



OVERVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE
FLORIDA PLANNING AND ZONING ASSOCIATION

DEVELOPING FLORIDA'S PLANNING PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1951

Parks, Recreation, & Open Space: The OG (Original Green) Infrastructure

By: Jim Barnes, AICP CEP

Today, more than ever, we have the opportunity to positively impact our communities when it comes to sustainability initiatives. Community sustainability is a philosophy and framework for decision-making. The sustainability process involves examination of the links between economic, social and environmental issues as they relate to basic service provision and new initiatives. When considered together, resources can be leveraged and make the solutions more cost effective. Other benefits of considering sustainability from this broader perspective are a healthier community, economy and environment. Local governments, sitting squarely at the intersection of law, policy, economic development, land use decisions, and the public interest, have a unique opportunity to address sustainability.

Many local governments have actively pursued an environmental agenda for years, while others are new to the field, and both face the daunting task of sifting through a recent outpouring of research and technology for items of value to government entities. Not surprisingly, parks recreation professionals are seen as key leaders in helping communities achieve sustainability goals. In fact, we should help drive community efforts because our services touch all aspects of sustainability – environmental, economic, and social.

Long before it became a buzzword, sustainability has been central to the mission of parks and recreation agencies. Whether it is stewarding world class parks, enhancing natural areas, or caring for urban forests, parks and recreation agencies have long been on the forefront of the environmental and conservation movement. In 1905, Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the US Forest Service, spoke about the idea of conservation as providing the greatest good to the greatest number for the longest time. The concept of conservation has continued to evolve over time, and is now echoed within the modern day concept of sustainability. In 1987, the United Nations Brundtland Commission elevated the concept of sustainability into the public dialogue when it issued "Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future," which stated that sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present



"without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The concept of sustainability dramatically influences parks and recreation systems. Recreation centers and park maintenance services require considerable quantities of energy and water resources. In future years many recreation centers will focus budgets on retrofitting, renovation, and new buildings that include sustainable design. Parks systems are going to computerized irrigation systems that control water loss and usage based on weather and evapotranspiration rates. In small communities, the push is often towards efficiency and cost savings, while for larger cities it is not leaving a carbon foot print behind. In most cases both reasons for sustainability efforts are justified when seeking funding.

Today, sustainability is an overarching concept or framework through which one can view the rational, reasonable consumption of the world's resources. Sustainable practices support infrastructure and governance mechanisms that respond to long-term human and ecological needs. Sustainability is generally regarded through three lenses: economy, society and environment. Advocates of sustainability emphasize the importance of establishing linkages among these three dimensions to fully implement sustainable practices.

For parks and recreation agencies, sustainability is, quite literally, the nature of our business. Parks and open space fortify the social,

