

NEFRIC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

September 2013

Senator Aaron Bean Visits Northeast Florida Regional Council

Florida Senate District 4 Senator Aaron Bean thanked the Board Members for the opportunity to speak to them and provided an overview of the past Legislative Session. The Senator discussed the creation of The Regional Legislative Delegation and stated that its primary purpose was to have a larger caucus of members that would be able to compete with other large caucuses in achieving our Region's goals. It's ongoing intent is to reach out to representatives and senators in core counties and invite them to join the Delegation. Currently nine counties are members of the Regional Delegation with the mission of coordinating each other's agenda and try to come up with proposals that benefit ALL of Northeast Florida. The Delegation is comprised of 16 members: 5 senators and 11 representatives. For information contact Mario Taylor at: mtaylor@nefrc.org



District 4 Senator Aaron Bean

The Regional Leadership Academy Graduates the Class of 2013



From (L to R) Linda Scaz, Director of Community Engagement, Haven Hospice; Anthony Robbins, Senior Planner, Prosser Hallock, Inc.; Cheryl Lynch, Certified Business Analysts, SBDC at UNF and the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce; Denise Bevan, Senior Environmental Planner, City of Palm Coast; Peter King, Planning Director, Nassau County; Karen Brune Mathis, Managing Editor, Financial News and Daily Record; Thad Crowe, Director of Building and Zoning, City of Palatka; Brad Thoburn, Vice President, Strategic Long Range Planning, Capital Programs & System Development, JTA and Aaron Bowman, Senior Vice President, JaxUSA Partnership. (Graduates not shown) Perry Bechtle, Anesthesiologist, Mayo Clinic; Laura Lane, Vice President and COO, Jacksonville Community Council Inc.; Betsy Santiago, Special Assistant to the Mayor, City of Jacksonville; Nancy Stanton, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP Florida and Carolyn Woods, City Commissioner and Incoming Mayor, City of Atlantic Beach.

The Regional Leadership Academy (RLA), under the direction of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, has graduated seven classes of regional leaders since its inception in 2005, and graduated its eighth at the September 23rd meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Community Institute, Inc. The Academy's mission is to build a strong, diverse regional network of leaders with a shared commitment to collaboration and connecting communities to make Northeast Florida a better place to live and work. The program covers regional history, demographics, growth management, equity,

environment, resources and the full range of issues affecting the Region. Fourteen regional leaders graduated on September 23rd, bringing the total number of graduates of the program up to 186. Here are the names and affiliations of the RLA Class of 2013. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at: elehman@nefrc.org



The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook



Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

The Regional Community Institute Annual Meeting

On September 23rd the Regional Community Institute (RCI) completed its work on sea level rise. Their policy recommendations and recommended action plan will be presented to the NEFRC Board on October 3, 2013. Immediate Past RCI Chair and Board Member Bob Page will address the NEFRC Board on November 7, 2013 on RCI's work and findings related to sea level rise in Northeast Florida. RCI also agreed to begin work on "Thriving Small Business", the policy issue they have been asked to address by NEFRC in 2014.

Also RCI elected new Officers and Board Members. New members elected to the Board of Directors included Sarah Owen-Gledhill (RLA Class of 2010), Nancy Stanton (RLA Class of 2013). Perry Bechtle (RLA Class of 2013), Brad Thoburn (RLA Class of 2013), and Shari Schurr (RLA Class of 2009). The Board also elected Doug Conkey (RLA Class of 2008) to lead the Board as Chair and Mary Alice Phalen (RLA Class of 2008) was elected as Vice-Chair. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at: mmoehring@nefrc.org



*From (L to R and top to bottom)
Doug Conkey (RLA Class of 2008),
Mary Alice Phalen (RLA Class of 2008),
Perry Beehltle (RLA Class of 2013),
Sarah Owen-Gledhill (RLA Class of 2010),
Shari Schurr (RLA Class of 2009),
Nancy Stanton (RLA Class of 2013) and
Brad Thoburn (RLA Class of 2013)*

State of the Region Report Coming Soon

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) will officially release its State of the Region report on December 5th at the 2013 Elected Officials Reception and Awards Ceremony. This event will be held at the Adam Herbert University Center at the University of North Florida. More information on this celebration can be found on the NEFRC's website at www.nefrc.org. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org

Florida Small Business Development Center State Office names Palm Coast Regional Outstanding Resource Partner of the Year

This honor recognizes the City of Palm Coast as the regional partner that made the greatest contribution to advocacy, financial support, partnership building or advising through their support of the Small Business Development Center at the University of Central Florida. The Palm Coast Business Assistance Center serves all of Flagler County and provides free personalized consulting services to help businesses grow. You may reach the Center at 386 986 2499. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org

Did you know

The Region's land area covers a total of 4,428 square miles, with 5.8 percent dedicated to agriculture, 2.1 percent to industry and commercial use, and 14.1 percent urbanized.