

# FLORIDA BEACON

## From the President's Desk Kristin Bennett

As I began to type this message, I had recently returned from attending the Florida Local Environmental Resources Agencies, Inc. (FLERA) annual conference (Orlando, October 24-26, 2012). This was the first in what I hope is many outreach efforts between FLERA and FAEP. In this newsletter, you will see the first of a series of guest articles by Jeff Halsey, 2013 President of FLERA. Jeff first approached me in early 2012 to discuss the possibility of forming a strategic alliance between FLERA and FAEP given that the organizations and members had similar goals and interests.

FLERA Services and activities include:

- Educational meetings to provide training on current issues;
- Annual conference providing practical training, technical presentations and current information on environmental issues;
- Electronic newsletter on issues of concern to local environmental programs and professionals; and
- Networking with federal, state and local environmental professionals involved with similar activities and concerns.

Sound familiar? In the FLERA President's message, Jeff makes an interesting distinction between the two organizations: "While FAEP is focused on the environmental professional, FLERA's focus tends more toward those organizations that typically employ the environmental professional." The common denominator is "the environmental professional." When asked how many of the FLERA meeting attendees were FAEP members, more than two-thirds of the room raised their hands. Clearly the members see the tie-in between FLERA and FAEP. I look forward to the mutually beneficial relationship between the FAEP and FLERA as the members of the organizations have complimentary interests, goals and purposes.

### Training

On a related note, I received an email from a member who suggested: "to use more internal resources from the existing membership to provide training to its members. Many of us are strapped for funding to do any training. In Florida, many of our benefits for any training have been completely removed or are virtually non-existence and the costs of maintaining certifications are on our own dime. I believe there is sufficient expertise within our own membership to provide this training either free or at an extremely low cost. This was successfully accomplished by the Treasure Coast Chapter in September 2011 as an Annual Conference entitled "Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Economy."

Continued on page 2

## Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

Winter 2013



### FAEP 2012-2013

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Did you know that together we can achieve more?  
If every FAEP member introduced the benefits and services of our association to a co-worker, colleague, friend or associate, we would double the resources available to meet the needs of **YOU**, our member.

Not only financial resources, but human resources, our most important ones. We have many committee openings available so that **YOU** can become more involved in our exciting and growing organization!

## President's Message Continued...

Your FAEP Board of Directors and your local chapter boards have and will continue to offer low-cost local training opportunities to our members. At the beginning of each month, FAEP members receive a calendar of events highlighting the monthly schedule of local chapter events. As an FAEP member, you are invited to participate in any and all local chapter events. This includes luncheons, training sessions and networking events. Take advantage of your FAEP membership by participating in the many offerings throughout the state.

Cut-backs in travel and training are applicable to both the public and private sector. To fill that void and to provide additional FAEP membership benefits, the FAEP is pursuing authorization to offer continuing education credits for several different professions including Certified Environmental Professionals, Professional Wetland Scientists, architects, engineers and attorneys. If you have a certification or license that requires continuing education, please let me or your local board representative know. The FAEP and the local chapters want to provide the FAEP members local, low cost training that meets your needs.

### **National Association of Environmental Professionals 2014 Annual Conference**

The Tampa Bay Chapter and the FAEP are hosting the NAEP 2014 Annual Conference in St. Petersburg in April 2014. We will soon unveil the 2014 logo and other meeting information along with opportunities for you to become involved. We will have sponsor and exhibit information along with a call for papers. We will be offering a combined sponsorship opportunity that will allow you to sponsor both the 2013 FAEP annual conference and the 2014 NAEP annual conference. Keep your eye on the FAEP webpage for more information about this exciting opportunity.

### **Thank you**

I want to recognize and thank all of the FAEP Board members and the local chapter board members who made 2012 not only successful but fun! Without their dedication and commitment to both the local chapter and the FAEP the growth and continued success of the FAEP would not have been possible. Serving on the board of a professional association offers many benefits and opportunities but it is a time consuming volunteer commitment that must be balanced with our other professional responsibilities. Please take the time to thank your board members for their efforts.

Thank also the sponsors who support the meetings. The FAEP and local chapters strive to provide cost efficient opportunities and the support of our sponsors helps this goal become a reality. If you are interested in sponsoring a local chapter event, the webpage or newsletter, the FAEP 2013 Annual Conference (hosted by the Central Florida Chapter) and/or the National Association of Environmental Professionals 2014 Annual Conference being hosted by the Tampa Bay Chapter and the FAEP, please contact me for additional information.

Additional great news is that Paul Looney (NAEP President), Brock Hoegh (NAEP Student Chapter chair) and myself recently participated in the execution of the University of South Florida-Tampa TBAEP Student Chapter Affiliation agreement with NAEP, which formally recognizes the student chapter as an NAEP chapter (see photo).

