



HAITIAN
AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF FLORIDA

CHAMBER Newsletter

2nd Quarter 2016

YOPRO Annual Awards Dinner

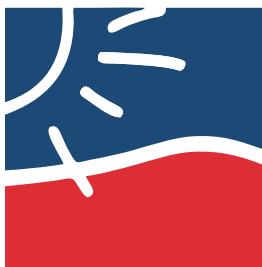


Little Haiti
Boundaries in Miami

With This Issue

**Retirement
Planning Tips**

Building Strong Community Partnerships



HAITIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF FLORIDA

The Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce Of Florida, (HACCOF) was established as a catalyst for change.

Our Mission: To serve as a resource for its members, partners and businesses, dedicated to serving their needs and the economic development of the broader Haitian-American community.

HACCOF is the leading organization to bring businesses together and acts as an advocate for Haitian and Haitian-American enterprises. We are the premier voice for the business community to the public, the media and government entities.

HACCOF mobilizes concerned entrepreneurs across Florida, the U.S. and Haiti when important legislation and regulations are planned or debated that may potentially affect the broader Haitian business community.

HACCOF promotes partnerships and alliances within communities throughout Florida and Haiti to build healthy business climates, foster investment opportunities, create employment growth, and encourage public and private sector collaboration.

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Become a Member!

Thank you Sponsors

Chamber Information:

1125 NE 125th Street, Suite 208

North Miami, FL 33161

Phone: (305) 733-9066 E-mail: info@haccof.com

Website: www.haccof.com

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A Message from our Executive Director

Dear HACCOF Members and Friends,

It is with great enthusiasm that I announce that the first Top 20 Under 40 awards dinner was a great success. Over 250 of HACCOF's members, and friends attended this inaugural event on June 2nd in the Little Haiti Cultural Center. I would like to this opportunity to thank all the members and sponsors for supporting our event.

In addition to honoring the awardees, HACCOF also recognized Eric Knowles, President and CEO of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce and Chairman Keon Hardemon of the City of Miami Board of Commissioners.

During the second quarter HACCOF has continued to evolve. HACCOF elected five new board members: Delleperche Joseph, Kara Vaval-Ferrier, Francois Guillaume II, Linda Julien and Lody Jean. I would like to extend a warm "Welcome" to them.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to make the most of your membership with HACCOF. Most membership levels include advertisement in our weekly email eblast, quarterly newsletter and our social media platforms. Maximize your business returns through your membership. Let HACCOF help you market your goods or services.

On behalf of the board of directors, I wish you a great summer. We look forward to reconnecting with you in the third quarter of 2016.

Joann Milord
Joann Milord
Executive Director of HACCOF



Continued from Page 1

Chamber Objectives...

Our Objectives:

- ✓ Promoting business & economic development interest in our members.
- ✓ Promoting and facilitating business, professional and social relations and cooperation among our members.
- ✓ Forming alliances with members, business and civic leaders, other chambers, associations, agencies, government officials and foreign dignitaries to accomplish its goals.
- ✓ Promoting educational seminars and conferences for the improvement of our members and the betterment of our community.
- ✓ Hosting educational, local and international trade forums.
- ✓ Organize and facilitate networking programs.
- ✓ Engaging in dialogue, cooperation and understanding within Haitian communities.

In keeping with our objectives, HACCOF serves as the advocate for the Haitian-American community as well as a resource for consumers and businesses dedicated to serving the needs of our members and the economic development of our community.

**HAPPY HAITIAN
FLAG DAY!**



#HAITI

#HAITIANPRIDE

On May 18, 2016

WELCOME OUR NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

New Members: April – June 2016

❖ Coporate ❖

- ★ **CFO Business Plan**
- ★ **GB Group**
- ★ **LA Bakerie Inc.**
- ★ **The SciMetrika family of Companies**

❖ Preferred ❖

- ★ **The Creative Esquire, LLC**

❖ Standard ❖

- ★ **Beautiful Haitian Agency Entertainment, Inc.**
- ★ **Robert Hallstrand, Life Leadership, LLLP**
- ★ **Yvonne Garth, Garth Solutions, Inc.**

❖ Professional ❖

- ★ **Nadege Vilsaint**
- ★ **Valencie Exceus**

Thank You!

