



Supporting, educating and serving professional local government in Florida.

October 2016

## Message from the Executive Director



*by Casey Cook, FCCMA Executive Director*

I was watching the news the other night and was reminded of the Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times." Whether it's the chaos surrounding the national elections, the civil unrest in many communities around the country, or the impacts of disruptive technology on traditional business models, I think it's safe to say that we are living in "interesting" times. You can't turn on the television without seeing political candidates tearing down their opponents or news coverage of the latest "disaster". What happened to positive stories? What happened to focusing on successes instead of failures? I worry that we're being conditioned as a society to accept the negative and question the positive.

Many of you know this, but for those who don't, I also work with the Florida League of Cities and represent our members (and their issues) before the state legislature. In this role, I meet with legislators throughout the year and advocate for local control. I enjoy this role because I believe in what we're fighting for. I believe that the government closest to the people governs best and that 160 people in Tallahassee don't know what's best for your community...you do! It's extremely frustrating to meet with a legislator and hear them rant about government, especially local government. ([Read more](#))

## President's Priority



**A Call to Action Update**  
**October 27, 2016**  
**Mentorship Programs**

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” – Benjamin Franklin

Mentorship in local government is about more than sharing leadership and management skills. Those skills can be important, but sometimes mentorship is about imparting a set of life skills to aid future leaders.

- What are some of the attainable goals that you need to establish for a successful mentorship in City/County government?
  - To obtain a better understanding of the structure and operation of your government.
  - To provide practical work experience as it relates to your operations, strategic planning and performance management.
  - To impress upon the mentee the importance of establishing excellent interpersonal relationships.
  - To prepare and develop the mentee to progress into a position as a professional local government manager.

**Carl Harness, Hillsborough County  
Chief Human Services Administrator  
and ICMA Southeast Regional Vice  
President meets with MPA students  
from the University of South Florida  
mentorship program.**



## Members News and Updates

### New Members

The following membership applications have been received.

- **Gerald Bryan**, District V, Assistant Town Manager, Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Full Member;
- **William Corbett**, District VI, Masters of Public Administration, Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Member;
- **Matthew Ellenwood**, District VI, Masters of Public Administration, Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Member;

- Sara K. Irvine, District VIII, Town Administrator/Clerk, Town of Lake Hamilton, Affiliate Member;
- Brandon Kaiser, District VI, Bachelor of Arts, Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Member;
- Seth Lawless, District VI, Village Manager, Village of Islamorada, Full Member;
- The Leytham Group, District VII, contact: Beth Leytham, President, Corporate Member;
- Jaime Tirado, District VI, Bachelors of Public Administration, Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Member;
- Sonya Walling, District VII, Public Policy Management Associate (Fellow), City of Seminole, Student Member.

If no current member comes forth with a reason why these applicants should not be approved as members, he/she will be invoiced for dues.

## **Featured Member: John Titkanich, City Manager, Cocoa**



How long have you been a FCCMA member?  
2 years

Are you an ICMA member and if so, how long?  
Yes, just over 3 years.

Please describe your areas of formal/advanced education.  
I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Certificate in Public Management from Florida Atlantic University, and a MPA degree and Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Central Florida.

What got you interested in public service?  
Serving in the U.S. Army Rangers instilled in me early as a young adult that service to others is a higher and noble calling. Upon being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, my desire to continue serving led me initially to working on political campaigns. Fortunately, through the guidance of a professor at Florida Atlantic University I made the decision that I would be better able to serve the public and make a difference through a career in public administration. ([Read more](#))

## Member Articles



### **Cocoa Works Program** *By John Titkanich, City Manager, Cocoa*

During a community meeting held in summer 2015, residents spoke of the City's former summer jobs program for the youth. The summer youth employment program had fallen victim to budget shortfalls and a general belief the City was not benefiting from employing students during the summer due to low participation. The program had not been funded in more than seven (7) years. While the fiscal year 2016 budget process was well underway, the City included funding for a summer youth program for the upcoming 2016 year.

