Committee Chair Kim Works, and 2019 Membership Committee Chair Britt Myers.

Ben and Jerry's
 124 Duval Street | Key West, FL 33040
 305-296-2559
 benandjerry.com/keywest
 Contact: Melissa and Seth Corneal
 Ice Cream

NHCG (New Haven Consulting Group)
 Key West, FL 33040
 203-623-2615
 nhcg.com
 Contact: George Dumigan
 Training/Consulting

Even More Payments
 218 Front Street
 Key West, FL 33040
 207-841-3175
 evenmorepayments.com
 Contact: Janna and Kevin Smith
 Merchant Services

Sarabeth's
 530 Simonton Street
 Key West, FL 33040
 305-293-8181
 Contact: Ann and Jonathan Jonas
 Restaurant

Ralph Major, Sr. Honored by the Key West Chamber of Commerce as the City Employee of the Year for 2018

The City Employee of the Year award was presented to Ralph Major, Sr. by City Manager, Jim Scholl and sponsored by Horan & Higgins, LLC..

Ralph was surprised and pleased with receiving the award and said, "I feel I do my job on a daily basis. I don't look for a prize, I just do the job and I enjoy making a difference in the community."

"His work ethic and dedication were obvious from the start, Scholl said."

"Ralph truly cares about the community and the city for which he works. He is an example of an employee who is never really "Off the Clock". Nothing is too much for him to handle and he will always do it with a smile. "

Ralph Major quickly moved up the ranks after starting with the City in 2008 as a Maintenance Worker I.

Over the next few years, he rose from Maintenance Worker II to Maintenance Technician I, Maintenance Tech II and then became a Foreman in 2013.

Then in 2014 Ralph moved to the Frederick Douglass Gym as the after school program coordinator. Ralph took great pride in working with the children at the gym giving him the ability to help and be an asset to the community. Most recently Ralph was promoted to the Parks and Recreation Facilities Superintendent in 2017 as a part of this position he oversees the Truman Waterfront Park.

"This creates many opportunities and challenges which he has handled well," Scholl said.



Community Services Director Marcus Davila stands with Awardee Ralph Major Sr. who received the City Employee of the Year award. Also pictured are City Manager Jim Scholl and Chamber Past President Suzanne Moore.

"Between the splash pad and playground, Amphitheater, and the rest of the park there are many events, concerts, and normal maintenance that require a lot of time and effort. Ralph is truly sacrificing of his time to ensure that everything at the park runs smoothly and efficiently."

Ralph has been a big part of the community long before he ever started employment with the city. He was born and raised in Key West as a third generation Conch. He graduated from Key West High School where he also played football. Ralph has been involved in the past with coaching youth football, at one point being the president of the league. A lot of people know Ralph as a dog trainer. He has been working with numerous dogs and dog owners in the community for years, showing them how to be responsible and respectful pet owners.

Captain Inspector Jason Barroso Honored as the Firefighter of the Year 2018

The Firefighter of the Year Award was presented by Chief Michael Davilla and sponsored by Keys Federal Credit Union.

Captain Michael Budde nominated Captain Inspector Jason Barroso for recognition as 2018 Firefighter of the Year with this statement, "I believe him to be a man of character and that he demonstrates what a public safety officer should be on and off duty."

Jason started his career with the Key West Fire Department in 2002 after a brief stint with the Monroe County Fire Department. He arrived with firefighting experience as well as training in aircraft firefighting. He was promoted to Lt. Inspector in 2012 and Captain Inspector in 2016.

Shortly after being transferred to the fire prevention bureau he developed the electronic plans review system now in use which saves time and provides a better analysis of the planned construction. He now does routine life safety inspections as well as public life safety demonstrations and fire investigations.

The reason he was recognized was especially due to his extraordinary work with the Key West High School Fire Academy. This program was started many years ago to encourage local students to seek emergency responder jobs when they graduate from high school.

Jason assumed these oversight duties upon promotion in 2016. He took a successful program and improved it to a point where the Monroe County School District is trying to copy it into the other high schools in the Keys. One of his greatest accomplishments this year was getting the



City Manager Jim Scholl stands with awardee Captain Jason Barroso and Chief Michael Davila, and Chamber Past President Suzanne Moore.

students to take the National Registry Emergency Medical Responder examination. So far, three students passed the exam and received the valuable certification many more are expected to pass this school year.