*The Chamber would like to say “**Thank you**” to all the members who renewed their membership. Our success lies in our strength in numbers and the diversity in our members. We look forward to our continued success by connecting with you, our members. Providing you with networking opportunities, business partnerships, constructing new alliances, and involving our communities.*

2016 Judicial Candidate

Date: May 24, 2016

Co-Sponsors: HLA and HACCOF



Cont. 2016 Judicial Candidate





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Member Opportunity



Do you have a special offer to announce? Upcoming event you'd like us to promote for you?

Advertising in the Chamber Newsletter is an easy way to **PROMOTE** your business or upcoming events. For advertising opportunities contact us at: info@haccof.com.

Corporate & Preferred Members: Contact us for **FREE** advertising opportunities available to you through your membership

Retirement Planning Tips for Small Business Owners



By:

Delle Joseph

Senior Vice President

Commercial Banking, TD Bank

Every day small business owners juggle "front of house" operations – serving customers and managing staff – with "back office" duties, including payroll, licensing, taxes and labor laws.

With so many immediate priorities, planning for retirement can take a backseat, especially when it may be a decade or more away.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent Survey of Business Owners, there are more than 900,000 small businesses in South Florida, and with more than a third of small business owners in the U.S. at or near Social Security's full benefit age of 66, the future may be closer than many small business owners think.

To ensure that retirement is achievable – and comfortable – small business owners should consider the following:

✓ **Build a retirement plan:**

Age contributes to how aggressive your savings plan needs to be, so it's vital to begin planning and saving now.

If you want to sell your business at retirement, be realistic about its market value. While it's impossible to predict how the economy and other factors will impact a business' future worth, obtaining a valuation range better prepares you for all outcomes.

If you want to "cash out" of your business at retirement, you should still save cash now.

Instead of putting all the profits back into the business, consider giving yourself a raise to max out contributions to a 401(k) or IRA.

✓ **Think about growing your business:**

A recent TD Bank survey of small business owners found that 57 percent of small businesses are sole proprietorships, meaning the owner has essentially replaced his or her income at a corporation with self-earned income. Unfortunately, sole proprietorships don't sell. Even if they did, the sale wouldn't be a big enough profit to comfortably live off of during retirement. Increasing employees and revenue boosts the business' overall value, making it more attractive to potential future buyers. Enlist outside help from an accountant or banker for guidance and strategy. Investing in your business now makes big differences later.

✓ **Be smart with finances:**

Small business owners have many resources available, including seminars and videos from the SBA, workshops by local banks and seminars by your chamber of commerce. Often free, these resources can provide insight on topics like expansion, seeking credit and applying successfully for small business loans. Keep retirement goals in mind when making any major financial decisions for the business.

For small business owners, preparing for retirement is work beyond setting aside a percentage of your paycheck into a retirement savings plan. A solid strategy will include both succession and retirement plans that allow you to comfortably hang up your hat.

YOPRO Annual Awards Dinner

Date: June 2, 2016



Cont. YOPRO Annual Awards Dinner





Haiti

ROYAL DECAMERON

Indigo Beach Resort • Spa
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The new Royal Decameron Indigo Beach Resort & Spa, Haiti is the jewel of the Island of Hispaniola, located on the white sandy beaches of the Caribbean sea in the Côte des Arcadins, one of the best kept secrets in the Caribbean. In the heart of a tropical park of 55 hectares, Decameron's newest resort is just 90 minutes from the Toussaint Louverture International Airport (PAP) and historic old city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, between the sea and the mountains. This family style all inclusive beachfront incorporate all of Decameron Hotels high standards.

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- ▼ Beach Volleyball court
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- ▼ Nursing

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Haitian activists celebrate

after Miami leaders voted to designate Little Haiti as an official city neighborhood on Thursday, May 26, 2016.



What's in a name?

In Lemon City — make that Little Haiti — the answer, for those who live and work in the community, is everything.

And so cheers erupted and brows furrowed Thursday in jam-packed **Miami City Hall** when commissioners voted unanimously to designate Little Haiti as an official city neighborhood. The creation of legal boundaries for the community in northeast Miami has been pushed for years, but always unsuccessfully due largely to overlapping boundaries with Lemon City, a historic neighborhood that predated the incorporation of Miami.

For proponents and opponents of the proposal, who debated for hours Thursday, the at-times racially-tinged conflict came down to preserving history and heritage. Lemon City

By: BY DAVID SMILEY (dsmiley@miamiherald.com)

advocates worried the city would wipe out the story of the place where Miami's first school and library were founded. Haitian activists argued developers are already buying up property and gentrifying the neighborhood, clearing out their community.

