

FCCMA
State of the Association – May 2012

Overview:

The 2011-12 Program Year was active and fruitful for the Association, now in its 66th year. President Jonathan R. Lewis urged each committee's chairperson and members to work on their goals, and also challenged the board to individually commit, as district directors, in reaching out to non-members, members-in-transition, and non-traditional management persons who have not joined ICMA and FCCMA.

Committee programs, task forces and related work:

Fiscal & Administrative Responsibility Committee:

The Committee divided its tasks among three subcommittees, and under Chairperson Jim Hanson's direction, the subcommittees worked on the following projects:

- Review of the FCCMA dues cap
- Assisting the Technology Task Force with the web site cost determinations
- Produced an informative guide for members interested in the Board of Directors
- Determining committee terms so that institutional knowledge is carried over each year
- Sustainability of CFLGE: working with Dr. Bob Lee on fiscal strategies
- Determining costs and benefit for Member-in-Transition legal aid and insurance;

In addition, the Committee also worked on these assignments:

FCCMA evaluation of the Florida League of Cities' contract: a survey was developed and taken by the board of directors evaluating each League service area provided to FCCMA through its contract for administration. Results were given to the Board and to the League in May.

Investment policy: after lengthy research and discussion, the project will be carried into the 2012-13 program year with the same committee.

Range Rider fiscal commitment and policy: the committee agreed and recommended to the board of directors that funding for the Range Rider program is a vital and valuable service and should remain as it is, and that districts for Riders should match the board's districts to avoid confusion. Terms of service have also been implemented in three-year increments with re-appointment possible; the total length of service would max at 12 years.

Awards Committee:

Chairperson Jeff Brown and his committee worked on and promoted the B. Harold Farmer annual scholarship, which was awarded to Jeff Tillman, a graduate student at USF; and the Emerging Professionals scholarships to the annual conference, which were awarded to: Scott Andrews and Stephanie Waters.

The annual FCCMA awards, which were given as follows:

- President's Award: Richard (Dick) Simmons
- If You Care, You Do! To Lee Evett and Shannon Lewis
- Michael J. Roberto Award for Career Development: Kenneth W. Parker
- Award for Career Excellence: Merrett Stierheim
- Assistant for Excellence in Leadership: Robert Barcinski
- Program Excellence Awards to Local Governments:

Population less than 20,000 – City of Destin
Population 20,001 to 50,000 – City of DeLand
Population 50,001 to 150,000 – City of Boynton Beach

Conference Planning Committee:

Chairperson Joyce Shanahan and co-chair Russ Blackburn developed the Winter Institute, which was held in Lake Mary in February with a theme of “Connecting with our Communities.”

The Committee also developed the annual conference theme, “Local Government Matters: Our New Future” and planned the general sessions, workshops, networking and social events with the conference committee.

Host chairperson Bill Moss coordinated the local volunteers needed to help with the conference, and assisted with event planning.

Intergovernmental/Organizational Partnerships Committee

Chaired by Jill Silverboard and co-chaired by Carl Harness, the committee had two work plans:

1. Focused its attention this year on the work last year to develop an ‘association of local government professional associations,’ which has now been named the Florida Local Government Coalition. The Coalition’s three goals are creating improved communications between the associations, sharing resources across the spectrum of professions, and finding advocacy positions in common across that spectrum that all associations can work on together. Three subcommittees were established for these goals, and a new web site was established at: www.floridagovcoalition.com to host the work, resources, master calendar and related materials. Several presentations about the Coalition will be made over the summer at various conferences, and was highlighted at our conference, too.
2. Support CFLGE relationships among statewide associations: as the Center pursues new venues for funding and support, the committee worked on promoting the Center’s visibility and training successes.

