



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – December 4, 2018 at 6:45 PM

LOCATION – First Baptist Church of Bradenton
1306 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida
(Corner of 14th Street & Manatee Avenue)

Meeting Room – Church Offices Building, enter using west back door

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

AGENDA

- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Nominations for the Federation 2019 Board - Discussion
- Health Care Update – Sandy Marshall
- County At-large Positions - Discussion
- School Board Update – Ed Goff

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Mid-term election is over. Some returning legislative members have been selected to continue and some new members have been chosen to become part of the decision-making process. The 2018 mid-term political process seemed to be more expensive and contentious than past elections.

Our culture of competition with winners and losers clearly defined increases the complexity of cooperative decisions. The media seems to thrive on emphasizing the conflict issues between those that are in favor of a concept and those that are against the issue. This heightens the interest and separates individuals, often bringing anger to the surface at the expense of cooperation. How decisions are made can be as important and effective as the decision itself.

Cooperate is defined as “To work or act together toward a common end or purpose.”

Negotiate is “To confer with another in order to come to terms or reach an agreement.”

Manatee County has been blessed with a very attractive quality of life. Our population has increased dramatically in the last few years and continues to grow faster than the supporting infrastructure. This popularity has created significant issues related to environmental and challenges to the culture and quality of life in the area. Current specific issues are related to health care expenses, environmental concerns created by approved development, traffic congestion, safety evacuation, shelter availability, school funding, public safety service and funding, just to mention a few.

Jim Kaiser
President

Ernest “Sandy” Marshall
1st Vice President/
Ex-Officio President

Glen Gibellina
2nd Vice President

Victor Coveduck
Treasurer

Kay Lynn Duncan
Secretary

Carole Atkins
Newsletter Editor/
Website Coordinator

Ed Goff
Director/
Website Coordinator

Dr. Richard Conard
Director

Diana Adams
Director

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“Eternal Vigilance
is the price
of Liberty.”

The decisions related to these areas of concerns will be necessary to provide direction and solution of many issues affecting the culture and quality of life for Manatee County. Discussion, considerations and information will be used to make those decisions. We hope the process will be one of cooperation. Newly elected and appointed leaders have an opportunity to blend thoughts and opinions. We are in this together and hopefully direction will be guided by cooperative concepts and the best decisions for the quality of life for Manatee County.

Each of us has the right and responsibility to participate in these decisions. There are many ways to have your thoughts and feelings known. What have you done to let the leadership know what you can support? This applies to local organizations (homeowners) as well as city, state, and national issues.

The Federation of Manatee County Community Associations (FMCCA) is one place that one can provide information which will be shared with the leadership. We welcome your thoughts, concerns and interests at our meetings. Consider joining us in this process.

A JOB WELL DONE

The Federation recently sent thank-you letters to both Commissioners Robin DiSabatino and Charles Smith for their dedication and outstanding jobs as our County Commissioners.

Both, when appropriate, continuously spoke up for all the people in their district and the county, both locally and state wide. Neither needed this job, but volunteered to help Manatee County to protect, preserve and improve the quality of life in our county for the benefit of all of us.

The Federation extended best wishes to each of them and their families for the future.

HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD – UPDATE

Gratefully, I am pleased to advise you that on October 23rd, the Manatee County Commission (BOCC) voted to request the County Attorney to render a legal opinion concerning whether or not non-U.S. Citizens, or undocumented residents of Manatee County, can legally receive indigent non-acute healthcare, at county tax payers expense, if they have income that exceeds 100% of the Federal poverty guidelines. To date, County Staff has persuaded the BOCC to possibly illegally use a 200% poverty guideline, instead of 100% required by present Florida Statutory Law. This has been going on for the past several years.

On behalf of the Federation, on that date, I appeared before the BOCC and pointed out and provided information on the serious jeopardy that the BOCC members could be open to, if they did not request the County Attorney to review these issues and render an opinion.

Also, at the request of FMCCA, the BOCC had requested staff to provide a matrix of the dollars and number of people being paid by county taxpayers annually to indigent lawful county residents and healthcare providers, which staff has not fully complied with. On November 1, 2018, FMCCA sent a letter to staff to point out the deficiencies in the memo staff furnished to the BOCC, as requested by the Federation and BOCC members, pursuant to FMCCA letters recently sent to the BOCC. Hopefully, staff will fully cooperate immediately with the request from both the BOCC and FMCCA, for the benefit of our county. The BOCC should insist that staff not delay in carrying out these requests.

