



MINUTES

**Thursday, October 19 (3:30pm)
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 4747 28th St SE**

MISSION

Our mission is to provide Kent County hospitality related businesses an opportunity to meet professionally with a common interest to better serve our industry and community while furthering the overall tourism landscape of our region.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Welcome & Introductions: Lisa Calhoun, KCHA President

Approval of September 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes – **Approved (Motion – Richard, 2nd – Kristy)**

Financial Report – David Jibson, KCHA Treasurer – **Tabled to January**

President's Report – Lisa Calhoun, KCHA President

- **House reviewing hotel tax bill to fund 'transformational' projects in Kent County. House Bill 5048, would let any city or township in the county ask voters to approve a lodging tax of up to 2%. The bill also includes a late amendment that would allow Kent and seven other counties to raise their current 5% excise tax on hotel and motel stays up to 8%. House approved (66-44) at the end of October and it was sent to the Senate.**
- **FTC Proposes Rule to Ban Junk Fees (hidden, bogus). MRLA is keeping an eye on this.**

Allied Member Showcase

- **Lady Americana – Tim Westrate**
 - **75 years in business, with over 44 years for Tim. Made in Grand Rapids. Multiple levels and price points. Exclusive, proprietary spring system and ultra-premium upholstery. Found in the finest hotels and resorts in Michigan and the Midwest (and beyond).**
- **Summit Point Roofing – Richard Luimes & Chris Summers**
 - **Michigan and Great Lakes area. A full-service roofing company. Estimates and inspections are free. Budget forecast maintenance plans. Reactive vs. proactive. Should have inspection every 5 years with Michigan weather.**
- **Surface Experts**
 - **Handouts provided at the meeting.**

Monthly Reports

- **Experience Grand Rapids**
 - **November 3-11 – Restaurant Week**
 - **November 9 – Fall Partner Event**
- **Grand Rapids Diversity & Inclusion**
 - **November 29 - Savor & Soar - A Hospitality and Tourism Summit**
 - **Held each November in conjunction with the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at Ottawa Hills High School. It brings local students and industry professionals together to engage and interact with each other in a real-life hospitality & tourism management (HTM) environment. It's a day filled with exclusive, behind-the-scenes peeks into the inner workings of an HTM provider, an in-depth exploration of HTM career paths, and a dynamic panel discussion led by HTM industry trailblazers. 30 vendor spots.**

- West Michigan Sports Commission
 - NCAA Bids.
 - April National Pro Hoops. 2000 room nights.
- West Michigan Tourist Association
 - No Report.
- Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association
 - The Hospitality Training Institute of Michigan is offering a free 12-week Hospitality Business Management Course for the first 2,000 registrants. For details: <https://www.htim.com/>. Grants available.
- Women in Hospitality Leadership-Grand Rapids
 - November 15 Annual WIL Hospitality Summit @ JW Marriott.
- Grand Valley State University
 - Contact Kristy for winter internship opportunities.
- Ferris State University
 - A group is going to the WIL event in November.
 - PCMA in November – a student day in Lansing.
 - February 15, 2024 – Career Fair, Mock Interviews & Resume Review on Campus in Big Rapids.
- Michigan Cares for Tourism
 - 2024 dates will be announced later in the year.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Wednesday, November 15 – Women in Hospitality Leadership Conference @ JW Marriott
- November 16-18 – Grand Rapids International Wine, Beer & Food Festival @ DeVos Place
- December TBA – KCHA Holiday Party & Dave Lorenz Retirement Party
- April 8-10, 2024 – Pure Michigan Tourism Conference in Kalamazoo

Round Table Discussion

- Grand Rapids International Wine, Beer & Food Festival (November 16-18)
 - In need of volunteers as a possible fundraiser for organizations.
 - VIP Event on Thursday, special receptions.
 - Contact Melissa and/or Lindsay if interested in details.

Adjournment

Kent County Hospitality Association
P.O. Box 1046 — Grand Rapids, MI 49501

www.KentCountyHospitality.org
www.facebook.com/groups/KentCountyHospitality