



Sales for 2018 Expo have begun

The highlight of the winter is just around the corner as the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association is actively preparing for the 44th Annual Ocean City Spring Trade Expo — March 4-5, 2018. Coined, “coming out of winter hibernation” by one long-time exhibitor, this Expo is a long-standing tradition. As the producer of the largest Mid-Atlantic trade Expo, the OCHMRA’s goal is to connect hospitality industry buyers and sellers. With the industry being time-starved, the Expo provides the perfect opportunity to do one-stop shopping at nearly 400 exhibits.

Exhibitors are eager to showcase new and innovative products and provide samples of their latest product lines. Many exhibitors feature show specials which offer steep discounts.

The Expo features three exhibit halls, two of which are waterfront. Attendees come from as far north as Wilmington, across the Bay Bridge, and south to the eastern shore of Virginia. The Expo is open only to hospitality professionals. To attend, guests must be in the lodging or dining business, a liquor store, convenience store, cafeteria, nursing

home, hospital, or school, etc. Exhibit booths range from \$350-\$705 and are the most affordable in the industry. The goal isn’t to make huge profits but to bring together industry buyers and sellers.

For more information, check out www.oceancitytradeexpo.com or call Susan or Liz at 410-289-6733.

J1 Summer Work Travel Program under attack

The Association is growing increasingly concerned about the J1 visa situation. During the spring, an Executive Order entitled “Buy American, Hire American” was signed by the Trump Administration. The order was designed to strengthen protections for certain American-made goods and calls for a review of certain legal visa work programs. Initially, the H-1B visas garnered the most attention from the Administration. However, the J1 Visa has become the most recent visa program to draw the wrath of the Administration. An August 27 *Wall Street Journal* article stated that the Administration is considering taking action to reduce or eliminate

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