FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau October 29, 2015 CONTACTS: Francesca Donlan, Lee Rose, Charniece Jarman 239-338-3500

Superior Small Lodging:

Because bigger doesn't mean better

LEE COUNTY, FL - Representatives of the Florida Superior Small Lodging Association (SSL) recently announced 16 Lee County hoteliers have successfully qualified for the distinguished SSL designation. The SSL certification is a statewide hospitality recognition program.

In addition, 15 of the 16 total SSL properties inspected by the Property Review Program (PRP) qualified to receive the coveted Donal A. Dermody White Glove Award for best practices in housekeeping. Properties must receive a score of 100 percent for all components of the housekeeping inspection to be eligible to receive the White Glove Award.

Effective Oct. 1, all members of the SSL will automatically become members of the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association (FRLA). Additionally, members with restaurants also become members of the National Restaurant Association (NRA).

"Building strong partnerships is vital to the success and effectiveness of any organization," said Scott Rivelli, executive director of SSL. "Through strategic collaboration we become stronger and more effective while gaining access to education, training, funding and programs that are essential to the future our organizations."

Superior Small Lodging Program

Eligibility for participation in the Lee County SSL program is restricted to accommodations with 50 room units or less. Properties must hold a valid hotel, motel, inn or bed and breakfast license and pay all applicable state and local taxes related to the operations of an accommodation.

The SSL inspection program and designation is designed to provide travelers with an easily identifiable symbol to demonstrate that the accommodation is clean, safe and a well managed small lodging.

The passing grade for an unexpected inspection in the program is 82 percent and is based on a comprehensive review of six different property attributes: registration/operations/public places, guest accommodations, bathrooms, bathroom supplies, kitchens, and property exterior.

Lee County properties recognized by the SSL hospitality recognition program include:

Bokeelia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers & St. James City

Casa Loma Motel Lahser House – White Glove Award Legacy Harbour Hotel & Suites – White Glove Award Tarpon Lodge – White Glove Award Two Fish Inn – White Glove Award

Fort Myers Beach

Beach Shell Inn - White Glove Award Gulf Breeze Condos – White Glove Award Manatee Bay Inn Bed & Breakfast – White Glove Award Matanzas Inn – White Glove Award Silver Sands Villas – White Glove Award

Sanibel & Captiva islands

Gulf Breeze Cottages – White Glove Award Mitchell's Sand Castles – White Glove Award The Palm View – White Glove Award Sandpiper Inn- White Glove Award Shalimar Resort – White Glove Award Signal Inn Beach & Racquetball – White Glove Award Waterside Inn on the Beach

For more information on the Superior Small Lodging program, contact <u>Nancy MacPhee</u>, program manager, Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau at (239) 338-3500. For destination information, visit <u>www.fortmyers-sanibel.com</u>.

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