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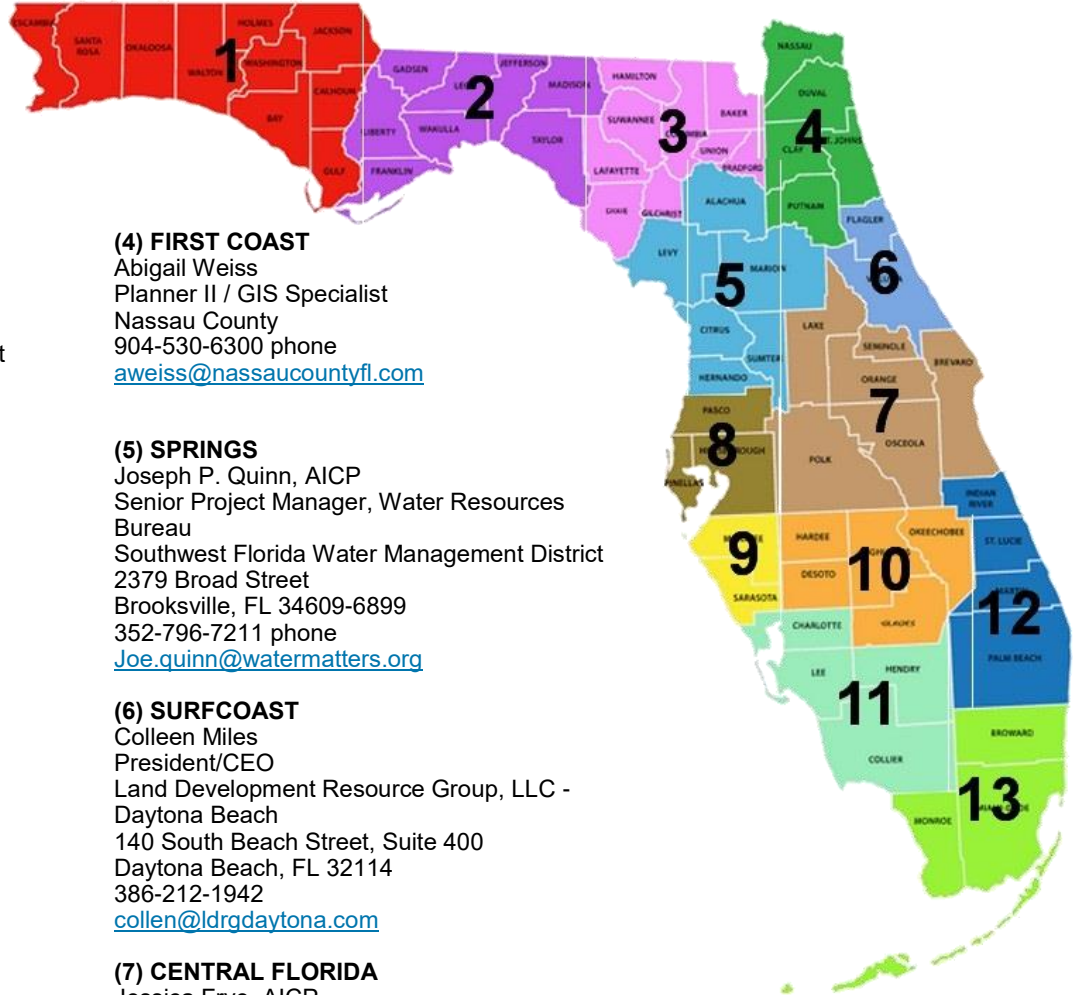
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(13) SOUTH FLORIDA - VACANT

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we head into the homestretch for the month of March, it's hard to believe it's been over a year since COVID-19 became a part of our lives. April is here, and baseball's opening day has finally come. Opening Day is the day on which professional baseball leagues begin their regular season. For Major League Baseball and most of the minor leagues, this day falls during the first week of April. For baseball fans, Opening Day serves as a symbol of rebirth; writer Thomas Boswell once penned a book titled, *Why Time Begins on Opening Day*. Many feel that the occasion represents a newness or a chance to forget last season, in that the major league clubs and their millions of fans begin with 0-0 records. Opening day is the greatest day of the year, from the jets making their annual fly-over to the packed-out stadiums cheering for their home team. Opening day is a day of hope. Every team starts out with a clean slate, and any one of them has a chance to go all the way, or at least we're allowed to believe so. Opening day has its own page in the history books. From Jackie Robinson shattering the color barrier, to Hank Aaron hitting No. 714, this day is like an early holiday for all baseball die-hards. Opening day is one of those rare days of the year where the price of the ballpark hot dog you're eating is just a number and every team in the league sends out the best arm in their arsenal to set the tone for the next 161 games. So in the spirit of opening day symbolizing a new beginning, let's see how we as planners and related professionals can learn from the past year and start anew.

The impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic are still being understood, but it does seem clear that this crisis will make a mark on our communities, physically and socially, that will echo for generations. How we plan our communities has always been a reflection of prevailing cultural and technological trends and even major crises. The cholera epidemics in the 19th century sparked the introduction of modern urban sanitation systems. Housing regulations around light and air were introduced as a measure against respiratory diseases in overcrowded slums in Europe during industrialization. The introduction of railroads had an immense impact on national urban systems, and the mass production of the car has led to cities that spread seamlessly into sprawling suburbs, creating vast city regions. In recent years, digitalization and data have changed the way we navigate cities and how communities mobilize and advocate for change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has already significantly altered our lives. The number of people moving around has dropped to unprecedentedly low levels. Working from home is the new normal – for those who can afford it, and for whom it's even a feasible option to begin with. The fate of millions of small businesses and workers that make urban centers work is up in the air. These changes have sparked a debate about how communities should be built and, perhaps more importantly, how they can better respond to current and future crises.

