



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – January 17, 2017 at 6:45 P.M.

LOCATION – SYNOVUS BANK
2520 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida
Conference/Meeting Room – Enter through side door on 26th Street side

Please mark your calendar and attend with a friend to show support for your community and quality of life.

AGENDA

- GUEST SPEAKER – Priscilla Whisenant Trace, County Commissioner, District One
- Call to Order – Annual Business Meeting
- Election of Officers
 - a. Nominating Committee Report
 - b. Request for nominations from the floor
 - c. Vote or request motion for unanimous ballot
- Approval of Annual Minutes and Annual Treasurer's Report
- Reading of November 2016 Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Progress Report on Health Care Advisory Board – Sandy Marshall

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - HAPPY NEW YEAR

Did you make any resolutions? Did you share those with anyone?

The chance of following any resolution is significantly increased if you share your goal with someone. Specific behavior goals shared and teamed with another person will bring about a better chance of success in meeting those changes. There is a better chance of adjusting and resetting those behaviors when another person is involved.

A resolution that seems timely this year revolves around being involved and informed about local communities.

A new year brings about many opportunities for improvement. Newly elected leaders will join incumbents to continue the decision making. This alone will bring about a change in process. New folks bring experiences and perceptions and may cause a re-thinking of issues and new ideas and priorities may change. It is important to let our leaders know our interests and thoughts related to specific issues as they are being discussed. In order to provide an informed response, it is important to know the current discussions and considerations. This situation leads to the following resolution.

Jim Kaiser
President

Ernest "Sandy" Marshall
1st Vice President

Glen Gibellina
2nd Vice President

Victor Coveduck
Treasurer

Kay Lynn Duncan
Secretary

Carole Atkins
Newsletter Editor/
Website Coordinator

Dr. Richard Conard
Director

Ed Goff
Director

Ernest "Sandy" Marshall
Ex-Officio President

615 9th Street West
Bradenton, Florida
34205

Call for information:
941-746-2151

Website:
www.thefmcca.com

***"Eternal Vigilance
is the price
of Liberty."***

I will become informed and involved in current issues that affect the quality of life for Manatee County. To accomplish this I plan to:

Monitor available information, i.e. newspapers, internet summaries, TV news and reports, minutes of meetings, internet postings, attending meetings (like the Federation), homeowners board and member meetings, and County Commissioner meetings (can be watched on TV).

Discuss my thoughts and concerns with friends and neighbors. Sharing information can lead to increased understanding of issues being proposed.

Communicate my thoughts to the leaders who are making the decisions by letters, email, phone calls, presentations at meetings or making an appointment with leaders for discussion and recommendation.

The last part may be the most effective. The leaders are way overburdened with information and bringing a specific concern to their attention is lost in the need to get things done.

This process can help reduce the “surprise factor” which happens after decisions are made that affect our quality of life. Attending group meetings like the Federation can help keep you informed on pending decisions. See you at the next meeting.

A copy of the FMCCA’s December 10, 2016 letter to the Manatee County Legislative Delegation follows.

RE: Recommendations for Manatee County's Legislative Delegation

Dear Members of the Legislative Delegation:

Please consider the following as a request for a presentation time for the December 20, 2016 meeting in the Manatee County Commission Chambers. Our Speaker will be Jim Kaiser, President.

The Federation of Manatee County Community Associations (FMCCA) is composed of representatives and individuals that are members of local homeowner associations. This group has been in existence since 1963 serving Manatee County HOAs, condominiums and other residents. We schedule regular monthly meetings providing a forum for discussion of issues that are affecting the members and guests.

After discussion and input from our members, we have determined the following four areas as priority for 2017:

Provide an exception allowing out of state certified doctors to participate on a volunteer basis for special events like RAM and Turning Points.

Create an Office of the Homeowners Ombudsman having all the powers that are necessary to carry out the duties of his or her office with regard to homeowner association.

Evoke a health care privilege providing pharmacist layered insulation from defamation from customers and doctors.

Retain and increase funding for Bradenton Bridge of Manatee County, a transitional and work release program for women serving sentences from non-violent crimes and recovering from substance abuse.

The following list is further detail of other issues we have discussed and considered while selecting the above recommendations.

Provide legislation that would prevent the sale and distribution of candy-flavored tobacco products in any establishments open to young people under the age of 18 within the state.

Provide an opportunity for residents to vote on the consolidation of fire districts.

Restore to the Public Service Commission the authority to set utility rates.

Review and strengthen laws requiring lobbyists to disclose how much they are paid to influence legislators, disclose whom they are supporting and request the state auditor general to audit the lobbyists' accounts.

