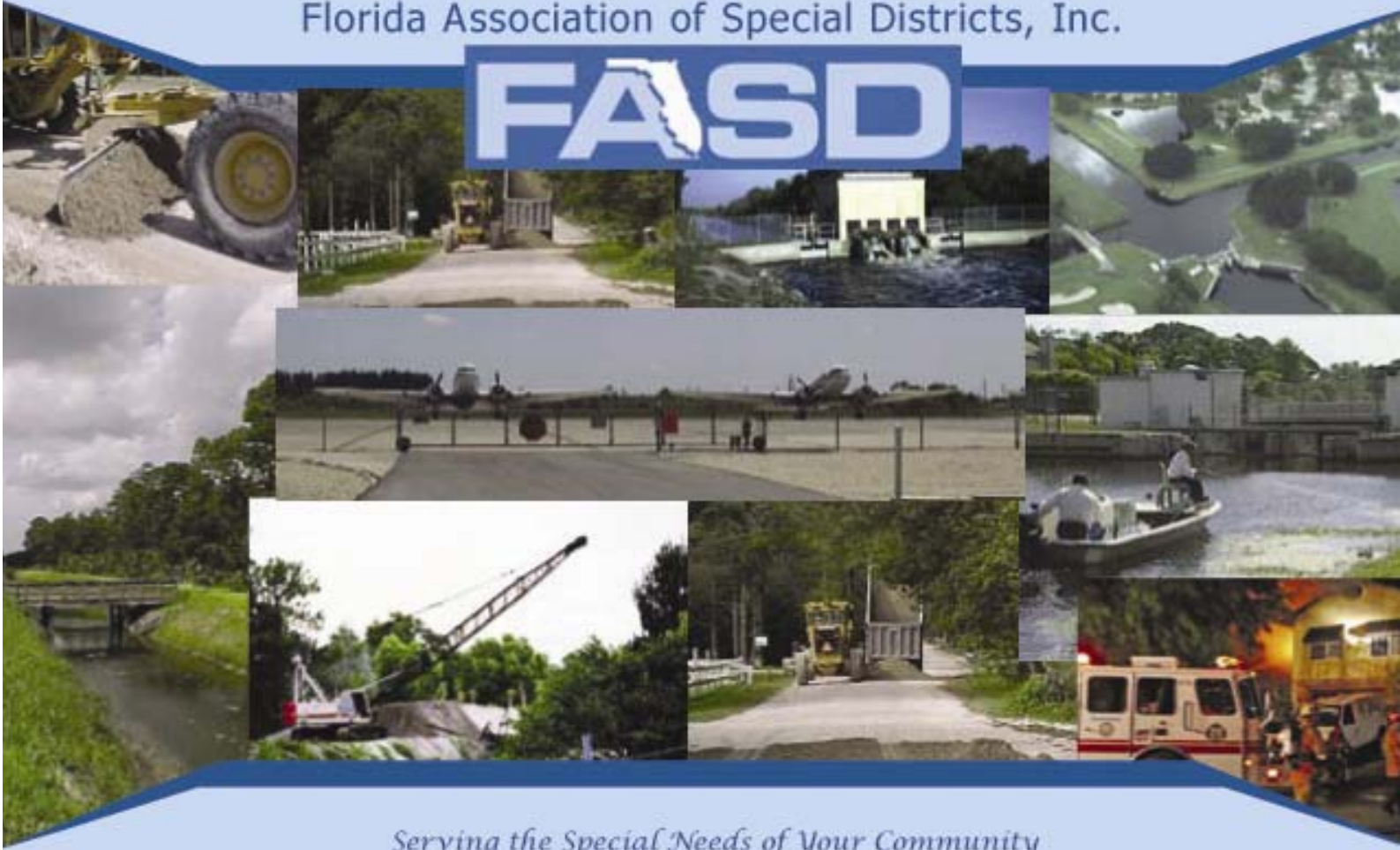


Florida Association of Special Districts, Inc.



Serving the Special Needs of Your Community

2008-2009

***Florida Association
of Special Districts***

Membership Guide



FASD HISTORY

The Florida Association of Special Districts was originally organized as the Association of Water Management Districts in August, 1976, out of concerns that the existence of special districts was in jeopardy. AWMD reincorporated as the Association of Special Districts, Inc. in November, 1979, and in 1992, ASD was reincorporated to the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) to incorporate all special districts in the state of Florida. The primary focus of FASD is to ensure the existence of all types of special districts is secure.

The Department of Community Affairs has partnered with the FASD to provide these educational opportunities to meet the requirements of Chapter 189, FS. This is accomplished by providing three membership meetings, a Legislative Forum in Tallahassee during the Legislative Session and an Annual Conference. FASD has created a Certified District Manager (CDM) Program that certifies the experience and education level of Special District Managers. In addition, FASD produces a newsletter and maintains a web site at www.fasd.com to provide ongoing communication and news to both members and nonmembers.