One of the few places that have seen a surge in traffic during COVID-19 lockdowns (at least as long as they remain open) is our parks. A new approach to planning should bring open spaces, watersheds, forests and parks into the heart of how we think about and plan our

communities. A more holistic approach to planning that combines gray, green and blue infrastructure supports better health, better water management, and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Furthermore, larger open spaces within the urban fabric can help local governments implement emergency services and evacuation protocols.

What happens in our communities does not stay in our communities. The cascading economic effect of this crisis will impact supply and production chains in surrounding regions and ripple out into global networks too, as we have seen. We should learn from this unprecedented disruption to better plan for the next crisis. We need more integrated city-regional planning around economies, energy provision, transport networks and food production so that these networks can become pillars of resilience rather than weak points. Such a planning approach will bring a broader and different set of stakeholders to the table, creating a stronger coalition for change.

As lockdowns stretch on in some places, we are only beginning to understand how COVID-19 will affect how we approach community planning. Planned for properly, density is a good thing for cities, and it will be again. But will we do more to protect the most vulnerable? Will we make our communities more resilient to future crises? Will we make green and blue spaces front and center of our infrastructure investments? And will we seriously address the fact that it's not just physically, but economically, socially, and environmentally that communities are connected to their surrounding regions? We will rebuild our crucial economic and social fabric. It's our decision to rebuild better. Here's to a new season and a restart for opening day – game on!

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Would you like an opportunity to share an opinion, review or analysis of a current planning topic of personal or state interest?

We are looking for contributions for upcoming issues of the Overview. One time or recurring contributors are welcome. Contributions can include, but are not limited to: news articles, press releases, analytic reviews and narratives, legal briefs and reviews. The views expressed in the Overview are those of the Editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Florida Planning & Zoning Association. Articles may be edited to conform to space and/or style requirements, and may be reserved for use in later issues if appropriate.

If you are interested in submitting a contribution, or would like additional information, please contact Branden Roe, the Overview Editor at branden.m.roe@gmail.com.

1ST ANNUAL GULFCOAST STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Adam Johnson of New College Florida for being selected as the 1st Annual FPZA Gulfcoast Scholarship recipient.



Adam is a fourth-year student at New College of Florida earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Political Science. As a sociology and political science student, Johnson says he comes to planning primarily interested in how placemaking can affect our democracy, economy, and climate. This perspective has guided him to pursue a thesis researching design charrettes and to apply to graduate programs in urban planning and policy.

His interest in urban issues started in his first year at New College in an independent study project on homelessness in Sarasota and Manatee County. He says that in this work he was struck by the workings of the housing market, particularly around the question of why we have 'rich' neighborhoods and 'poor' neighborhoods?

In his third year, Johnson would continue the line of thinking he had begun in his first year, and continued working with Professor David Brain, sociologist and Director of New College's urban studies program. This work included another independent study project to look at what issues the public process may bring to developing affordable housing. In the process of analyzing public hearings concerning the proposed Payne Park Village in Sarasota on School Avenue, he came across the charrette for the first time—in this case, performed after a design had already been presented to the Sarasota City Commission.

Adam explains that the positive shift in public opinion following the charrette that he saw in his research would lead him to research the charrette specifically and ultimately helped shaped his senior thesis topic.

Johnson's senior thesis investigates the use of design charrettes in urban planning and their democratic qualities through a case study in Sarasota County. Johnson is also a research assistant, elucidating the key concepts of academic articles for Terra Publica, a database of public space research. Set to graduate in May 2021, he plans to move in the fall to attend graduate school in the Northeast.

Congratulations to Adam on receiving this award, and on his upcoming graduation next month.

THE OG INFRASTRUCTURE

...continued from page 1

economic, and environmental landscape of our communities, contributing to a better quality of life for future generations.

Sustainability provides the lens for addressing many of our agency's most pressing challenges, such as better aligning the design and construction of parks with their long-term maintenance or litter reduction across the park system. Parks have been and will continue to be on the forefront of environmentalism, with innovative approaches for urban forestry and restoration ecology. We are helping to mitigate climate change and adapt to our changing environment by caring for trees on streets and in parks, which reduce air pollutants, provide oxygen and shade, lower ambient temperatures, and store carbon. We are also designing green infrastructure such as green roofs and green streets to absorb storm water and limit storm water overflow into our community's waterways. We are committed to using as little pesticide as possible and are reducing the need for chemical fertilizers by expanding composting operations.

