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COVID-19 Membership Update: February 23

Widening Access for Very Small Businesses to Obtain PPP Loans

The Biden Administration announced a [series of changes](#) to the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) (PPP) in an effort to further widen access for very small businesses to obtain PPP loans.

One critical temporary change is that, during a two-week period beginning tomorrow February 24th, the Small Business Administration (SBA) will only review or accept applications from businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Following that period's end, all qualifying businesses may resume applying. If you are considering applying for a PPP loan and do not meet that employee criteria, you are urged to submit an application as soon as possible **today**.

Thus far, the PPP has utilized just under half of its appropriated funds and so it is likely that loan availability will remain for some time until the **program's end on March 31st**. This program has been an immense help to the hotel industry and PPP Second Draws provide for an increased loan amount cap for hotel businesses. We encourage all qualifying members to explore utilizing this program prior to its expiration.

OHLA Legal Resource Center

The OHLA Legal Resource Center is free and available to all members. Business laws and regulations can sometimes be very frustrating and challenging. Our legal teams are ready to assist members with any legal issues that may arise, large or small.

Contact Jim Hopper at 800-375-8181 or email jim@okrestaurants.com for more info.

OHLA Member Scholarship Opportunities

Annually, OHLA offers scholarship opportunities toward professional certification, advocacy funding to travel to the AHLA Legislative Action Summit to participate as a part of the Oklahoma delegation, and for

students making a career in hospitality. Contact [Patti Colley](#) for questions and more details on any of these scholarships.

1. The OHLA Member Certified Hotel Administrator (CHA) Scholarship is available to members in good standing of one or more years. There is no deadline to apply, however, the opportunity is limited, and awards up to four (4) \$525 scholarships per year. A member may only receive one CHA scholarship. Scholarship funding is based on a first-come-first-serve basis, eligibility, meeting the requirements, and available funding at the time the application obligations are completed. [Apply here for CHA scholarship](#)
2. Member AHLA Legislative Action scholarship applications are being accepted. This \$2,000 scholarship will provide an opportunity to attend the AHLA Legislative Action Summit with the Oklahoma Delegation and to take part in activities and visits with Members of Congress from your home state to discuss the most important issues affecting our industry and your business. The LAS is a unique and powerful experience that no hospitality professional should miss! [Apply here for LAS scholarship](#).

STR: U.S. Hotel Occupancy Remains Below 50%

U.S. weekly hotel occupancy remains below the 50% mark, according to the latest data from STR. [View the full report here](#).

Webinar Recording: COVID-19 Sticking Points

Last week, OHLA held a timely and informative session tackling the questions of employment best practices, employer liability and other topics where COVID-19 and vaccinations are concerned. Some highlights from the session are noted below, but to review the entire session, [access the video recording here](#). A big thank you to our presenter, Andria Ryan, an attorney and partner in the Atlanta-based firm Fisher Phillips LLC.

- Ways to avoid liability when a customer refuses to wear a mask, how ADA plays into this scenario, and how to make an accommodation that will reduce your liability before turning the guest away; and what documentation you need to reduce your liability.
- An employer's responsibility to track employee vaccinations and ensure employee privacy.
- What you can ask and cannot ask an employee about being vaccinated.
- Requiring only those employees with guest contact to have vaccinations.
- The pros and cons of incentivizing employees to become vaccinated.
- There are new CDC guidelines on how to handle an employee who has been vaccinated and comes into contact with a COVID -19 positive individual.

For answers to these questions and more, [be sure to watch the video](#).

Member Feedback Needed

OHLA is planning member educational content for 2021 and would like to ask for your feedback on three simple questions in order to design the most relevant educational content possible. We hope you'll help us help you!

[CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY](#)

OKWIL Event: The Ego Trip (Up): How Decision Fatigue Leaves Us Depleted



OHLA chapter of AH&LA Women in Lodging

Have you ever sat through a difficult conversation and remained emotionally collected, then struggled to make a decision for the remainder of the day? Have you ever planned, shopped, and prepped your groceries for the week, and then looked at your overflowing refrigerator and instead ordered pizza? What about needing to go back to bed after you have gotten everyone where they need to go in the morning instead of facing the day head-on?

These are all real, and completely normal situations...and have something in common...decision fatigue. In this session, individuals will hear about the effects of decision fatigue, and what they can do to help recognize, prepare for, and potentially alleviate the exhaustion that comes with this process.

Join us March 4 from 11:45 am - 1 pm for \$25 or make it a team event for one low price! You need only register one person from your hotel property or supplier business and your entire team can take part in this great session.

The morning of the session, the person who officially registered will receive an email from Theresa@okrestaurants.com which will contain your Zoom participation link, Meeting ID and password.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Upcoming AHLA Live Streaming Events

From insightful interviews with renown hotel CEOs and Senators; to conversations with female leaders in honor of the Day of the Woman; to critical COVID-19 policy updates and safety and security best practices – AHLA has you covered. Check at the lineup below!



U.S. Senator Joins IHG CEO & AHLA to Discuss Administration's Impact on Hotel Industry

On Thursday, February 25 at 1pm, join Biden insider, Delaware Senator Chris Coons, industry leader Elie Maalouf, CEO of the Americas, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), and host AHLA President & CEO Chip Rogers for an exclusive look at the new Administration, insights on how the latest COVID-19 relief negotiations will impact the hotel industry, and evolving leadership tactics in unprecedented times.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

FORWARD
Thinking

Women at the Top: Female Leaders on the AHLA & Foundation Boards

Celebrate International Women's Day with AHLA in this two-part ForWard Thinking Series. Live-streamed from Hotel Zena, a new hotel in Washington, D.C. celebrating female empowerment.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Let's unite to celebrate the stars in our midst!

Join us Tuesday, March 23 at 3 pm for this special live streaming event where we will recognize the winners of the 2021 AHLA Stars of the Industry Awards.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Safety Summit

Engage with colleagues nationwide on Wednesday, April 14 from 12-3 pm to tackle the latest safety and security concerns with leading experts in the field. The future of the hotel industry depends on addressing an ever-evolving array of new and complex challenges presented by COVID-19 and beyond. While employee and guest safety has always been a top priority, it has never been more important.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

