



UH&LA Legislative Dinner in Review

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the legislative dinner making it the most successful dinner in memory.

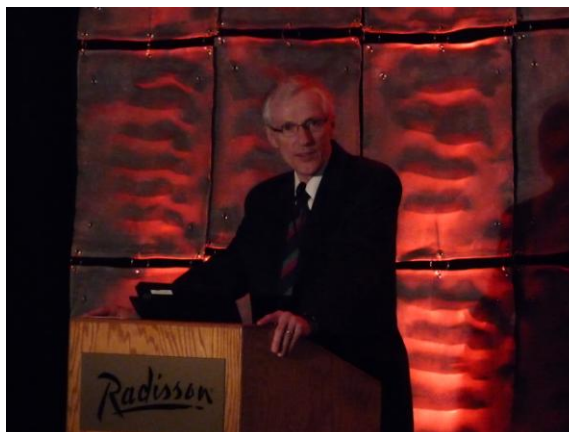
This year's theme was "Celebrating Utah's Own." The dinner featured a four course meal with the food and beverages provided by local companies.

During his keynote address, Lt. Governor Greg Bell emphasized the importance of the tourism industry in Utah and its positive effects on the economy.

UH&LA Executive Director, Michael Johnson, spoke about the Tourism Marketing Performance Fund (TMPF) which helps to market and advertise the tourism industry in Utah. Since its inception approximately 11,000 new jobs have been created in the tourism industry.

With over thirty legislators in attendance and hoteliers from all corners of the state it was a great turnout.

The Legislature of the Year was awarded to Representative Greg Hughes. He was awarded for his contributions to the hotel industry as a legislative representative, particularly his help in supporting tourism funding.



Lt. Governor Bells keynote speaker at Dinner



An appetizer tray at the dinner. Food was provided by Beehive Cheese.



Photos courtesy of Mel Lewis & Frank Jensen

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Legislation to Watch: Bills on the Hill

UH&LA is active in watching legislation that may impact our hotel members. Please take a look at a couple bills that may impact you. Then watch each week as we send out updates on the legislative session.

HB82S01: Sales and Use taxes on Certain Lodging Related Purchases - Passed

This bill will change how the hospitality industry reports and files tax exempt stays. This bill will make it easier for the hospitality industry to accept tax exempt entities. The bill would require the tax exempt entities to file the paperwork instead of the hotel or lodging company. The bill is has just passed the Senate 26-0-3. It passed the House 74-0-1. **UH&LA supports this bill**

Tourism Marketing Performance Fund – Funded at the targeted \$7 Million

The Legislature considered cutting back its funds for advertising tourism in Utah. It was proposed to cut, the TMPF fund by \$1 million in state tourism advertising. UTIC, UH&LA and many other groups have worked very hard with legislative leadership to restore the funds to \$7 million. The funds have been restored and appear to be staying in this year. **UH&LA is working hard to keep these funds in place.**

Immigration Bills

The most controversial immigration bill, HB 70, has been tabled in the Senate and will not be voted on. HB 253S01 Employment of Unauthorized Aliens passed the house floor 49-20-6. HB 116S02 Guest Worker Program Act passed the house floor 43-28-4. SJR 18 Immigration Joint Resolution failed to pass senate committee 1-2-2. SJR 12 Immigration, strongly urges Congress to resolve immigration policy, this resolution passed the senate and the house and is waiting for the signature of the Governor. It is still unclear which of these bills will pass and which will be stopped. Ultimately some kind of immigration reform will be passed but until the final days we may not know whether it is good for industry or not. It looks as though a more moderate approach will be taken by the legislature.

HB99S01 Motion Pictures Incentives Amendments

This bill is to keep pace in the video production industry with rival states. The incentive encourages more business in the state and could result in more state visibility. This bill passed the house and is in Senate Workforce Service and Community and Economic Development Committee. **UH&LA supports this bill.**

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: Outdoor Utah

I hope that each of you have had a chance to speak with one of the great representatives from Outdoor Utah. This year UH&LA has partnered with Outdoor Utah again to provide a unique and coveted advertising opportunity. Each member property of UH&LA will be listed in the Outdoor Utah Adventure Guide. With a distribution of over 280,000 homes this will provide our properties with wonderful exposure to people who are interested in traveling to the state for outdoor recreation.

Additionally Outdoor Utah is offering each of our members a discount in their guide to place ads at 10% off. Additionally you can receive 10% off any other Outdoor Utah advertising product. This includes discounts on their web services and their quarterly Outdoor Utah Adventure Journal.

With the great offer of 10% off any advertising in their publication they are offering UH&LA members a fantastic cost savings. Please contact Red Oelerich for further information. You can reach him at 801-718-7908.