

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Business Awards Breakfast

When: Thursday, May 27, 8-9:15 a.m.
Where: Palm Beach County Convention Center
Cost: Members, \$55; nonmembers, \$75
Space limited to the first 500 registrants.

Annual GOLF Tournament

When: Friday, June 11, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Where: Breakers West Golf Club, Rees Jones Course
Cost: This event is sold out.
Sponsorships: Available – please contact msacher@palmbeaches.org to customize a sponsorship package.

Women in Business Committee Presents “Inclusive Leadership in the Workplace”

When: Thursday, May 13, 9-10 a.m.
Where: Virtual meeting, live via Zoom
Cost: Free
Guest Speaker: Caroline Villanueva, South Florida external affairs manager, Florida Crystals

Coffee with the CEO

When: Friday, May 14, 9-10 a.m.
Where: Chamber boardroom
Cost: Free. Members only.

Virtual Speed Networking

When: Tuesday, May 18, noon to 1 p.m.
Where: Live networking event via Zoom; camera required
Cost: Members, \$5; nonmembers, \$15

Tourism Task Force (Invitation Only)

When: Wednesday, May 19, 10-11 a.m.
Where: Live webinar via Zoom
Cost: Free to members and nonmembers; invitation only
Contact: Kirby Davis @kdavis@palmbeaches.org for more information
Guest Speaker: Lou Hughes, CEO, Moving Minds

Business Builder

When: Friday, May 21, 9-10 a.m.
Where: Chamber boardroom
Cost: Free
Sponsor: The Palm Beach Business Center

Seminar: The ADA and the Interactive Process During the COVID-19 Pandemic

When: Wednesday, May 26, 9-10 a.m.
Where: Virtual meeting, live via Zoom with Q&A from audience
Cost: Members, free; nonmembers, \$15
Presented by: FordHarrison Law Firm
Guest Speaker: David Gobeo (Partner), Ariadna Hernandez, Matt Luttinger

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF TO BE HONORED AT ANNUAL BUSINESS AWARDS BREAKFAST



The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches will present the Sheriff of Palm Beach County, Ric Bradshaw, with the 2021 Lifetime Leadership Award at this year's Business Awards Breakfast. The event recognizes

businesses and individuals who demonstrate unwavering commitment to their business and professional goals, their employees, and their respective local communities.

This year's Awards Breakfast will be held live on Thursday, May 27 from 7:45 to 9:15 a.m. at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Arrangements have been made to enable attendance via Zoom for those who are unable to attend in-person.

For more details and to register, visit our website at palmbeaches.org.



Bradshaw

Lifetime Achievement Award
Sponsored by Larmoyeux & Bone

■ Sheriff Ric Bradshaw,
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office



FINALISTS

Non-Profit of the Year

Sponsored by Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties

- Armory Art Center
- Cultural Council for Palm Beach County
- Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
- South Florida Science Center and Aquarium



Health and Human Services Organization of the Year

Sponsored by Serge W. D'Haiti CPA, PLLC

- Boys & Girls Club of Palm Beach County
- City of West Palm Beach (COVID Response Unit)
- Dress for Success Palm Beaches
- Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County



WEST PALM BEACH



Diversity Organization of the Year

Sponsored by Florida Crystals Corporation

- Baptist Health South Florida
- Field of Greens
- Salento Coffee Shop



Baptist Health



Young Professional of the Year

Sponsorship Opportunity Available

- Jonathan Cooper, Cornerstone Solutions Florida, LLC
- Kevin Lawson, KVL Media
- Connor Lewis, Plastringer Insurance
- Stacie Townsend, Gunster



Cooper

Lawson

Lewis

Townsend

Small Business Person of the Year

Sponsored by Blue Ocean Capital

- Betsy Cohen, Happylicious by Betsy
- Randi Karpinia, Sagacity Legal PLLC
- Marshall Morgan, MMJ Health
- Dr. Rachel Needle, Whole Health Psychological Center



Cohen

Karpinia

Morgan

Needle

Business of the Year

Sponsored by The Palm Beach Post

- Good Samaritan Medical Center
- KAST Construction
- KEITH
- Tellus Products LLC
- Verdex Construction



Business Awards Sponsors:



2020 defending Champions The Palm Beach Kennel Club Foursome; Anthony Rooney (Team Captain), Bill Dunn, Willie Meila, Mike Weeks.