Restore the 1989 law on reporting campaign donations from all sources.

Prohibit the provision of free health benefits to elected officials.

Enact law(s) to require all budget deliberations to be conducted in public and publish the results.

Enact legislation to establish potable water supplies for public use after excavation activities have ceased on a tract of land.

Prohibit the expansion of casino gambling and increase regulatory powers over current casinos.

Create a use tax agreement to provide a solution for e-commerce interstate sales tax. Assure the federal funding for this legislative district is balanced so we are not short-changed.

Prohibit the rehiring of public employees and officials after retirement ("Double dipping").

Recognize that immigration as an important and sensitive issue that needs to be considered so as not to decrease or overburden the resources of the state and the public.

Establish legislation to impose stronger safety and distance reforms on both the oil industry and any governmental agencies that regulate offshore drilling.

Establish legislation to strengthen laws with regards to prevent access to pornography on computer equipment available to children and within any educational setting.

These are the recommendations compiled by the Federation for which we are requesting legislative support. For additional information, please contact Mr. Kaiser at 941-747-2480.

Respectfully yours,

Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, Inc.

By: **A. James Kaiser**

A. James Kaiser, President

TRIBUTE TO PAUL VALENZ

I received word from Paul Valenz's son Steve, Paul passed away suddenly on Christmas Day while on a Caribbean cruise with his wife, Ellen. The Federation extends our heartfelt condolences to Ellen and their family.

Needless to say, this took all of us by surprise and shock. If there is any positive aspect of this loss and event, it is that Paul and Ellen were doing something together that they both thoroughly enjoyed doing.

Those of us in the Federation had come to know how he and Ellen fully and faithfully supported the Federation for many years, in helping to improve the quality of life for our members and the citizens of this county.

Paul was respected by all who knew him, especially me, and especially our local public officials. Whenever Paul was called upon by the Federation, or citizens of Manatee County to appear and speak on our behalf, he never hesitated to do so, in a very polite and competent manner. Paul is an example of the quality of the people who have been in the past, and continue presently, to honor and inspire us with their membership and participation on the Federation, for the good of our community. For sure, Paul will be missed, but most certainly will not be forgotten. "Godspeed to you, Paul."

A Celebration of Life is being planned and will be announced at a later date. (ESM)

ATTENTION – RENEW MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2017

A new Fiscal year has arrived. It is time to renew your FMCCA membership so that our organization can continue to serve, enlighten and be involved with City, County and State government representatives. There is a definite need to keep our individual associations and their membership informed concerning major development projects, school board business, public utilities activities, taxes, and the Manatee County budget process, programs available from local and state agencies, as well as their rules/regulations and involvement with important issues such as indigent care, county commission meetings/agendas.

Your DUES payment will enable us to keep the FMCCA website, www.thefmcca.com, online for everyone's convenience, the printing and mailing of our monthly newsletter and to keep our Florida State annual non-profit report fee current and free from penalties. We also have expenditures for "Special Presentations," membership drives, costs incurred to send delegates to the annual "Neighborhoods Associations" seminar that is held in various locations around the State. We have always kept our budget in line with our operational expenses and revenues thanks to your assistance. (VIC)

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Below is a brief synopsis of our guest speaker at the November 15, 2016 Federation Membership Meeting and serves as a courtesy to our members unable to attend our meetings.

Our Guest Speaker, Joshua Barnett was hired in September 2016 to be Manatee's new Community Health Care Manager, and serves as staff liaison to the Health Care Advisory Board. He was introduced by President Kaiser and comes highly educated for the position holding degrees in Psychology, Thanatology and Health Science, including experience and service in his fields. His Power Point slideshow was exceptional, outlined a detailed informative plan depicting necessary factors that need to be accounted for; what elements to work on, and issues to be considered in order to implement and carry out a successful health care plan for our County. Four key topics were identified that Manatee needs to focus on 1) Opioid/Heroin; 2) Diabetes (obesity, smoking, mental health); 3) Illness/Injury Prevention (Elder & DUI); 4) Accessible Treatment & Accountable Coordinated Care. Health care funding will be coordinated by the County. Questions and answers followed. (KLD)

MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS

Come to our meetings. Be a part of the solution, not the problem. Join the FMCCA. Here are the dates of our scheduled meetings for 2017.

January 17 – County Commissioner Pricilla Whisenant Trace, District One

February 21 – TBA

March 21 – TBA

April 18 – TBA

May 16 – TBA

September 19 – TBA

October 17 – TBA

November 21 – TBA



IS THERE A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT?
DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SPEAKER IN MIND?
LET US KNOW.