The Federation had written to Commissioner DiSabatino to have the request for the above legal opinion be placed on the BOCC agenda which she graciously agreed to do, as one of her last official acts as County Commissioner. (ESM)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Federation strives to protect the quality of life for Manatee citizens and residents. We provide input to support or oppose changes or modifications to government and local and community issues and problems that impact our county, cities, community associations and residents. Our members serve on Manatee County committees, school board committees, ad hoc groups, advisory boards; and attend meetings, hearings and workshops. Our Motto is being "*The Voice of the People.*" Anyone can become a member of the FMCCA; we extend to you a personal invite to attend a Federation meeting. (KLD)

Did you know... The Supervisor of Elections office must be open to the public for viewing of the tabulation of votes and must be attended by a County Commissioner, a local County Court Judge, and the Supervisor of Elections who must agree on any votes that are rejected.

This article was written with citizen involvement and community action in mind. Ask questions, offer solutions, contact County Commissioners or School Board members, and support your neighbors -- even when the problem isn't in your neighborhood. Create change! (DA)

WINTER RESIDENTS ARE HERE

Here are a few driving etiquette and safety tips from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

1. **Maintain a Safe Following Distance** - Tailgating isn't just dangerous—it's also disrespectful to all the other motorists. Remember, other drivers have just as much right to the road as you do and shouldn't have to feel bullied because they're occupying space where you'd like to be.

To maintain a safe following distance, try to follow the 3-second rule as often as possible. To test, pick an object on the road up ahead, such as a sign. When the vehicle directly in front of you passes it, begin to count. If it takes 3 seconds or more for you to reach that same object, you're at a safe following distance.

2. **Don't Cruise in the Passing Lane** - While a lot of drivers may think of it as "the fast lane," the left lane generally should only be used for passing other vehicles. Cruising in the left lane, especially if cars begin to pass you on the right, creates a dangerous environment on the road and it is also illegal.

Proper etiquette states that you should always drive the speed limit and only use the left lane when overtaking a slower moving vehicle.

ATTENTION FEDERATION MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

A new Fiscal year, which runs from January 1 to December 31, is coming up. It is time to renew your FMCCA membership so that our Federation 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 Federation meetings, speakers invited to our meetings, major development projects planned for Manatee County, our school board, public utilities, taxes, the county budget, programs available from Local and State agencies and involvement with many other areas, such as indigent care, as well as County Commission meetings and 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 keep our Florida State Annual Non-profit status 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 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. Please continue to support your Federation, help us grow and improve our quality of life and government efficiency in Manatee County.

Even if you have been a long time member and are renewing, please fill out the application form included in this newsletter. This will allow us to have a complete record of our members or associations. Discuss your re-application with your association and bring a check to our next meeting or mail it to our Treasurer Victor Coveduck at: 5203 Palmetto Point Drive, Palmetto, Florida 34221. Your prompt action is appreciated. (VC)

*"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead, cultural anthropologist*

2018 MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS

You do not need to be a member to attend our meetings. All home and condo owners are welcome guests. To be a part of the solution, not the problem, you can join the FMCCA. The meetings are free. We have over 50 years of community service. Bring your ideas and questions to our next meeting. We look forward to your participation.

January 16 – Manatee County Sheriff’s Office
February 20 – David Miner, School Board Member
March 20 – Cancelled due to weather
April 17 – Corinne Tucker, PIC, MPO
May 15 – Daytime Tour of MTC

September 18 – School Board Candidates
October 16 – County Commission Candidates
November meeting moved to
December 4 – General Meeting
2019 Dates and Speakers - TBA

Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, Inc. – APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
(Please Print)

Date: _____ Type of Application: (Check One) [] Individual [] Homeowners Association [] Neighborhood Organization
Name of Association or Organization: _____ Number of Households _____
Name of Contact Person(s): _____ Phone: _____
Mailing Address: _____
E-mail Address: _____ Name of Alternate Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Federation Annual Dues are \$.50 (fifty cents) for each household. (Number of Households X \$.50 = Annual Dues.) Not to exceed \$100.00. Cost for independent or single membership is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to FMCCA and mail with this form to Victor I. Coveduck, Treasurer, 5203 Palmetto Point Drive, Palmetto, FL 34221.