Parks are about more than trees and nature – they are public forums that strengthen the social fabric of our communities. Our residents flock to our parks to engage in sports, fitness, and outdoor recreation; spend time outdoors with friends and family; view public art exhibitions; and enjoy free concerts, world-class sporting events, and cultural festivals every year. Parks also contribute to the economic sustainability of our communities. Attractive parks can serve as economic lynchpins in neighborhoods, drawing visitors, businesses and residents, and boosting property values.

Parks and outdoor recreation lands are the essential green infrastructure of our communities. From the first public commons in colonial American villages to the vast national parks and forests of the American West, our nation's health, wealth and heritage are tied to the acquisition and wise management of parks and public recreation lands and programs. Parks and public recreation lands are carbon reducing landscapes that help clean our air and water, recharge aquifers and reduce storm water runoff. They darken our night skies, quiet our communities and provide vital contact with nature for our mental and physical health. They instill a heightened sense of community by serving people of all income levels, all races, all beliefs and all abilities – parks embrace the very essence of our democracy. Parks make communities livable and desirable and are integral to viable economic development and responsible growth policies.

According to Ed McMahon, the Charles E. Fraser Chair on Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy at the Urban Land Institute and authority on the greening of cities, sustainable development, invariably starts with a green vision. There is a proven relationship, McMahon says, between green space and health, economic development and property values. "If we invest in green infrastructure, we can reduce public costs significantly," he says. "It pays for itself many times over." "In my experience, success always starts with a vision, or a plan for the future," McMahon says. American cities, he says, are learning that the environment is something not to be sidelined. "We have repositioned the idea of open space from something that is 'nice' to something that is fundamental to the way we prosper and develop," he says. "It's a necessity, not an option." The same can be said about sustainability and the greening of our parks, recreation and open spaces.

2021 FPZA CONFERENCE UPDATE



It has been nearly a year since we sadly had to cancel the 2020 FPZA State Conference due to COVID-19. We know it's been a long year with challenges, and that the world is much different than it was just 12 months ago. We were all disappointed we couldn't get together for our conference, and knew that we needed to get back together in some form this year.

We are thankful for all who responded to a survey that was shared with the membership body asking what kind of conference you all wanted to see this year. Respecting the overwhelming majority of those who responded, the FPZA State Board and the FPZA First Coast Chapter are excited to announce that we will be hosting a virtual conference this summer, the theme of this year's conference is 'A Taste of Florida'.

This virtual conference will be a first for our organization, and we are still working out all of the details, but wanted to give you all an update and confirm that **we're back!**

This conference will be structured a little different than normal — but new normal seems to be the theme of 2021 — and will serve as a great first step back to hopefully a more traditional FPZA conference in 2022!

Look out for more information in our next issue of the Overview later this spring; this issue will include information of conference dates and times, how to register and sponsorship opportunities.

We look forward to getting back together again, even if it is virtually.

ABOUT THE OVERVIEW

The Overview is a quarterly newsletter published by the Florida Planning and Zoning Association. The contents of these newsletters include contributions from our members across the state. The issues are issues in the Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall following the quarterly Board of Director's meetings.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Overview offers an opportunity for contributions from our members to share an opinion, review or analysis of a current planning topic of personal or state interest.

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The views expressed in the Overview are those of the Editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Florida Planning & Zoning Association. Articles may be edited to conform to space and/or style requirements, and may be reserved for use in later issues if appropriate.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

BUSINESS CARD AD:

4 issues \$100, or \$50/issue
Maximum Ad dimensions: 2" x 3.5"

QUARTER-PAGE AD:

4 issues \$150, or \$75/issue
Maximum Ad dimensions: 4.6" x 3.75" or 2.3" x 7.25"

HALF-PAGE AD:

4 issues \$250, or \$125/issue
Maximum Ad dimensions: 9.2" x 3.75" or 4.6" x 7.5"

FULL-PAGE AD:

4 issues \$500, or \$250/issue
Maximum Ad dimensions: 9.2" x 7.5"

DEADLINES FOR ADS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution and advertisement deadlines are generally two weeks after the scheduled quarterly Board of Directors meeting. For specific deadlines please coordinate with the Overview Editor.