"We are elated. Now no one can come and erase the name of Little Haiti," Marleine Bastien, executive director of Fanm Ayisen nan Miyami, said after the vote. *"If this decision was not made today, in a few years Little Haiti would disappear."*

Bastien, whose organization helped bring people in three school buses and two jitneys to City Hall, said she and others have been fighting for 16 years to have the city recognize Little Haiti, a haven for immigrants and refugees fleeing the political and economic turmoil of Haiti. She called the city's new Little Haiti boundaries, roughly between 54th Street and 79th Street, and Northwest Sixth Avenue and Northeast Second Avenue, a compromise that recognizes the encroachment of the Design District.

But critics of the neighborhood designation — the first in the city to be done by a resolution of the City Commission — said the boundaries were insensitive, if not insulting, to the founders of Lemon City, built with the sweat of Bahamians before Miami was even recognized as a city. Historians, businessmen and activists said Hardemon never included them in a discussion that apparently reignited months ago, and said the proposal needed

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more discussion and tweaking.

One area property owner said the proposal was “*nothing more than the theft of documented history.*” And while dismissing sentiments that the debate had pitted African Americans against Haitians, Alma Brown, a former Lemon City librarian, argued that Haitian activists demanding respect were “*standing on the shoulders of African Americans.*”

“*The Haitians didn’t start Miami. Miami was here when they got here,*” said preservationist Enid Pinkney, who years ago helped save the Lemon City Cemetery from an affordable housing project. “*This resolution you’re proposing here today is discriminatory and insulting to the history of Lemon City and the pioneers who laid the foundation for you to be here. When you change the name of the community, you also do something to the history of that community.*”

Designating legal boundaries for Little Haiti was also opposed by the Dade Heritage Trust, which asked the city to continue to honor Lemon City with an addendum recognizing



“

isn’t enough for a community that has often felt like second-class citizens in Miami.

”



Little Haiti. Developer Avra Jain and others noted that Little Haiti is already a widely recognized community.

But commission chairman Keon Hardemon, who represents the neighborhood and proposed the boundaries, said informal recognition isn’t enough for a community that has often felt like second-class citizens in Miami.

“*Everything that we do we say Little Haiti. But we won’t pay the homage to actually identify this community,*” he said. “*I think it’s all talked out.*”

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Do you have Member News to Share? Contact us at info@haccof.com. We want to celebrate with you!"

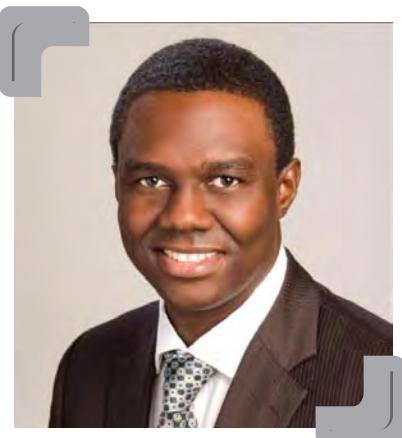
Submit An Article



Become a guest author

HACCOF encourages all members to submit articles from their field of expertise for our quarterly newsletter. We are committed to being an information resource for our members and welcome all article suggestions. Please send all submissions to info@haccof.com. Management will review all articles before publishing.

Welcome New Board Members



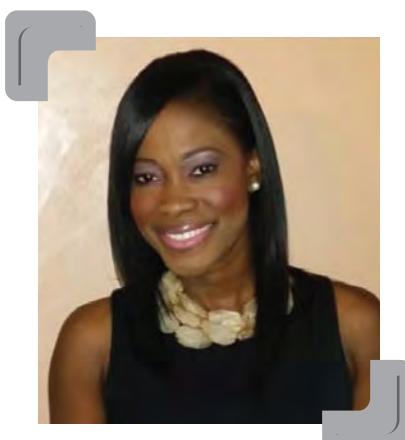
Delleperche Joseph



Francois Guillaume II



Kara Vaval Ferrier, Esq



Linda Julien



Lody Jean

PROTOCOL & BUSINESS ETIQUETTE

DATE **Tuesday, July 12, 2016**

TIME **8:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

VENUE **Florida Customs Brokers**
8228 NW 14th Street
Doral, FL 33128

We are pleased to invite you to the popular International Protocol & Business Etiquette Workshop Series. The workshop is designed to provide participants with relevant insights, practical tips and invaluable information about protocol, decorum, etiquette, professional behavior, official salutations, order of preference, and much more.