Annual Chamber Golf Tournament set for June 11

The Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament is one of the most popular events on our calendar, attracting a wide range of decision-makers and community leaders. The morning starts with continental breakfast at 7 a.m., and a four-person scramble shotgun start at 8:15 a.m. There will be various competitions along the course including: longest drive (male and female), closest to the pin and hole-in-one.

Lunch and an awards ceremony will follow the tournament. Foursomes will be competing for

the honor of having their name engraved on the Chamber Cup that is proudly displayed in the Chamber lobby. A photo of the winning team will be featured in the Business Watch section of The Palm Beach Post.

For more information contact Michele Sacher at 561-833-3799 or msacher@palmbeaches.org

Thank you to our sponsors!



Dennis Grady receives Key to the City

The City of West Palm Beach Commission conducted a tribute presentation for Dennis Grady on Monday, April 19, honoring him with the "Key to the City of West Palm Beach" for his outstanding contributions as president and CEO of the Chamber of

Commerce of the Palm Beaches. Grady retired after 35 years of steady and thoughtful service.



WEST PALM BEACH

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Business Matters

The 2021 legislative session addressed several major issues facing the business community. SB 72 extended COVID-19 protections for businesses, schools, nonprofits, religious institutions and health care providers that make a "good faith effort" to follow government health guidelines. Under the bill, a plaintiff filing a lawsuit must prove with "clear and convincing evidence" that a defendant acted with "gross negligence." The new law also requires plaintiffs to obtain affidavits from physicians attesting defendants' acts or omissions caused damages, injuries, or death. In addition, the law raises the standard of proof in COVID-19 related lawsuits from the usual "preponderance of evidence" to "clear and convincing evidence" and requires cases be brought within one year of an alleged COVID-19-related problem.

SB 50 relating to sales and use tax would require online retailers to collect sales tax, which would bring an estimated \$1 billion in revenue. The "E-fairness" bill would create an enforcement mechanism on sales tax technically already owed on purchases Floridians make from out-of-state sellers. The plan would require out-of-state sellers to collect those taxes from consumers, as in a conventional purchase. This is not a new tax and is already owed under current law. It does shift the burden of collecting the taxes on remote sales from Florida consumers to out-



of-state retailers. The approximately \$1 billion in added annual state revenue collections will be deposited into the Unemployment Compensation (UC) Trust Fund, which has been decimated by job losses during the pandemic.

The legislature also passed a \$196 million tax package that would expand sales tax holidays while adding several new tax relief initiatives. In addition to the two sales tax holidays passed by both chambers, Florida will extend credits for hiring interns, cleaning contamination sites, and create an expanded property tax exemption for affordable housing.

– Submitted by the Economic Council of Palm Beach County





Global tax compliance: New rules for a new era

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At **Avalara CRUSH Virtual**, a global online event, you'll get insights and tools to help your business navigate the challenges – and seize the opportunities – ahead.



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Racers enthusiastic about return of Women for Women 5K

The 10th Annual Women for Women 5K Road Race presented by Jupiter Medical Center Foundation took place on Saturday, May 8, at Okeetee Park in West Palm Beach. The race, which is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day, was returning after a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea behind the event is to give women of all ages an opportunity to compete together and cheer each other on in support of their mothers.

Participants such as Carolyn Reikenis, racer and exhibitor for her company Trujillo Bay Chocolates, was enthusiastic about the race and said, "I am just elated to be outdoors at a race for women, feeling safe and ready to be with my 15-plus racing-club friends and family, who are finally together again, for the first time in a very long time!"

