EVELYN HOPKINS TO LEAD CHAMBER BOARD IN 2019

The official 2019 chair installation took place on Friday, Nov. 15 at the Palm Beach Zoo. This Havana Nights-inspired Chair’s Circle Reception allowed us to thank Keith Spina, Gladstein + Partners, for a year well done and welcome Evelyn Hopkins, Florida Crystals Corporation, as our 2019 chair.

Evelyn Torres Hopkins is corporate counsel for Florida Crystals Corporation, one of Palm Beach County’s largest private employers, and joint owner of the world’s largest sugarcane refining company. She is admitted to practice law in Florida, New York and Washington D.C. She is also a governing board member of Tenet’s Good Samaritan Medical Center. Hopkins is passionate about education and mentoring and serves as pro bono counsel to two Title I Charter Schools — Everglades Preparatory Academy and Glades Academy — and dedicates time to mentoring several high school and college students.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and silent auction donors.

Paula Ryan
Paula Ryan is a business professional with more than 30 years of experience in investment banking, real estate development and municipal finance. She has been a Palm Beach Commissioner for three years and currently serves as the commission president. Ryan has been engaged in the development, acquisition and asset management of more than 100,000 units of affordable housing for two national syndication firms, where she served as president and development director. She graduated from the University of Maryland with degrees in economics and finance and is also a graduate of Leadership Palm Beach County.

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County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay addresses State of the County on Nov. 15

Melissa McKinlay was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in 2014. Prior to her election, Mayor McKinlay spent nearly 20 years advocating on behalf of women, children, and families as a legislative aide to the Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Office, to members of Congress and the U.S. Senate and as a volunteer with several organizations including the Junior League.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

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West Palm Beach Mayor and City Commissioners welcome Evelyn Hopkins. Corporate Counsel for Florida Crystals Corporation, as the 2019 Chair of the Board.

The Chamber’s Board of Directors and Trustees tour agricultural facilities.

The Chamber’s Board of Directors and Trustees spent Friday, Oct. 19 at two of its founding members’ agricultural facilities. The group of 40 traveled via bus to Florida Crystals Ag & Research Center to learn how science, technology and data drive modern farming. They also learned about rice as a local sustainable crop.

Interactive stations allowed visitors to see high-tech tractors, ag drones and the science behind growing clean sugarcane seed. Chamber guests then toured Tellus, Florida Crystals’ Ag and Research Center, to learn about science, technology and data drive modern farming. They also learned about rice as a local sustainable crop.

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The annual Firefighter Breakfast, presented by St. Mary’s Medical Center and The Palm Beach Children’s Hospital, honored Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and West Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

West Palm Beach recognized Luiz Gonzalez as the Firefighter of the Year for his commitment to training his fellow firefighters in several disciplines, including fireground survival and hazardous materials.

Palm Beach County recognized the Communications Center (Dispatch) as the Station of the Year for their calm demeanor and quick thinking during emergency calls.

Finally, the County honored Tom Brown as the Outstanding Community Service Award for donating countless hours cooking for families in need. He has cooked to raise money for veterans and sick firefighters along with feeding families affected by natural disasters.

At the Breakfast, retiring members of the Chamber’s Board of Directors were recognized and thanked for their service. They are: John Bowser, TD Bank, Ryan Bridge, Hedrick Brothers Construction; Joe Chase, Gunster; Jan Cotner, AT&T Florida; John Fischetti, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation; John Parkinson, Hilton West Palm Beach; Vicki Pugh, Palm Beach Atlantic University; Michael Pumo, WPECF/CEO Q News; Joe Schaad, Schmidt Nichols; and Justin Wright, INTCH.

Our final Network for a Cause of the year was hosted by PGA National Resort & Spa. Network for a Cause is an opportunity for non-profit chamber members to network with the business community in a casual setting. Thank you to the non-profits that participated: Boys & Girls Club of Martin County, Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, Inc.; Memory for Memory; Palm Beach Photographers; Capehart Photography; Palm Beach Photographic Centre; Outreach, Inc.; Memory for Memory; Champions for Children; United Way; The Lord’s Place; and the Tree of Life Women’s Inspirational Center.

Network for a Cause takes place quarterly. If you are interested in hosting or sponsoring this event, please contact Mariana Kosice at mkosiec@palmbeaches.org.