

# First Annual HOIHA Leaders of Tomorrow: A Training Day = SUCCESS!

The first ever leadership training seminar held by the Heart of Illinois Hospitality Association proved to be a great success for the organization and its members. The seminar, entitled HOIHA Leaders of Tomorrow: A Training Day, was held Thursday, January 19th at the Holiday Inn City Centre. Over 50 professionals in the area turned out for a day of education on various leadership topics.

Professional speaker Todd McDonald of ATW Training & Consulting, Inc. gave the keynote address entitled "The Leader within YOU". Todd also served as a breakout speaker discussing the topic "Creating Raving Fans". Lieutenant Mark Greskoviak of the Peoria County Sheriff's office spoke about workplace safety, and Pamela Creager of Peoria Production Shop addressed participants with "Employees: You Have Them, Now How Do You Keep Them?".

A survey of participants turned out promising reviews with great suggestions on how to improve the event, which will be held again next year.



## SUCCESS

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# HOSPITALITY HERALD

Dear HOIHA Members:

It's that time of year again – the weather is warm, the grass is green, and the anticipation of summer and all that come with this sunny season is in the air. The upcoming months involve many events that will attract thousands of visitors from across the country to the Peoria area, so let's roll out the red carpet and give them an experience that will ensure they return.

Various conventions arriving will be the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, the VFW State Convention and the Illinois State American Legion Convention. Sporting events galore include the IESA State Track & Field Meet, the IHSA Girls Softball State Tournaments and the Steamboat Classic. And let's not forget all the fun festivals that can be found each year here in Central Illinois. Steamboat Festival 2006, the 44th Peoria Art Guild Fine Art Fair and Peoria Balloon Fest are just a few among the many exciting events to check out this season!

Additionally, the Heart of Illinois Hospitality Association looks forward to the annual Chief's outing in June, the Taste of Peoria in August and the 10th Annual HOIHA/PASC Golf Outing in September.

The past fall and winter have been a busy and productive time for our organization, so let's keep the momentum going and have some fun in the sun this spring and summer!

Sincerely,

Frank Pedulla  
President



## SPRING 2006

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# MEMBER NEWS

- ★ **Seth Silzer, GM, Comfort Suites Peoria, passed the Certified Hospitality Administrator (CHA) exam proctored by Scott Dahl, IHLA.** The Certified Hotel Administrator (CHA) designation is the premier symbol of professional achievement for lodging executives. It's an honor awarded to professionals whose leadership and managerial abilities are exemplary – professionals who, by combining education and experience with dedication to the industry, have achieved a high level of expertise. The Educational Institute of the American Hotel & Lodging Association certifies and validates competencies in conjunction with academia and industry experts for 35 positions in the hospitality industry. The Educational Institute of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (EI) is the premier source for delivering quality hospitality education, training and professional certification that serves the needs of hospitality schools and industries worldwide.
- ★ **SpringHill Suites by Marriott** is nearing completion of a one-million-dollar total hotel renovation. All areas of the hotel have been refurbished with new carpet, wall vinyl and furniture to reflect the new, trendy SpringHill Suites decor.
- ★ **Robert's Sysco Food Services, Inc.** is entering the final stage toward completing the construction of a 200,000 square foot wholesale food distribution facility located in Lincoln, Illinois. The tentative date for shipping out of the state-of-the-art facility is July, 2006. Approximately 120 new positions will be added to the 90 associates currently employed by the company. The Robert's Sysco Sales staff is excited to be strategically positioned in the heart of Central Illinois and eagerly anticipate the ability to provide an even higher degree of quality service to the hospitality industry of Central Illinois.
- ★ After five-and-a-half years of building business and brand awareness for the **AmericInn of Peoria**, Jan Quinton has become the Owner/Operator of the property. She looks forward to many years of continued success.
- ★ **The Peoria Civic Center's \$55 million expansion is still on time and within budget.** The steel columns for the new exhibit space are being erected on the south

side of the arena, which will allow for an additional 45,000-sq. ft. of continuous exhibit space. Located directly atop the new exhibit space is a 27,000-sq. ft. high-finish ballroom that will also function as nine meeting rooms. Columns are also being erected for the Grand Hall entrance, box office, Rivermen office, team store, and administrative offices. By early summer all the steel will be in place and the Peoria Civic Center will host a celebration marking the completion of this phase of the expansion.

When the Peoria Civic Center expansion is complete, an estimated additional annual economic impact of \$16 million per year will be brought to the Central Illinois region. More conventions and events at the Peoria Civic Center will generate additional overnight stays with patrons dining at local restaurants and visiting area attractions.

The Peoria Area Convention and Visitor Bureau, local hotels, and the Peoria Civic Center sales staff have attended eleven tradeshows and conventions since September. These opportunities have allowed them to share with meeting planners everything the Peoria area has to offer as a potential destination for their event or convention. The follow up has kept the sales staffs busy writing proposals, arranging site inspections, completing sales calls, and planning a FAM tour for this summer. The PCC staff are excited about selling the Peoria area and are looking forward to a positive economic impact in the months and years to come.

