The Palm Beach International Boat Show made a testament to the health and safety standards. The Palm Beach International Boat Show made a testament to the health and safety standards.
March Breakfast shines light on lessons learned in 2020

Our March Corporate Virtual Breakfast was hosted by Rick Bokoun, Board Chair, who welcomed everyone and introduced the day’s topics. Discussion centered around “Leaders reflect on a year of COVID-19 challenges, lessons learned and what’s next.”

Four Palm Beach County Hospital CEOs — Lincoln General, Downtown Regional Hospital; Sheri Montgomery, Saint Mary’s Regional Hospital; Annette Rangel, MD, MPH, Jupiter Medical Center; and Cynthia McCauley, Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary’s Medical Center — also serve as Chamber Trustees/Board Directors shared wisdom, insights and ideas for moving forward.

Chamber members, board trustees and staff joined the program to hear the CEO panel and implications availability, distribution and choices for COVID-19 vaccines and what that means for the community business of Palm Beach County. Louie Verdesi, President and CEO of Visit Palm Beach County, also shared reflections on 2020 and hopeful insights for 2021 and beyond about best practices and lessons learned from leading medical service teams, working with hospitals, to provide in a local and national crisis - applicable to leaders across industries.

All leaders agreed that technology was “available before the pandemic,” such as Zoom, webinars, was developed rapidly to be available to clinics and hospitals. Palm Beach hospitals invested in sovius so they could offer a tool to connect with patients with their doctors, who are restricted from visiting hospitals, to keep everyone safe. Additionally, it forced “TELEDOC” to visit the new normal of necessity — which is now here to stay.

Leaders are confident that creating task forces, leadership and increasing community engagement, key components of remaining responsive, proactive and able to manage teams and strategies in a difficult situation. The general consensus was that they could speak to President Biden in an elevator, that key advice would be to continue having the PPE mandate in the states, around the world, including the U.S., so we aren’t dependent on one country to restock the critical PPE supplies.

The program had a surprise ending for guests — and especially Dennis Grady, President, Chairman & CEO St. Mary’s Medical Center and the entire business community, was truly enthusiastic. “I am privileged to have worked with leaders like all of you, and to have had the opportunity to have a career doing a job that I enjoyed and had a lot of fun,” he said. To view the full video on the Chamber’s YouTube Channel.

Donald Burgus leads to lead Chamber of Commerce

Donald Burgus has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, an influential business leader who is known for his dedication and to his community. Before joining the Chamber, Burgus served as a Trustee, and he has been an active member of the chamber for over 10 years. He has been recognized for his leadership and contributions to the chamber and the community. As a trusted member of the board, Burgus brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the chamber. With over 20 years of experience in the field of business, he has a deep understanding of the needs and challenges faced by businesses in the community. Burgus has also been involved in many community initiatives and organizations, and his dedication to the community is evident in all that he does. He is a true advocate for the community and a valuable asset to the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches. His leadership and insights will undoubtedly benefit the chamber and the community as a whole. 

University's new Watson family hall 'Not just a building'

Palm Beach Atlantic University celebrated the opening of Watson Family Hall with a dedication and ribbon-cutting on March 27. Located at the corner of South Dixie Highway and Sistrunk Road, the 95,000-square-foot building opened in August. It contains 154 apartment-style units with full kitchens and bathrooms. The building is home to the lovely reception with Tammy O’Rourke and her partner, Dale Hedrick, CEO of Hedrick Brothers Construction.

The family has a long history of giving back to the community and is dedicated to providing students with a safe and comfortable place to call home. Watson Family Hall not only provides students with access to high-quality living spaces, but it also offers a supportive community atmosphere to help them succeed in their studies and beyond.

The building includes a variety of amenities and resources to support student success, such as study rooms, a fitness center, a cafe and a 24-hour desk. Watson Family Hall is a testament to the Watson family’s commitment to education and community involvement.

Together, these initiatives provide students with the resources and support they need to succeed in their academic and personal pursuits. Watson Family Hall is a shining example of the Watson family’s dedication to improving the lives of students and the community as a whole.