You'll also learn how to avoid cultural and protocol faux pas. You may be offending your guests and dignitaries at your events without even realizing it!

The following topics will be discussed:

- ★ Multiculturalism: awareness & understanding.
- ★ Incivility & rudeness: The new normal?
- ★ Proper etiquette for business card exchange, official invitations, dining & RSVP guidelines.
- ★ Order of precedence & official rankings.
- ★ Official titles & sovereign country names.
- ★ Proper flag placement & national anthems, etc.

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Workshop

Workshop Facilitator



Desmond Aluofhai,
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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

\$75 per person
(\$85 - At the door/walk-ins)

Fee includes coffee, refreshments, handouts and certificate.

(Please note that the paid participation fee is NOT refundable, but may be transferable.)

If paying by check, please make check payable to "Alufy International Inc."

To register please visit:
<http://protocolworkshopdoral2016.eventbrite.com>

“ Below are **comments** from our recent workshop participants:

"I learned a lot that I can also apply to everyday life and business. I look forward to the next workshop session." - Nancy

"Many event organizers have no clue about proper etiquette and official protocol. They make mistakes and may offend a guest without knowing it. I highly recommend this workshop, before organizing your next event." - Paola

"The workshop was excellent and superb... I look forward to the next one. I recommend this workshop to the entire community...including government staff, business and community leaders, young adults, students, etc." - Maria

"I gained a complete understanding of the seating and speaking order of preference for official occasions, flag placement and which national anthem to play first when you have dignitaries from several nations." - Rene

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YOPRO
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

20 UNDER 40

PRESS RELEASE

Phone: (305)733 9066
Email: info@haccof.com
For Immediate Release

The Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF) held its First Annual Top 20 Under 40 Young Professional (YOPROs) awards dinner on June 2, 2016 at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex in Miami, Florida.

This event honored 20 young professional Haitian-Americans were recognized for their commitment and contributions both professionally, civically, and academically to the Haitian Community. This group of vibrant, energetic, creative and out-of-the box thinkers, "YOPROs" are an expression of culture and pride throughout the Haitian community.

Ms. Patricia Elizee, President of the Haitian Lawyers Association and Partner at Elizee Law Firm, was named laureate of the Top 20 Under 40. Ms. Elizee won a trip to Haiti, sponsored by Karibe Hotel, AmCham Haiti, and Royal Decameron Indigo Beach Resort and Spa. She will also be attending a parliamentary meeting. Ms. Elizee was also awarded a trip to the Congressional Black Caucus sponsored by Dr. Larry Pierre of the Greater Miami Health Education & Training Center. "I am excited to see the HACCOF highlight young professionals through the YOPRO initiative. Being chosen by HACCOF to be part of the first class of Top 20 Under 40 was an honor. Having my fellow honorees chose me as their valedictorian is extremely humbling. This is the highlight of my career so

far. I thank HACCOF for their leadership." Said Ms. Elizee.

More than 250 individuals attended the event, which not only honored Haitian-American YOPROs, but also recognized Mr. G. Eric Knowles, President and CEO of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman Keon Hardemon of the City of Miami Board of Commissioners, for their significant contributions and dedication to the Haitian American community in South Florida.

In attendance were some of the Haitian community's most influential leaders, including Chairman Jean Monestime of the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners, and Mr. Gandy Thomas, Consul General of Haiti in Miami.

The Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Western Union, Madame Gougousse, Haitian Lawyer's Association, Elizee Law Firm, GB Group, Haitian American Nurses Association, Sant La, St. Fort Funeral Homes, the Consulate of Haiti in Miami, Hammes Company, Elite Drycleaners, Primary Care, South Beach Funding, Associated Medical Managers, Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, Dade Institute of Technology and the Greater Miami Health Education & Training Center for their sponsorship of the First Annual Top 20 Under 40 presented by the Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce.

In 2017, the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida plans to honor a new group of Top 20 Under 40 YOPROs at its annual dinner.



Happenings & Member Announcements

Multi-Chamber of Commerce Event

Wednesday, April 6, 2016



RSVP@Fabulousmiami.com
Buy tickets at www.multichamberevents.com

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The Chambers of Biscayne Gardens, Bolivia, Camacol, Coconut Grove, Colombia, Chile, Downtown Miami & Brickell, Ecuador, Global Trade Chamber, Haiti, Honduras, JCI, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, along with the Rotary Club of Miami Brickell invite you to celebrate the Monthly Multichamber of Commerce networking event.

