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Thousands of Hoteliers Converge on National Harbor for 2018 AAHOA Convention

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md., Mar. 27 – Thousands of hotel owners from across the United States are meeting just outside the nation’s capital today for the opening of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association’s 2018 convention. AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the country.

AAHOA expects a record-breaking attendance of more than 6,700 hoteliers, trade show exhibitors and industry partners from across the country, which will exceed the attendance record set at the association’s 2017 conference in San Antonio, Tx.

Citing the record number of convention-goers and surging membership numbers, Bhavesh Patel, a New Jersey hotelier and AAHOA Chairman, said AAHOA continues to take a leading role in the industry.

“Every major hotel brand is represented at our convention,” said Patel. “With nearly 18,000 members who own almost one in every two hotels in the United States, AAHOA is the voice of America’s hotel owners.”

Wednesday, March 28, marks the opening of the convention’s general session with the first series of CEO talks in which some of the hospitality industry’s top CEOs will share their insights into the industry, and how to achieve excellence in business and in life. Jimmy Johnson, Hall of Fame football coach and broadcaster, is the day’s keynote speaker.

U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta will take the main stage on Thursday, March 29, to deliver a keynote address.

Other speakers this week include Administrator Linda McMahon of the Small Business Administration, Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Elaine Duke, Manoj Bhargava, CEO, 5-Hour Energy, Olympic champion Sanya Richards Doss, and entrepreneur Michael Hyatt.

The trade show, one of the largest in the industry, features more than 400 booths and 600 vendors.

Continuing its commitment to professional development, AAHOA is also hosting educational sessions on Human Trafficking Recognition and Prevention, its Certified Hotel Owners program (CHO), and Certification in Hotel Industry Analytics (CHIA).

“Providing our members with industry-leading educational opportunities is part of our founding mission,” said AAHOA President and CEO Chip Rogers. “Over the past year, AAHOA forged an industry-first partnership with the DHS Blue Campaign, Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking (BEST), and

Polaris to educate hoteliers about how to identify and prevent human trafficking. We are excited to offer BEST certification to help our members make the front desk the front line in combatting human trafficking. Additional professional development programs like CHO and the CHIA program will give our members the resources they need to succeed and continue to grow their businesses.”

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AAHOA is the largest hotel owners' association in the world. The more than 17,750 AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States. With billions of dollars in property assets and hundreds of thousands of employees, AAHOA members are core economic contributors in virtually every community. AAHOA is a proud defender of free enterprise and the foremost current-day example of realizing the American dream.