TO: Executive Committee, Florida Chapter APWA
FROM: Thomas M. Wilcox, P.E., District VIII Representative
SUBJECT: District VIII Quarterly Activities Report
DATE: August 20, 2011

Open Invitation!
The Suncoast Branch held monthly breakfast meetings during the past quarter. At each meeting a program of timely topics of interest to the public works community was featured. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dutch Heritage Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, starting at 7:30 AM. Attendance ranged between 30 to 40 members and guests. As always we extend an invitation to any member outside our district to join us!!!

Breakfast Meeting Programs:
The regular April meeting was held on April 27, 2011 with 39 present. Mathew Mele was awarded a scholarship in the amount of $720.82. Mele is attending the Wastewater Treatment Technical Course at SPWA. Our guest speaker was Barry McKeon, Technical Manager, Hubbard Construction Company, who spoke on best practices for full-depth recycling (FDR) and roadway reclaiming and recycling quality control.

The regular May meeting was held on May 25, 2011 with 38 present including 4 guests. In lieu of a guest speaker Chairman Sharek lead an open discussion about the cancellation of the Public Works Week BBQ Luncheon due to media coverage of unethical purchasing practices in Sarasota County Government and the negative effect it was having on local government employees. A dilemma we are having is with the perception that awarding a scholarship to someone employed by a local government could be construed as a “bribe”. Local government employees are becoming afraid to participate in golf tournaments and other events where they may be seen socializing with consultants and vendors and risk the perception of getting too cozy. Less participation may lead to less sponsorships and less revenue for our scholarship program. Even attending the annual Public Works Week BBQ Luncheon was striking fear in the local government employees. A lively discussion took place with the appointment of a Media Relations Committee with the assignment to see what others are doing about this situation. Consideration of starting a “Become a Friend of the Suncoast Branch” modeled after the Big Bend Branch is being discussed. This might make it more acceptable for local government employees to participate since the direct connection between sponsorships and guests would be gone.

The regularly scheduled June meeting was held on June 22, 2011 with 30 in attendance. Our guest speakers were Gregg Hostetler, President, and Kenneth E. Atkins, Chief Executive Officer (both founding partners) of Strategic Solutions Partners, LLC. Their presentation was on “The Value of CM@Risk as a Tool for Infrastructure Project Delivery.”

The regularly scheduled July meeting was held on July 27, 2011 with 32 in attendance. Our guest speakers were Thomas Hill and Robert Burr from Prince Contracting. They spoke about their award winning US 301 project in Sarasota. It won the 2011 Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA) Best in Construction Award for “utility coordination / damage prevention”. They shared...
some of the challenges and solutions used to bring this project in ahead of schedule. Carolyn Eastwood was awarded a scholarship (her last) in the amount of $595.94.

**Annual Suncoast Branch Golf Tournament:**
The APWA Suncoast Branch Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for November 12th, 2011 at Pelican Pointe Golf and Country Club.

**Scholarship Awards:**
Scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>James Hitzman</td>
<td>SCTI</td>
<td>$670.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kevin Doorman</td>
<td>SCTI</td>
<td>$720.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bret Moreau</td>
<td>UCF</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Richard Steranko</td>
<td>UF</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Matthew Mele</td>
<td>SCTI</td>
<td>$720.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Carolyn Eastwood</td>
<td>UF</td>
<td>$595.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2011Total to Date $4,707.58

In addition to the above awards, the Suncoast Branch donated $2,000 to the Florida Chapter of APWA for their scholarship awards at the 2011 Annual Meeting and Trade Show.

**Outreach:**
Our Branch Chairman, Chris Sharek, taught a Project Management class on May 26 and 27, 2011 at the Sarasota Public Works Academy/SCTI. This class was approved by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers for PDHs. CEUs have also been approved for Treatment Plant Operators and Distribution Operators.
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