This year's race was won by Shannon Fox in a time of 20:21.3. She was followed closely by Caroline Bell (20:33.2) and Christina Daughtry (20:59.3).

Competitions were held for the fastest mother (won by Karen Luna Lampert, 22:48.6), the fastest grandmother (Sarah Morelli, 25:41.2), and the fastest great-grandmother (Phyllis Frydman, 37:26.8).

Age-group prizes were also awarded to the first-, second- and third-place finishers in each category, starting at 9 years and under to 70 years and older.

Thank you to our sponsors, race director Iva Grady, exhibitors, all the ladies who participated and the men who turned up to show their support. Your efforts helped to make the event successful and will allow the Chamber to donate \$1,000 to Jupiter Medical Center's Margaret W. Niedland Breast Center and \$500 to the Palm Beach Lakes High School ROTC whose cadets volunteered at the event.

To get involved in the 2022 renewal of this event, please contact Kirby Davis at kdavis@palmbeaches.org.



Overall winners, from left: Christina Daughtry, third place; Caroline Bell, second place; and Shannon Fox, first place



Women for Women 5K fastest great-grandmother winner Phyllis Frydman.

SPONSORS



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Serge D'Haiti



Serge D'Haiti is a certified public accountant licensed to practice in the state of Florida where he serves the Broward County and Palm Beach County areas, doing business as Serge W. D'Haiti, CPA PLLC.

D'Haiti earned his bachelor's degree at Florida Atlantic University and his masters at Nova Southeastern University. In college, Serge tutored student athletes and held positions in the Student Government Association, Accounting Students Association and Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. He has managed a Palm Beach County hip-hop band and has volunteered for the Internal Revenue Service's VITA program through the United Way of Palm Beach County. Protecting citizens through the Department of Financial Services, D'Haiti has worked with the Florida Department of Revenue on child support and business tax matters. He currently serves as a Trustee of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches.

Lisa Stella



Lisa Stella worked in corporate America for 20 years as a business development, sales, marketing, and project management professional. Inspired to give back, she found the Development Director role at Opportunity Early Childhood Education and Family Center. Opportunity was started in the early 1930s by dedicated volunteers committed to making a difference in the community and to making life better for the less fortunate. It is Palm Beach's oldest children's charity. Since its inception, the slogan has been "Help others to help themselves." The mission is to break the cycle of poverty, neglect, and illiteracy by providing high quality early childhood care and education to children of low-income families, single working parents, and families in crisis and need. Supporting this mission includes a holistic program with family development services. Lisa is an NYC transplant with an MBA and BS in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. She currently serves as a Trustee of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches.

Mark Wilson reports on 'State of the State'



Mark Wilson



Mark Wilson, CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, shared real-time updates with participants at the Chamber's April Corporate Breakfast. Donald Burgess, new Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches president and CEO, opened the program by welcoming Mark and Bill Bone, the Chamber's chair-elect and program host.

The theme of Wilson's presentation was "Uniting

Business for Good." He reported that some of the issues resolved in this year's legislative session included COVID liability protections (for employers), remote seller sales tax collections, and mitigation of the \$713 million unemployment tax increase.

Wilson also provided an update on the impact of COVID-19 on Florida and Palm Beach County, focusing largely on employment statistics.

There was also discussion on how the "Florida 2030 Blueprint" had been affected. For example, the original projection of 2 million additional jobs by 2030 had now been revised to 2.5 million to take into account jobs lost during the past 12 months.

The full presentation can be viewed on the Chamber's YouTube channel.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce focuses on creating a

business climate that generates prosperity and high-paying jobs, vibrant communities, and global competitiveness. They are very interested in what you, as Florida residents, have to say.

Finally, special thanks to Baptist Health South Florida, the 2021 Annual Breakfast Technology Sponsor.



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