Legislative Policy Committee:

Chairperson Doug Thomas and co-chair Ken Morris developed legislative priority issues from the FLC and FAC legislative priorities, and held conference calls with committee members prior to the beginning of session. Ken coordinated the weekly reports during each week of session. Doug conducted advocacy workshops for members, and coordinated the Legislative Workshop for the annual conference. In addition, Doug and Ken agreed to serve on the new advocacy subcommittee within the Florida Local Government Coalition (see the Intergovernmental report above).

Membership/MIT Committee:

The economic downturn in Florida has affected cities and counties for over five years, and this extends to professional associations among local governments. The Association has found that individuals who have had their positions eliminated, or reduced in scope of work, are often not willing to individually pay membership to professional associations, or have asked to be in the

lowest possible member category to save funds. This results in fewer Full members, which concerns the board of directors.

The Membership Committee rewrote sections of the membership process and categories to address these concerns.

The Committee also developed a new set of materials for those members in transition;” it features updated resources and attorneys to contact for legal advice.

As of 5/31/12 the Association has 520 members, which puts our ranking behind California and Texas within the ICMA state association affiliates.

Professional Development/Training Committee:

Led by Horace McHugh, chair and Sarah Hannah-Spurlock, co-chair the Committee designed and produced the two symposium events for 2011-12; the committee worked with the Center for Florida Local Government Excellence (CFLGE) on the events. The daylong training event was titled, “Change Management: Adjusting to Public Expectation” and was held in Gainesville t the University of Florida, and in Fort Lauderdale at Nova Southeastern University.

Public Information Committee:

Led by Michael Pleus, chairperson and Horace McHugh, co-chairperson, the committee had two large tasks this year: develop an RFP for a new web site with the Technology Task Force (the committees were combined), and forming a Student Council Committee to work more closely on university relationships.

The committee is also submitting a member profile for each issue of *The Manager*.

The RFP for the new web host is detailed under the Task Force (below)

The Student Council now has goals and through quarterly conference calls they have set up scholarship discussions, classroom visits and career fair attendance, and other means to promote the profession at colleges and universities. Ten students joined, and campus visits were made to career fairs.

Strategic Planning Committee:

George Brown chaired this committee, whose work began with a strategic advance in June among the board of directors. Using survey results, George and his committee produced a draft three-year plan that was reviewed by the board of directors and which was then given to the membership for adoption at the annual conference. This plan will guide the board of directors and committees over the next three years, and will be used for goal-setting and evaluations.

Public Service Task Force:

President Lewis established this task force to work on combating negativity over local governments in general and public employees within these governments, and to develop tools any member can use in promoting the profession, public service and the benefits of professional local government management.

Chairperson Randy Reid worked with several members, including the Local Government Awareness Committee’s members, to develop ‘my view’ columns and letters to the editor that appeared in newspapers across the state during September 2011; developed posters to be used in employee break-rooms and public places promoting public service (these materials were shared at the ICMA Conference in Milwaukee); and developed a ‘tool kit’ of resources now posted on the FCCMA web site resource page called Local Government Matters. Research was also

requested of CFLGE regarding the comparison of public sector vs. private sector pay and benefits; the results of this study will also be posted on the resource page. The Task Force will continue this program in 2012-13 as part of the Local Government Awareness Committee.

Technology Task Force:

Shannon Lewis chaired this task force, established by President Lewis to work on revisions to the FCCMA web site and the contract for this service. Shannon worked with Michael Pleus, as public information chairperson, to develop an RFP for the web site, which resulted in a new web host, RB Oppenheim & Associates, effective July 2012.

Fiscal Report on the Association:

A complete copy of the 2011 audit was given to conference attendees as part of the Business Meeting report on 6/1/12. Assets as of 9/30/11 totaled \$551,539.

Historic Notes:

Peter Lombardi was awarded honorary membership in 2012.

Range Rider Bud Parmer, also a past president and co-author of the association's charter, retired at the 2012 conference and was recognized for his outstanding service.

Range Rider Dick Simmons, also a past president, was recognized for his July 2012 retirement as a Range Rider (20 years tenure), and also recognized for his outstanding service.