City of Cocoa staff set out to design the Cocoa Works program to ensure it would provide meaningful opportunities for students to not only experience firsthand a career in public service, but also to work for and contribute to their own community. Specific program goals were established which included:

- Provide Cocoa youth a meaningful summer employment opportunity.
- Invest in Cocoa's youth to develop their employability skills and address systemic issues of poverty and unemployment.
- Assist in the strategic issue of community development to help young disadvantaged citizens receive an opportunity to gain experience in a public service position.
- Provide a career path for regular full-time positions upon graduation from High School. ([Read more](#))

## Events and Training Opportunities

### **Affiliate Training Opportunities**

- [FLC training](#)
- [FAC training](#)
- [Cal-ICMA Coaching Opportunities](#)

### **FCCMA Four Hours Required Ethics Training**

The Board changed the ethics policy at its last meeting and you now have until February 1st to report your training for the previous fiscal year. Any member who joined prior to October 1, 2015 must complete the four hours. If you have already completed the training and need help recording your hours, please contact Carol Russell at (850) 701-3607 or [crussell@flicities.com](mailto:crussell@flicities.com).

### **Age Friendly Communities in Florida: How Do We Meet the Need**

This FCCMA webinar will be held 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET, Thursday, November 3rd, 2016. Florida has the nation's highest percentage of citizens ages 65 and older, and that number is projected to double by 2030. How should Florida cities plan for their aging population and generations to come? Well-designed, livable communities promote well-being and sustain economic growth, and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages. The program will cover information regarding demographic changes and economic benefits to livable communities. Moreover, attendees will learn how the eight domains of livability contribute to age-friendly communities. ([Read more](#))

### **Mexican, Cuban and US Local Government Managers to Meet in Mexico City**

Local Managers from the US are invited to participate Nov 17-18, 2016 with an optional one- or two-day extension.

The Casa Colegio de la Frontera Norte, a university located in the Coyoacan District of Mexico City, is hosting a two-day seminar bringing together local government managers from the three countries to talk about common challenges and solutions. The sessions are being coordinated by Dr. Octavio Chavez, Director, ICMA México-Latinoamérica. ([Read more](#))

### **SUCCESSION PLANNING & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

The ICMA Coaching Program will hold a free webinar on Thursday, November 17th, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., ET on "Succession Planning & Knowledge Transfer."

**Advance registration required for this no-charge webinar.** ([Read more](#))

### **Preparing for Incidents that Bring International Media Attention to Your Agency**

This FCCMA Onsite Training Session will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Friday, November 4th, 2016 at the Palm Beach Gardens EOC, 10500 N. Military Trail in Palm Beach Gardens. All cities, and all counties, regardless of size or location, are just one incident away from being the center of international media attention. A single police incident, regardless of fault, can create an untenable impact on city and county resources and ill perceptions of the intent and commitment that a government has to public service. There may not be a more "ripe" time in recent history for FCCMA to provide a forum to discuss strategies for local government professionals confronted with such a situation. A diverse panel of local government professionals in Palm Beach County will offer ideas/plans that will help prepare attendees and their agencies to respond when such situation happens. This important training is universally applicable to all local governments and a must attend for key staff members within your organizations. ([Read more](#))


### **Save the Date: Ethical Decision Making for Florida's Local Governments**

This FCCMA Onsite Training Session will be held from 9:00 am - 1:00 p.m., Friday, January 13th, 2017 at the Flagler County Emergency Services, 1769 E. Moody Boulevard, Building #3 in Bunnell. More information will be available next week.

## FCCMA Resources

- [Affiliation Contacts](#)
- [Agenda & Minutes](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Job Opportunities](#)
- [Member Committees](#)
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- [Members-in-Transition Profiles](#)

[Onsite Training Sessions](#)  
[Senior Advisor Program](#)  
[Symposium](#)  
[Webinars](#)



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