Governed by over 30 Statutes, special districts are constantly affected by legislative actions. FASD has a strong presence in the Legislative process and is devoted to represent the special districts of Florida to insure their integrity and future. Our lobbyists track between 70-90 Legislative Bills each year for the FASD along with creating and finding sponsors for bills the FASD wants to submit.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ASSOCIATED

The Physics of Politics is quite simple: For every action in one direction there is an equal and opposite reaction in the other direction. This "law" holds up well in politics if there are roughly equal forces on both sides, but when the forces on one side are significantly smaller or splintered, then the "law" in the political arena breaks down. It is for this very reason that professional associations are needed and successful.

Certainly in these times of economic and political stress and strain, there must be organized, wide-scale efforts to communicate needs and concerns to those who hold the purse strings and who write enabling and disabling legislation. The professional organization, acting as a broker of interests between practitioner and politician, is ideally suited to that kind of task. While taking its case to the State capitol is a major portion of an association's time and energy, there are other functions that are essential if an organization is to have the kind of spirit and enthusiasm needed to advance its cause. One of the most essential is tied to the word association itself.

There must be association of those involved. There must be communication among members, facilitated by association staff. What members want most is information and education that can help them in decision making; and secondly, opportunity to participate in ways in which they can share ideas with peers, debate issues, and set forth their claims and concerns. The Florida Association of Special Districts is ideally positioned to be our facilitator, educator, and broker of interests.

There is another "law" of Politics: the Thermodynamics of Politics. In spite of this "law's" rather high sounding name, it's really not complicated. Imagine a tire on your vehicle filled with air - the air holds together and is highly effective at keeping your vehicle on the road because it is "associated" inside the tire. Puncture the tire and the "law" says the escaping now "unassociated" air becomes more and more diffused - and of course, the tire goes flat!. In the current political and economic climate, to remain an unassociated special district is to risk that district's energy and activity on a statewide basis being diffused and ineffectual and downright flat.

Monica Andersen, CDM

Assistant District Manager, Sumter Landing Community Development District



PROGRAMS

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: The Association serves as the Department of Community Affairs' primary education and training arm to satisfy the educational requirements of Ch. 189, FS. The purpose of the education program is to ensure that elected boards and district managers comply with the Florida Statutes governing special districts. Core subjects for elected officials and staff are presented at the Annual Conference in June and at the more informal member meetings held around the state. The Association created the Certified District Manager (CDM) Program in 2004. This Program not only recognizes the professional and educational accomplishments of district managers of special districts, but promotes professionalism among the members of this profession.

LEGISLATIVE: The Association conducts an active legislative program using the services of Lewis, Longman & Walker, PA, as lobbyist for the Association before the Florida Legislature. Lewis Longman & Walker, PA is the leading authority in Florida on special districts. A specific agenda of legislative issues is developed through a series of membership meetings and communicated to the lobbyist as the Legislative Agenda of the Association. The Association sponsors the Legislative Forum to bring members to Tallahassee to participate in the legislative process. Members are briefed about issues of concern and provided the opportunity to go the Capitol and meet with Legislators. During the Legislative Session, the Association hosts a reception to honor the members of the Legislature and give the Association members an opportunity to discuss their specific issues in a more relaxed atmosphere.

INFORMATION: The Association hosts membership meetings at different locations around the state. A program of interest is conducted followed by a luncheon where members can network and discuss common interests. Newsletters are published three times a year to share information among members and to keep members informed. The Association annually publishes a Directory of Members, which is available on line at www.fasd.com in the Members Only Section. The Association maintains an active Internet website at www.fasd.com, which includes the members' only section.

BENEFITS

STRENGTH: The primary benefit of any association is strength in numbers. A voice of many is always stronger than a voice of one. FASD prides itself in its openness among its members not only on a professional level but on a personal level. This translates to an atmosphere of communication and support not only for the district as a member but also for each individual under that membership.

LOBBYING: The most crucial benefit would be the lobbying efforts of Lewis, Longman & Walker. Over the years they have covered legislation that ranged from state employee benefits and insurance issues to the total abolishment of special districts. Terry Lewis is the Association's lead lobbyist and has been with it since its creation. He understands the needs of special districts and has the historical knowledge to not only create beneficial legislation but to also identify damaging agendas and amendments that could undermine the mission of special districts. Lewis, Longman & Walker tracked over 50 bills in the House and Senate this year. This benefit is graciously provided by the Association for all special districts in Florida since legislators do not differentiate between member and nonmember districts when passing legislation. Joining the Association will help minimize the cost of these lobbying efforts and will provide a better opportunity to ensure your district's interests are followed throughout the legislative process.

