

**CONTACT**

MELISSA ROSENBAUM

770-274-7980

PR@AAHOA.COM

AAHOA Announces New Secretary and 2024-25 Members of the Board at AAHOACON24

ORLANDO, FL, Apr. 5 – Pinal Patel of Goodlettsville, TN, is the new Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) Secretary.

Pinal Patel was born in Bardoli, India, and moved to the United States at the age of two. His family emigrated from India to Nashville, TN, in 1984.

Patel says his parents did not speak any English when they brought him and his 1-year-old brother to America. Patel's parents bought their first independent hotel in 1991, and he is a second-generation hotelier.

But he wasn't always planning on following in their footsteps. He graduated from flight school at Embry Riddle in Daytona Beach, FL, but soon after, he bought his first franchise property. Previously, he has served as an AAHOA Ambassador and as AAHOA's Director at Large Eastern Division.

"Hard work definitely pays off," **Patel said**. "I'm going to make sure we do what's right for the association and for the members. I promise to all my supporters, my family, and my fellow members that I will not let you down. I will do what's best for the association's interests."

AAHOA Members also elected the following 10 members to the Board of Directors:

- 1. Gulf Regional Director:** Vimal Patel
- 2. North Florida Regional Director:** Jayesh (Jay) Patel
- 3. Mid Atlantic Regional Director:** Mahendra (MZ) Patel
- 4. Mid South Regional Director:** Ajay Patel
- 5. South Carolina Regional Director:** Fenil Desai
- 6. South Pacific Regional Director:** Nilesh (Neil) Bhakta
- 7. South Central Texas Regional Director:** Vikash K. Patel
- 8. Southeast Texas Regional Director:** Bhavik Patel
- 9. Southwest Regional Director:** Dharmesh Ahir
- 10. Women Hoteliers Director Western Division:** Shetal Zina Patel

The AAHOA Board of Directors also welcomes the following three members to serve as Industry Partners for the 2024-25 Term:

- **Amir Ahmed**, Executive Vice President, DISH Business
- **Kevin Sloan**, Managing Partner, Gauthier Murphy & Houghtaling, LLC

- **Abraham Tieh**, Director of National Commercial Property Tax, O'Connor & Associates

“As we install our new Board of Directors for the 2024-25 term, I am honored to work alongside these esteemed individuals as we embark on a journey to shape the future of our association and the hospitality industry as a whole,” said **incoming AAHOA Chairman Miraj S. Patel**. “I congratulate Pinal on his election as AAHOA's newest Secretary and look forward to working alongside the AAHOA Officers and Board to continue to prioritize the needs of our 20,000 members, ensuring that AAHOA remains the leading voice for hotel owners nationwide.”

“I am honored to welcome our new Board of Directors to their roles for the upcoming term and extend my deepest congratulations to Pinal for being elected as Secretary on the AAHOA Board,” said **AAHOA President & CEO Laura Lee Blake**. “The AAHOA Board's dedication and collaborative spirit exemplify the strength of AAHOA's membership. With their diverse expertise and unwavering commitment, our Board Members will play a pivotal role in driving innovation, advocating for our members, and fostering growth and success within our community in the year ahead.”

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About AAHOA

AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the world, with Member-owned properties representing a significant part of the U.S. economy. AAHOA's 20,000 members own 60% of the hotels in the United States and are responsible for 1.7% of the nation's GDP. More than one million employees work at AAHOA Member-owned hotels, earning \$47 billion annually, and member-owned hotels support 4.2 million U.S. jobs across all sectors of the hospitality industry. AAHOA's mission is to advance and protect the business interests of hotel owners through advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community engagement.