Members \$10 in advance / Non-members \$15 in advance to prior. This is an advance ticket event, Tickets must be purchased prior to the event, NO tickets will be sold at the door.

Dress Code: Business Attire / RSVP to your Chamber or Club.

Location: Garzon Restaurant

Address: 801 S Miami Ave, Miami, FL 33130

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Parking: \$ 10 Valet Parking.

Includes: Complimentary cocktail drink

More Info at www.multichamberevents.com



Multi-Chamber of Commerce Event

Wednesday, May 4, 2016



RSVP@Fabulousmiami.com
Buy tickets at www.multichamberevents.com

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The Chambers of Biscayne Gardens, Bolivia, Camacol, Coconut Grove, Colombia, Chile, Downtown Miami & Brickell, Ecuador, Global Trade Chamber, Haiti, Honduras, JCI, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, along with the Rotary Club of Miami Brickell invite you to celebrate the Monthly Multichamber of Commerce networking event.

Members \$10 in advance / Non-members \$15 in advance to prior. This is an advance ticket event, Tickets must be purchased prior to the event, NO tickets will be sold at the door.

Dress Code: Business Attire / RSVP to your Chamber or Club.

Location: Marion Restaurant

Address: 1111 SW 1st Av, Miami, FL 33130

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Parking: \$ 10 Valet Parking.

Includes: Complimentary cocktail drink.

More Info at www.multichamberevents.com



4th Annual TASTE of Haiti

Saturday May 14th 2016 2pm-10pm FREE ADMISSION

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Music by DJ Nicky Mix and DJ X-Clusive

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Corporate Membership - \$750.00

- **Business card size advertisement on the Chamber's Website**
- **Link from the Chamber's website to the corporation's website**
- A Technical Assistance visit per year (per request)
- Free listing in the Chamber's annual publication
- Advertisement in the Chamber's Newsletter
- Listing in Chamber's Directory
- Membership certificate
- Chamber-to-Chamber discount programs
- Invitation to the chamber's Functions
- Quarterly newsletter

Preferred Membership - \$450.00

- A free referral /visit to a specialized firm (i.e. CPA/Attorney / IT, HR - per request or availability)
- **Free listing in chamber's annual publication**
- **Advertisement in Chamber's newsletter**
- Listing in Chamber's directory
- Membership Certificate
- Chamber-to- Chamber Discount Program.
- Invitation to the Chamber's functions.
- Quarterly newsletter

Standard Membership - \$200.00

- A one-on-one consultation a year (per request)
- Listing in Chamber's Directory
- Membership Certificate
- Chamber-to-Chamber Discount Program
- Invitation to the chamber's functions
- Quarterly newsletter

Professional Individual Membership - \$100.00

(only for individuals)

- ! Listing in Chamber's Directory
- ! Membership Certificate
- ! Invitation to the Chamber's functions

Building Strong Community Partnerships

1125 NE 125th Street, Suite 208, North Miami, FL 33161

Phone: 305-733-9066

info@haccof.com / www.haccof.com



Application Form

(Please print clearly)

Your annual membership dues allow you to participate in all Chamber activities.
Your company will receive a membership certificate as well as any benefits available.

Annual Membership Schedule

Professional \$100.00
Individual **Standard \$200.00** **Preferred \$450.00** **Corporate \$750.00**

How to compute your
membership
investment

Check above for Investment Amount: \$ _____

Add first-year, one-time administrative fee: \$50.00

Total amount due with application: \$ _____

Please complete this form and return to HACCOF with membership investment

Company Name			
President/Owner			
Contact Person		Title	
Telephone		Cell Phone	
Company Address		State / Zip	
City			
Telephone		Fax	
E-mail		Website	
Type of Business		Year Established	

Business References (Business Name, Contact Person, Telephone and E-mail) **Referred By:** _____

1. _____

2. _____

I hereby make application for membership in the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida. When accepted, I will abide by the Chamber's by-laws, support the Chamber's objectives and pay the prescribed annual membership dues until such time as I may desire to terminate by formal written notification. All Applications are subject to Board approval.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Membership Investment Amount: \$ _____ Payment: Check # _____

Credit Card: Visa: _____ Mastercard: _____ Amex: _____

Name on Card: _____ Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Your cancelled check is your receipt. Please complete and sign the application form and attach your check made payable to: Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida. **Tax ID 20-2373322**

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