Jason was recognized for passing onto his students the same character traits he holds dear.

Detective Gustavo Medina Honored by the Key West Chamber of Commerce as Police Officer of the Year



City Manager Jim Scholl stands with awardee for Police Officer of the Year, Detective Gustavo Medina, and Chief Sean Brandenburg, and Chamber Past President Suzanne Moore.

Detective Gustavo Medina was pleased and humbled to receive the Police Officer of the Year award, sponsored by New Moon Management and presented to him by Chief Sean Brandenburg.

"I am humbled to receive the award," he said. "It is very rewarding to be recognized for doing a job that helps the community. To be acknowledged and recognized for that is an honor."

Medina grew up in Miami and went to Florida International University, where he studied biology and aquaculture, a field he worked in, for a time, in Nicaragua.

He attended the law enforcement academy at Miami Dade College, then joined the Key West Police Department in August, 2011. After initially serving on road patrol, Officer Medina served as a Quality of Life officer, working compassionately to find solutions for individuals who are down and out. Most recently he has become a Detective in Criminal Investigations.

Chief Brandenburg called him "professional and compassionate in dealing with each crisis intervention he encounters."

"Detective Medina also plays a vital role on the Department's crisis negotiation team."

When he is not solving crimes or intervening in human crises, Detective Medina loves to travel. He travels all over the world and was especially happy to take his new wife to Japan to see the cherry blossoms in bloom."

Medina is multilingual, speaking Spanish and German as well as English.

Throughout his tenure with the Key West Police Department, Detective Medina has been found to exemplify the core values of the department: Respect, Integrity, Fairness and Service. He serves with enthusiasm, meeting every encounter with courtesy and respect. He is the recipient of the department's Lifesaving Award. He reflects the highest standards of the Key West Police Department and is an asset to our community.



CHAMBER CHOWDER®

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Hemingway Home/305-294-1136

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

John Toppino, Second Vice President
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Suzanne Moore, Past President
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Melissa Kendrick, Appointee
Mel Fisher Maritime Museum/305-294-2633

Mark Rossi, Appointee
*Rick's/Durty Harry's Entertainment Complex
305-296-5513*

Virginia A. Panico, CCE,
Executive Vice President
*Key West Chamber of Commerce
305-294-2587*

CHAMBER STAFF

Virginia A. Panico, CCE
Executive Vice President

Edward Dawicki, III
Director of Research

Suzanne Pearce
Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper

Kerry Baker
Membership Director/Special Events Coordinator

Dorothy Schmida
Administrative Assistant

Lisa Carmack-Gross
Office Assistant/Tourist Information Operator

Gladys Clarks
Tourist Information Receptionist

Virginia A. Panico
Newsletter Editor

Cindy Jefferson
Art Director

Katrina Nichols
Newsletter Writer

Karrie Bond
Social Media Director

Key West Chamber Calendar of Events

January 2019

Business After Hours

Date: Thursday, January 10th
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by: Republica Bar
Location: 24 North Hotel
3820 N. Roosevelt Blvd.

Members Networking Event!

General Membership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 23rd
Time: Noon
Location: Doubletree Grand Key Resort
Speaker: The Honorable Teri Johnston,
Mayor City of Key West
Topic: The State of Key West

February 2019

Business After Hours

Date: Wednesday, February 6th
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by: The Laureate Key West
Location: 3444 North Roosevelt Blvd.

Members Networking Event!

General Membership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 27th
Time: Noon
Location: Doubletree Grand Key Resort
3990 South Roosevelt Blvd.
Speaker: Comm. Heather Carruthers
Topic: National Flood Insurance
Program Reform

SAVE THE DATE

You are cordially invited to join us at the
Installation of the Officers and Directors of the Board
at the Annual Awards Dinner of the Greater Key West
Chamber of Commerce

on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at the Marriott Beachside Resort
Black Tie Invited

Complimentary Cocktail Hour 6:00 p.m. ~ Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 11, 2018

Following dinner, please join us for music and dancing.

For more information or to make reservations contact the chamber
at 305-294-2587 or email: membership@keywestchamber.org

Special Appreciation to our Cocktail Hour Sponsors:

Appelrouth & Farr Family
Appelrouth, Farah & Co. P.A.

Click to connect with the Chamber on
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Pinterest, or Instagram

