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Thousands of Hotel Owners Converge on San Antonio for AAHOA Convention

SAN ANTONIO – Thousands of hotel owners from are in San Antonio today for the opening of the annual convention of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, the largest group of hotel owners in the country.

The group expects a record-breaking attendance of more than 6,500 hoteliers, trade show exhibitors and industry partners from across the country, which smashes the attendance record of 4,852 set at the group’s 2016 conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bruce Patel, an Irving, Texas, hotelier and the group’s chairman, said the attendance and AAHOA’s record membership is indicative of AAHOA’s leading role in the industry.

“We have representatives from every major hotel brand at our convention,” said Patel. “That speaks to our members’ and our organization’s leading role in the hotel industry. With more than 16,500 members owning half of all the hotels in the country, AAHOA is the voice of America’s hotel owners.”

The first event of the four-day conference at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center is tonight’s welcome reception in the Stars at Night ballroom.

A panel of hotel brand executives will take the main stage Wednesday to open the convention’s general session with a discussion of the future of the hotel industry. Marcus Lemonis, entrepreneur and star of CNBC’s “The Profit,” is the day’s keynote speaker.

Legendary San Antonio Spur David Robinson will take the main stage Thursday. The 10-time NBA All-Star is expected to inspire attendees with his story of service in the U.S. Navy, his illustrious NBA career—including two championships—and his commitment to giving back to the San Antonio community.

Other speakers this week include Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R), former astronaut and U.S. Navy fighter pilot Captain Scott Kelly, founder and president of the taxpayer advocacy group

Americans for Tax Reform Grover Norquist and author and conservative radio host Laura Ingraham.

The trade show, one of the largest in the industry, features more than 400 exhibiting companies in 62,000 square feet of exhibit space.

Out of their commitment to professional development, AAHOA is also hosting 11 educational seminars that are free for attendees. The topics include leveraging social media, changes in franchising and best practices in human resources. Each seminar features industry experts, attorneys and representatives from companies like Google to provide education and insight.

“Providing our members with industry-leading educational opportunities, including our renowned Certified Hotel Owner program, is one of our founding principles,” said Chip Rogers, AAHOA president and CEO. “We excited to host conversations and presentations by industry leaders and experts to give our members the resources they need to succeed.”

Gary Patel is a San Antonio hotel owner and serves on the board of directors for the group.

“To all my many AAHOA friends, welcome to the Alamo City!” said Patel. “San Antonio has such a rich colonial heritage and so much to offer. I invite my friends to take in the history at the Alamo, enjoy the many restaurants and shops along the beautiful riverwalk and revel at the view of the city provided by the 750-foot Tower of the Americas. I know that everyone will leave here wanting to come back again soon.”

More than 3,300 of the association’s 16,500 members are from Texas. AAHOA was founded in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1989 and is now the largest group of hotel owners in the world. Its mission is to advance and protect hotel owners through advocacy, industry leadership, education, member benefits and community engagement.

On-site registration is still available for hotel owners and other hospitality professionals that wish to attend. The convention runs April 11-14.

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Founded in 1989, AAHOA (www.aahoa.com) is the largest hotel owners association in the world, with more than 16,500 small business owner-members. AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States.