If you are interested in submitting a contribution, or would like additional information, please contact Branden Roe, the Overview Editor at branden.m.roe@gmail.com.



FPZA Spring Regional Forum

A walk through the Robinson Preserve Expansion

Regional Forum

Address: 10299 9th Avenue NW Bradenton, 34209

Date & Time: April 16, 2021 1pm-3pm

Speakers and Tour Guides

Charlie Hunsicker, Director, Parks and Natural Resources, Manatee County
Damon Moore, Division Manager, Ecological and Marine Resources, Manatee County

FPZA will also be hosting a happy hour at Floridays Woodfire Bar & Grill after the walking tour.

Floridays address: 12332 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34209

Board of Directors Meeting

Virtual through Zoom

Date & Time: April 17, 2021 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon

Please e-mail reservation information to gulfcoastfpza@gmail.com and reference "Spring Regional Forum."

Please note, CDC Guidelines for COVID-19 will be followed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES IN PERSON & VIA TELECONFERENCE JANUARY 30, 2021

President Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

The following were present:

JIM BARNES – SOUTH FLORIDA (PHONE)
JOE QUINN – SPRINGS (PHONE)
DAN SMITH – CALUSA (PHONE) (JOINED 9:28AM)
JEREMIE CHASTAIN – CALUSA
SARAH KISNER – CALUSA
BRANDEN ROE (PHONE)
SAM CAMP – CENTRAL FLORIDA (PHONE)
COLLEEN MILES – SURFCOAST
PAUL WIECZOREK – SPRINGS (PHONE)
PAULA McMICHAEL – CALUSA
DEBI LACROIX – SURFCOAST

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was determined. President Barnes welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating in today's meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Miles asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the October 24, 2020 meeting that had been distributed, as well as the November 13, 2020 monthly meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Wieczorek and seconded by Mr. Roe to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Barnes briefly touched on the Strategic Planning & Goals for 2020-2021. He stated that he confirmed that David Barth was willing to assist but had no update at this time. Regarding the Membership and Membership Report, he stated he was hoping to have the process streamlined by using social media. President Barnes did say he did not have any new information as to the social media campaign. Regarding the website, President Barnes said that Mr. Roe's contact had been very direct as to the lack of content on our page. They were unable to provide a complete review as the website was so outdated. President Barnes asked for a not-to-exceed vote for \$5,000 to update the website. Ms. McMichael suggested we secure several bids from companies in order to get a better idea as to the cost and scope. The Board concurred. The item was to be reported on at the February meeting.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

Mr. Quinn informed the Board that the credits were posted for the Regional Forum held the previous day. He said that APA was adding two new mandatory categories in addition to the Ethics & Law CM requirements; these include the "Equity" and

"Sustainability and Resilience" categories. President Barnes suggested a February webinar to review these new categories. Ms. Kisner suggested that a place be provided on the updated website to propose ideas for speakers or webinars.

VP MEMBERSHIP SERVICES REPORT

President Barnes reported that Ms. Sinatra-Gould had started in a new job out-of-state. He said that he hoped she might be able to continue in her position until the end of her term. Ms. McMichael informed the Board that the information as to who would sit on the Board would need to be provided at the next quarterly meeting. She said at that time the Board would need two (2) more people.

VP FINANCIAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Mr. Smith stated that he had nothing to report. President Barnes said he would coordinate to review the annual financials that he would provide to Mr. Smith.

STUDENT OUTREACH

Mr. Camp reported that coordination with University Chapter contacts needed to be kept up to date in order to provide to the students. He also said that the Conference invites for the students needed to go out shortly as the semesters were cutting out early and the students needed to secure recommendation letters. President Barnes provided Steven Bourassa, FAU's URP Chair, would act as the academic liaison for South Florida.