KNOWLEDGE: Networking with people of similar responsibilities and concerns is an integral part of any association. Most crises confronting special districts have already been dealt with, in some fashion, by another district. The association has several very active members who have been involved in special district management for decades and collectively have a historical knowledge base that cannot be matched outside of the association. All of the association functions are centered on education for the members and networking with these members to provide opportunities to solve individual issues.

PURCHASING: The Association also has an associate member level to include companies that provide equipment and services to special districts. Representatives from these companies are at our meetings throughout the year to provide one-on-one opportunities to explain their services and prices, helping to eliminate hours of research by district staff when looking for a particular service or item. Additionally, member districts often exchange bid documents or "piggy-back" other bids with other members saving valuable resources while complying with governmental procurement procedures.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Positive public perception and knowledge of special districts is crucial to their existence. The Association provides information to the media, local and state government entities, legislators and the general public that promotes special districts in a positive manner. If a district has an issue to deal with, it can gain immediate support from the Association, lending credibility to its cause. Through its web site, lobbying efforts, newsletters and phone contact from its office in Tallahassee, the Association has the ability to tackle any issue before it becomes a threat to special districts as a whole.

SAVINGS: Membership also provides savings in registration fees for member meetings, the Legislative Forum, the Annual Conference and the CDM Program. We are in the process of developing member discounts from associate members to benefit and promote business opportunities between district members and associate members. One such program is with the Fifth Third Bank and their MasterCard Purchasing Card Program. This program was developed specifically for FASD members and benefits both the member and the association.

EDUCATION: To meet the requirements of Ch. 189, FS, the Association provides educational opportunities at all of their member meetings, the Legislative Forum and the Annual Conference. Member meetings are conducted around the state to give member districts the opportunity to send several of their board members and staff without incurring excessive travel expenses. Associates from law firms, CPA firms, and government agencies are brought in to give presentations on procedures, requirements and best methods that affect all special districts, regardless of their service. The Certified District Manager's (CDM) Program was created by the Association to provide an accredited certification program to promote the accomplishments of certified district managers and promote professionalism within their ranks. The program is designed to recognize excellence in management of Special Districts through educational and practical experience of the Certified District Managers. Through

verification of educational and employment history, and through a program in partnership with FSU candidates receive a designation of excellence in management. The Certified District Manager Program Description and Candidate Application are available on-line. Anyone who wants to attend the CDM class and/or sit for the 2007 exam must submit the application to the Steering Committee Chair.

[Complete applications go to:](#)

Mary Hickey

Steering Committee Chair

See www.fasd.com for additional CDM information

CAMARADERIE: The Association prides itself in providing an atmosphere that promotes friendship and conversation on a professional and personal level. Several lasting friendships have been created through the Association that extend beyond the hours of a meeting or a conference. The Association tries to keep the member meetings casual by including a relaxed luncheon that promotes conversation beyond the realm of special districts. Several meetings have a golf outing tied to it that allows another avenue for members to exchange ideas and experiences they face in their districts and to get acquainted with their associates on a personal level.



2008-2009 ASSOCIATION DUES

All Special Districts (Except Fire Control and Hospital Districts)

Operating Budget	Regular	1st Year Renewal* Member 2007-2008	New Member** 2006-2007
<i>less than \$100,000</i>	\$500	\$375	\$250
<i>over \$100,000 but less than \$250,000</i>	\$750	\$565	\$375
<i>over \$250,000 but less than \$500,000</i>	\$1,000	\$750	\$500
<i>over \$500,000 but less than \$750,000</i>	\$1,500	\$1,125	\$750
<i>over \$750,000 but less than \$1,000,000</i>	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000
<i>over \$1,000,000 but less than \$1,500,000</i>	\$2,500	\$1,875	\$1,250
<i>over \$1,500,00 but less than \$2,000,000</i>	\$3,000	\$2,250	\$1,500
<i>over \$2,000,000 but less than \$2,500,000</i>	\$3,500	\$2,625	\$1,750
<i>over \$2,500,000</i>	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$2,000

*1st Year Renewal 2008-2009 Dues = Members who joined between Oct. 1, 2007 - Sept. 30, 2008

**New Member 2008-2009 Dues = Members who join after Oct. 1, 2008. New Member Dues are applicable to Special Districts only

2008-2009 ASSOCIATION DUES for FIRE CONTROL and HOSPITAL DISTRICTS

Fire Control and Hospital Districts

Taxable income times .0005

Maximum of \$4,000

Hospital District Minimum: \$250

Fire Control District Minimum \$250

Dues New Members = 50% of taxable income times .0005

Dues 1st Year Renewal = 75% of taxable income times .0005

2008-2009 ASSOCIATION DUES for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

Community Development Districts

If the Operating Budget is less than or equal to \$100,000, the Annual Dues are \$200.00

All other CDD's with an Operating Budget greater than \$100,000.00, follow the chart above.

