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OCHMRA NEWS *cont. from pg 14*

**And, the winners of
Dine United were:**

- 0-150 seats - The Original Pool Bar & Grill
- 150-300 seats - Happy Jack Pancake House
- 300-600 seats - Harrison's Harbor Watch
- 600+ seats - The Embers Restaurant

This year, we added hotels to the competition with Stay United. Thank you to all hotel participants: Courtyard by Marriott, Ocean 1 Condos, The Burgundy Inn, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Howard Johnson Inn, Commander Hotel, Dunes Manor, Days Inn Oceanfront, Francis Scott Key Family Resort, Princess Royale Oceanfront, Fenwick Inn, and The Grand Hotel.

Winning the Stay United competition were:

- 0-99 rooms - Courtyard by Marriott
- 100-199 rooms - Commander Hotel

VRITA NEWS *cont. from pg 15*

speaker was agreed upon, and the committees were co-chaired under a "power sharing" agreement. Down the hall of the Capitol, Republicans control the state Senate by a slim 21-19 margin, with the power of the tie-breaking vote in the hands of the lieutenant governor. As a reminder, that position is currently held by the Democratic Party and has an elected Democrat incoming.

So what does this mean for the industry?

When Republicans controlled a large majority in the House, the focus remained pro-business, and the voice of the restaurant industry

- 200+ rooms - Francis Scott Key Family Resort

We'd be remiss if we didn't also thank the following vendors for their generous competition support: The Erwyn Group, Tito's Vodka, Pernod Ricard, Brown-Foreman, and Bacardi USA.

The Harrison Group Restaurants raised \$23,500 alone in the Dine United competition (\$20,000 from the restaurants and a \$3,500 vendor match by Tito's Vodka).

Mark Mayers, executive chef of The Harrison Group, noted, "The Harrison Group Restaurants take great pride in partnering with United Way in providing worthy support for so many local organizations and families in need. One hundred percent of our funds raised in the competition are put to work in our own communities. I am very proud of the efforts of our restaurant teams from the past two years, raising over \$40,000."

SUSAN JONES is the executive director of the Ocean City Hotel Motel Restaurant Association.

was heard loudly and clearly on the issues affecting us. However, this dramatic shift in power means measures such as minimum wage increases, paid leave programs, Medicaid expansion, and other similar issues could be looked at quite differently. With many new faces in Richmond, everyone in the industry must stay engaged and help us to continue to have a strong voice on both sides of the aisle, ensuring Virginia continues to remain a great place to own and operate a restaurant.

ERIC TERRY is the executive director of the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Association.

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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Tell them you saw it in Foodservice Monthly

Acme Paper	12
Barter	28
Bi-Lingual Hospitality	28
BME.....	6

Capital Meat	9
Creative Gestures	9
Ecolab	3
H&S Bakery	11
Itek	10
Martin Bamberger	14
Metropolitan Meat, Seafood & Poultry	Back Cover
OCHMRA	21

Performance Foodservice	Inside Back Cover
RAM EF	4
Restaurant Depot	15
Sandalya, CSI	1
Saval.....	Inside Front Cover
Soft Stuff.....	25
Tech 24 Construction -	24