STATE CONFERENCE

Mr. Barnes said that Ms. Weiss and Ms. Souto were moving forward with the 2021 Conference possibly for June 9-11, 2021. Mr. Roe said perhaps a hybrid Conference be held. Ms. McMichael said that hybrids were very difficult to pull off. Mr. Roe suggested a brief survey be sent to the membership as to their willingness to attend virtually or in person. Mr. Roe said he would take the lead and provide the results to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

President Barnes said he would reach out to the former Presidents of the Board in order for them to conduct the Administrator's review.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Miles said that she would submit the Surfcoast Chapter's draft bylaws revisions for the Board to vote on at the next quarterly meeting.

OVERVIEW

Mr. Roe hoped to send out the next edition of the Overview mid-February. It would be the Winter Issue. Included would be a Save the Date for the Conference, Registration Form, Call for Sponsors, Call for Entries, President's Letter, Regional Forum write-up, Member Spotlight, Award Winners from the Gala as well as a cover story and January meeting minutes. The deadline would be February 12, 2021. Mr. Roe also suggested the formation of the awards committee as time was running short.

CHAPTER REPORTS

- **Surfcoast** - The Chapter had hosted the State Awards at their Annual Gala which was held on December 11, 2020.
- **Calusa** – The Chapter hosted the Regional Forum the previous day. They were also overhauling their website. Two webinars were planned, Equity & Inclusion and Becoming an Effective Public Board Member. They hoped to have webinars every 2-3 months.
- **Gulfstream / South Florida** – The newly combined Chapter has officially transferred the bank account.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

Spring – Gulfcoast – Regional Forum (mid-April)
Summer – First Coast – State Conference (June - St. Augustine)

ADJOURN – With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 AM.

MEMBERSHIP IN FPZA LOCAL CHAPTERS

DUES

TO JOIN THE FLORIDA PLANNING AND ZONING ASSOCIATION, IDENTIFY A CHAPTER CONTAINING YOUR LOCATION ON THE LIST AT LEFT. REFER TO THE CURRENT LIST OF CHAPTER DUES BELOW TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE DUES AMOUNT. THESE AMOUNTS INCLUDE BOTH STATE AND LOCAL DUES.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chapter	State Dues	Local Chapter Dues	Total Dues
Apalachee	\$50	\$10	\$60
Calusa	\$50	\$20	\$70
Central Florida	\$50	\$20	\$70
First Coast	\$50	\$35	\$85
Gulfcoast	\$50	\$15	\$65
Gulfstream	\$50	\$15	\$65
Heartland	\$50	\$10	\$60
Northwest	\$50	\$10	\$60
South Florida	\$50	\$10	\$60
Springs	\$50	\$10	\$60
Suncoast	\$50	\$20	\$70
Surfcoast	\$50	\$25	\$75
Suwannee	\$50	\$10	\$60

GROUP MEMBERSHIP (MINIMUM FOUR INDIVIDUALS)

Chapter	State Dues per Person	Local Chapter Dues per Person	Total Dues per Person
Apalachee	\$40	\$8.00	\$48.00
Calusa	\$40	\$15.00	\$55.00
Central Florida	\$40	\$20.00	\$60.00
First Coast	\$40	\$23.00	\$63.00
Gulfcoast	\$40	\$12.00	\$52.00
Gulfstream	\$40	\$15.00	\$55.00
Heartland	\$40	\$7.00	\$47.00
Northwest	\$40	\$7.00	\$47.00
South Florida	\$40	\$7.00	\$47.00
Springs	\$40	\$8.00	\$48.00
Suncoast	\$40	\$13.00	\$53.00
Surfcoast	\$40	\$23.00	\$63.00
Suwannee	\$40	\$7.00	\$47.00

- ♦ To find out the chapter you will belong to, visit the [FPZA website](#).
- ♦ Return your application form with payment to:

FPZA
Post Office Box 1443
Titusville, Florida 32781
- ♦ For questions call (407) 508-7974 or email fpza@bellsouth.net

A NOTE ABOUT AGENCY DUES:

The minimum number of individuals for a group is now four, but there is no longer a maximum number; you may add an unlimited number of additional people to your overall group. You now also have the option to pay a group rate for a combined group with members of different local chapters or for combinations of professional staff and board/commission members, rather than the previously separate categories.

Type of Membership Applying For: Individual Agency (minimum four reps) Student (copy of i.d. required)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Company: _____ FPZA Chapter: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

If Agency, list additional names and email addresses below (minimum four per agency):

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____