Note: 2008-2009 Dues New Members: Members who join after Oct. 1, 2008

Note: 2008-2009 Dues 1st Year Renewal: Members who have been members prior to Oct. 1, 2008, but joined after October 1, 2007

New Member Dues are applicable to Special Districts only.



2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION-SPECIAL DISTRICTS

DISTRICT:		DATE:	
*CONTACT:		TITLE:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PLEASE CHECK IF ELECTED OFFICIAL:		YES	NO
STREET ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
COUNTY:	PHONE:	FAX:	
EMAIL:		WEBSITE:	
DISTRICT NAME:			
BOARD CHAIRMAN:		DATE:	
STREET ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
COUNTY:	PHONE:	FAX:	
EMAIL:		WEBSITE:	

*In accordance with Article III Section 1.A. ...The Chief Executive Officer shall serve as FASD Member, unless the governing body of a special district designates a person other than the Chief Executive Officer to be the FASD Member.

BOARD CHAIRMAN: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

EMAIL: _____

I want to receive association communication by E-mail US Mail Both

MY PRIMARY SUPPLIERS/VENDORS/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FIRMS ARE:

ARE YOUR PRIMARY SUPPLIERS/VENDORS/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FIRMS MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION?

Yes _____ No _____

FASD PROGRAMS OR SERVICES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE DISTRICT:

TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET: \$	TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET: \$
TAXABLE INCOME: \$	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:
ACRES/SQUARE MILES IN DISTRICT:	
APPRAISED VALUE OF PROPERTY IN DISTRICT \$	

ADDITIONAL MAILING LIST:

1. NAME: _____

TITLE: _____ ELECTED OFFICIAL: ___ Yes ___ No

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

I want to receive association communication by ___ E-mail ___ US Mail ___ Both



DUES SCHEDULE FOR 2008-2009 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Level

Benefits

Supporter-\$500

- Company logo with link on FASD web site
- Newsletters, and all mailings of legislative and agency updates
- Eligible for Board of Directors
- Invited to Board Meetings
- Attendance at membership meetings

Benefactor-\$1,000

- Quarter page advertisement in Newsletter for 1 year
- Company logo with link on FASD Web Site
- Company profile on FASD web site
- Newsletters, and all mailings of legislative and agency updates.
- Eligible for Board of Directors
- Invited to Board Meetings
- Attendance at membership meetings

Premier -\$5,000

- Listed as Silver Sponsor at Annual Conference and Legislative Forum (includes all sponsorship benefits)
- Listed as co-sponsor for one food function at Annual Conference
- Invitation for 1 at the President's Luncheon at the Annual Conference
- Company logo with link on FASD Web Site
- Company profile on FASD web site
- Special designation on FASD web site
- Newsletters, and all mailings of legislative and agency updates
- Quarter page advertisement in Newsletter for 1 year
- 1 article in Newsletter (not an infomercial)
- Eligible for Board of Directors
- Invited to Board Meetings
- 2 Free registrations at all membership meetings
- Special plaque designating level of membership and years at that level

Level

Benefits

President's Level - \$10,000

- Listed as Gold Sponsor at Annual Conference and Legislative Forum (includes all sponsorship benefits)
- Listed as co-sponsor for one food function at Annual Conference
- Company logo with link on FASD Web Site
- Company profile on FASD web site
- Special designation on FASD web site
- Newsletters, and all mailings of legislative and agency updates
- 1 article in Newsletter (not an infomercial)
- Half page advertisement in Newsletter for 1 year
- Eligible for Board of Directors
- Invited to Board Meetings
- 4 Free registrations at all membership meetings
- 1 speaking engagement (not infomercial) at a member meeting
- Special plaque designating level of membership and years at that level
- Invitation for 2 at the President's Luncheon at the Annual Conference

Corporate Sponsor - \$25,000

- Listed as Platinum Sponsor at Annual Conference and Legislative Forum (includes all sponsorship benefits)
- Listed as sole sponsor for one food function at Annual Conference
- 1 speaking engagement (not an infomercial) at the Annual Conference
- Invitation for 2 at the President's Luncheon at the Annual Conference
- Company logo with link on FASD Web Site
- Company profile on FASD web site
- Special designation on FASD web site
- Newsletters, and all mailings of legislative and agency updates
- 1 article in Newsletter (not an infomercial)
- Full page advertisement in Newsletter for 1 year
- Eligible for Board of Directors
- Invited to Board Meetings
- 4 Free registrations at all membership meetings
- Special plaque designating level of membership and years at that level