- ★ **The Peoria Civic Center welcomes the Champions on Ice tour featuring Matt Savoie & Michelle Kwan.** Fresh off their Olympic performances in Torino, Italy, the world's figure skating champions will come to Peoria on June 25, 2006, at 3 p.m. as part of the 2006 John Hancock Champions on Ice tour. Tickets, priced from \$47, go on sale next Friday, February 24, 2006, at 10 a.m. at the Peoria Civic Center Box Office (309-673-3200), all Ticketmaster outlets, charge by phone at 309-676-8700 or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or [www.championsonice.com](http://www.championsonice.com). Service fee applies. Youth and senior discounts are available.

## First Annual HOIHA Rivermen Outing Held

A new HOIHA social event centered around the Peoria Rivermen was held Tuesday, April 11th at the Peoria Civic Center Arena. Several employees of HOIHA member-organizations enjoyed fun and excitement as the Peoria Rivermen took on the San Antonio Rampage. The Rivermen won the game 3 - 2.



# NOTEWORTHY NEWS

- ★ **Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association Scholarships:** It is that time of year for academic scholarships. The 2006-2007 application is out and available to download from the IHLAEF website now, at [www.ihlaef.org](http://www.ihlaef.org). There is also a renewal application for returning candidates. One \$5,000 EF scholarship has been earmarked for a current IHLA hotel member employee for the 2006-2007 academic year, as well as a number of other scholarship awards starting at \$1,000. The \$5,000 winner will be formally presented with a check at the Stars of the Industry December Awards Luncheon. We highly encourage your hotel employees who are seeking their hospitality degree to apply. Application deadline is May 3, 2006.
- ★ **The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual HOIHA/PASC Golf Scramble** will be held Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at Coyote Creek Golf Club. Great Raffle Prizes and Golfer-Giveaway Prizes will be available, including round-trip airfare to anywhere in the continental US from American Airlines. Registration Flyers will be mailed out in early May, so keep an eye out and sign on early for this great cause! For more information, contact Dane' Johnson at 693-9667 x 14 or [RNBDane@aol.com](mailto:RNBDane@aol.com).
- ★ **The Heart of Illinois Hospitality website** is officially up and running! Look us up at either [www.hoiha.org](http://www.hoiha.org) or [www.heartofillinoishospitalityassociation.org](http://www.heartofillinoishospitalityassociation.org). To submit information to be posted on the site, contact Dane' Johnson at 693-9667 x 14 or [RNBDane@aol.com](mailto:RNBDane@aol.com).

## 2006 PEORIA CITY/COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLASS SCHEDULE:

15 Hour Food Service Sanitation Classes - \$60.00	5 Hour Refresher Classes - \$25.00
<i>Day Classes (9am - 3:30pm)</i>	<i>Day Classes (9am - 3:30pm)</i>
February 6, 13, 27	March 15
May 1, 8, 15	June 21
September 11, 18, 25	August 16
November 6, 13, 20	October 11
<i>Night Classes (6pm - 9pm)</i>	<i>Night Classes (6pm - 9pm)</i>
March 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23	February 15, 16
June 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22	May 17, 18
August 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17	September 13, 14
October 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19	November 15, 16

# WINTERFEST 2006

The 2006 Winterfest Best in the Midwest Awards Banquet was held Monday, January 23rd at the Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino. The theme for this year's event was "The Heart of Illinois Tropics," and guests adorned with festive leis dined on exquisite tropical cuisine provided by various members of the Heart of Illinois Professional Chef's Association. Participating members included Radisson Hotel Peoria, Hotel Pere Marquette, Eurest Dining Services, Illinois Community College, Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino, Methodist Medical Center and Barrack's Cater Inn. Jeff Selvig once again provided a magnificent ice sculpture, this year crafting a lively tiki statue framed by two palm trees.

LaVonne Klein, outgoing HOIHA President, and Brian Pehr of the HOI Professional Chef's Association emceed the evening, which recognized several outstanding businesses and individuals in the hospitality industry. Those acknowledged were: Camille's Sidewalk Café, Casual Dining award; Jill's on Galena, Upscale Dining award; Springhill Suites, Limited Service Hotel award; Holiday Inn City Centre, Full Service Hotel award; Famous Dave's & EastPort Restaurant & Banquet Center, LLC, Newcomer of the Year; Prairie Farms Dairy, Outstanding Purveyor; and Barrack's Cater Inn, Educational/ Institutional/ Business & Industry award.

Vickie Clark, Senior Vice President & COO of the Peoria Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, was honored with the Friend of the Industry Award for over 25 years of dedicated service in the Peoria area hospitality and tourism industry. The Dearl Morris Employee of the Year Award went to Thomas Griffin, Holiday Inn City Centre Banquet Houseman. Other Employee of the Year nominees included: Dennis Harper, Apple's Northside Bakery; George Bayler III, Barrack's Cater Inn; Lucy Talalaeva, Hampton Inn; Robin Page, Hampton Inn; and Jim Kelly, Springhill Suites.

