

NEFRLA Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

September 2006

Leadership Academy kicks off second year with Opening Retreat



The second class of the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy held its Opening Retreat at the St. Johns County Convention Center at the Renaissance Resort, World Golf Village on September 11 and 12, 2006. The Class of 2006-2007 is comprised of thirty-one members representing all seven counties in Northeast Florida and encompasses individuals from numerous sectors such as: financial advising, human services, purchasing, transportation, economic development, government, public relations, law enforcement, real estate, environmental resources, law, medical and education.

Guest speakers at the Opening Retreat included Dr. Allan Wallis, Associate Professor of Public Policy, University of Colorado at Denver; Dr. Lance DeHaven-Smith, Professor, Reubin Askew School of Public Policy, Florida State University; and Ben Warner, Deputy Director of the Jacksonville Community Council, Inc.

Program content for the RLA includes regional history and demographics, growth management, as well as environment and water resources issues. Analysis of additional issues of interest such as transportation, education, diversity, economic development, and human services will also contribute to the focus of the organization.

Curriculum goals include acting as a forum for dialogue on regional issues that are significant to Northeast Florida as a community, promoting and encouraging initiation of innovative approaches to regional issues and bringing clarity and effectiveness to the role of regional community stewardship. Ultimately, the NEFRLA serves as a network of program alumni for future regional development efforts.

The RLA embraces a mission to build a strong, diverse, regional network of leaders with a shared commitment to

collaboration and to connecting our communities to make Northeast Florida a better place to live and work.

The Academy will host Program Days in each of the counties in Northeast Florida until the Closing Retreat in April 2007.

For more information please contact Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0885 x 104.



Jason Mudd (left) of Axia Public Relations and Wendell Davis, of Watson Realty Corporation participate in a group activity examining "How Well Do You Know Our Region?"



Denise Bunnewith, Executive Director of the First Coast MPO, participates in the "Burning Issues" segment of the Opening Retreat.

Announcing the Class of 2006-07

John Birney
Carol Brady
Denise Bunnewith
Robin Burchfield
Giselle Carson
Mike Clapsaddle
Trip Clark
Skip Cramer
Travis Cummings
Wendell Davis
Gerald Gonzalez
Joe Gordy
Kirby Green
Don Hughes
Dana Jones
Wally Lee
Colleen McFarlane
Lisa Moore
Jason Mudd
Linda Myers
Alice Oswald
Dennis Pate
Sherrie Raulerson
John Reyes
Harold Rutledge
John Tabor
Carol Vallencourt
Tri Vu
Quint White
Oel Wingo
Sharyl Wood

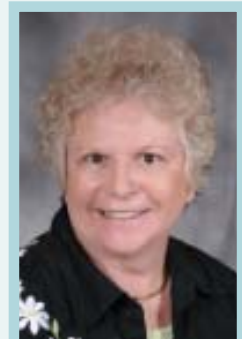
NEFRC Council Members who were selected to be part of the Class of 2006-07



The Honorable
Linda Myers



The Honorable
Harold Rutledge



The Honorable
Carol Vallencourt



Florida's Lieutenant Governor, The Honorable Toni Jennings, was Keynote Speaker during the lunch portion of the State Summit.

Council is represented at State-level summit on attainable housing

On Friday, September 15, 2006, the Florida Chamber Foundation held a state-wide discussion of top policy and agency leaders, economic experts, and housing professionals to help our regions and business leaders engage in tackling Florida's attainable housing crisis. The event was entitled "The Florida Summit of Affordable Living: Attainable Housing."

Council President, Commissioner Karen Stern, who also serves as the Chair of the NEFRC Affordable Workforce Housing Task Force was asked to present a "Regional Report" detailing some of the measures the Council has taken towards addressing the affordable

housing crisis in Northeast Florida. Her presentation included information regarding the Housing Work Force, the recent Regional Cooperation Summit and projected plans for going forward.

The Honorable Toni Jennings, Florida's Lieutenant Governor, provided an engaging keynote speech in which she addressed the "Property Insurance Crisis." Other components to the Summit included Attainable Housing Solutions from Regional Leaders, Economic Trends, Florida's Leadership Associations, Public and Private Partnerships, Elected Officials, and Public Sector Practitioners. The purpose of the Summit was to convene to address the question: "What Must Happen Next for an Affordable Florida?"

For more information, please contact Mario Taylor at (904) 279-0880.



NEFRC President, Commissioner Karen Stern, gave a "Regional Report" sighting some of the Council's activities and efforts as best practices within the State. Moderator Don Upton is pictured at right.

Advocacy Summit on Maternal and Child Health presents strategies for legislation

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition hosted a successful Advocacy Summit on maternal and child health on September 25, 2006 at the FDLE Conference Center, Jacksonville. Sam Bell, Esq., a Pennington Law lobbyist for the Children's Services Councils of Florida, spoke on the political climate in Florida regarding children's health. Melanie Hall, Child Advocacy Manager with St. Joseph's Hospital (Tampa), spoke on effective advocacy strategies. Key community stakeholders attended.

Community stakeholders included leaders from Children's Medical Services, the Duval County Health Department, the Jacksonville Children's Commission, the Early Learning Coalition, St. Vincent's Medical Center, iCARE, Police Athletic League, Nemours, Duval County Public Schools, First Coast Family Center, River Region Human Services, Jacksonville Community Council, Inc., March of Dimes, Planned Parenthood, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Duval County Medical Society, Jacksonville University, University of Florida, Healthy Jacksonville, Shands, Wolfson's Children's Hospital, IM Sulzbacher and the Nonprofit Center. These stakeholders developed position papers on issues and strategies to use as a community portfolio and strategic plan on maternal and child health for the upcoming legislative session.

For more information, contact Katie Wehr at (904) 279-0885 X 128.

Cultural awareness workshop addresses terrorist motives

Emergency Preparedness staff attended the recent Cultural Awareness Workshop hosted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement September 13 - 15, 2006. NEFRC staff has facilitated twelve of the workshops throughout the state.

Special guest speaker at the event was Sam Kharoba, a native Jordanian who authored "A Law Enforcement Guide to Understanding Islamist Terrorism: The Driving Force Behind Terrorist Motivations, the History, Culture and Islam." Kharoba has received an outstanding response and the course has been highly praised and requested.

A variety of law enforcement officials, ranging from Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, FBI, NCIS, FDLE, and other areas of interest attended the workshop and the response has been excellent.

For more information, please contact Jeff Alexander at (904) 279-0885 X 134.