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the FAEP members. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your president. I have had the opportunity to meet some great people and I look forward to continuing the adventure in 2013.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Bennett  
FAEP President



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## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
33rd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology & Conservation	Feb. 2 – 8, 2013	Baltimore, Maryland
EPCRA How-to-comply/E-Plan Training Workshops	Feb 4 & 5, 2013	Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
West Palm Beach Sustainability Summit 2013	Feb. 23 - 24, 2013	West Palm Beach, Florida
Florida Marine Science Educators Association 2013 Annual Conference	Mar. 2 – 5, 2013	Ft. Pierce, Florida
National Wildlife Rehabilitators Assoc. 2013 Symposium	Mar. 5 – 9, 2013	Portland, Oregon
National Association of Environmental Professionals Conference	April 1 - 5, 2013	Los Angeles, California
Florida Water Resource Conference	April 28 - 30, 2013	Orlando, Florida
National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference	May 7 –10, 2012	New Orleans, Louisiana
USEPA National Brownfield Conference	May 15 - 18, 2013	Atlanta, Georgia
Florida Native Plant Society	May 16 – 19, 2013	Jacksonville, Florida
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts Spring Meeting	May 22 - 24, 2013	Clearwater, Florida
FAWQC Conference	June 12—14, 2013	Naples, Florida
Florida Bar Environmental Land Use Conference	Aug. 8—10, 2013	Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
The Wildlife Society Annual Conference	Oct. 4 – 9, 2013	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Florida Brownfields Association Conference	Oct. 27-30, 2013	Palm Beach, Florida
Florida Redevelopment Conference	Oct. 30—Nov. 1, 2013	Tampa, Florida

FAEP shares information about conferences pertaining to the environmental professions. The FAEP does not endorse any of the referenced conferences.

### Southwest Florida Brownfield Symposium

**March 1, 2013**

**Joseph P. D'Alessandro Building  
2295 Victoria Avenue  
Fort Myers**

**Presented by:  
FDEP and SWFRPC**



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## Treasure Coast Chapter Update

### Scrub Plant Workshop

On Friday, October 19, 2012, the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental hosted a Scrub Plant Identification workshop in Jonathan Dickinson State Park (JDSP). The workshop was led by Anne Cox, Ph.D., Ecolo-G, Inc. and Chris Lockhart, Habitat Specialists, Inc. Both instructors have spent countless hours in working and studying scrub habitat, Anne Cox, Ph.D. being recognized as a leading expert on the topic of the federally endangered Four-petal Pawpaw (*Asimina tetramera*) and Chris Lockhart having contributed to the conservation efforts at JDSP through her involvement with the Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park Association and contributions to the park's management efforts.

This was a field-only workshop to provide all participants with the opportunity to identify and observe plant species first hand. Being a free, member-only, and space limited event, the event filled out quickly with 23 participants in attendance. After a brief tailgate breakfast at the entrance parking lot, the participants were split in two small groups and worked their way along a portion of the Florida Trail that crosses the park. Approximately 30 plant species were observed and identified during the morning session. Both instructors were sharing a wealth of identification tips and plant specific anecdotes that made this out entertaining and extremely informative. The morning session was ended in a four-petal pawpaw patch, and where under the authority of Anne Cox Ph.D., participants were able to look at dozens of specimens approximately 17 years old and no taller than five or six inches. This was an eye opening on this rare plant habitat.

Following a brown bag lunch under a breezy outdoor pavilion near the JDSP camping, the groups looked at additional plant species and discussed what listed wildlife species depend on these plants. The day ended at Hobe Mountain, which is the highest point in South Florida, south of Lake Okeechobee. Yes, this 86 foot-tall old sand dune is a mountain by Florida standard and is located in an area of the park that was once known as Camp Murphy. Only a handful of barracks and several scattered concrete building pads remain of the nearly one thousand buildings that were originally built in the area for the Southern Signal Corps School. A look at historical photos taken from the top of Hobe Mountain in the mid-1940's revealed how the scrub habitat has reclaimed most of the land under the care and management of the Park's staff.

### Annual Environmental Award Ceremony

The Treasure Coast Chapter of Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (TCC FAEP) Annual Environmental Award Ceremony and Silent Auction was held on December 6, 2012 at the Civic Center in Jupiter, Florida. The proceeds for the Silent Auction were donated to the Palm Beach County Envirothon, a field-oriented, educational program where high school students learn to use critical thinking skills, develop both problem-solving and communication skills and conduct hands-on investigations about environmental issues. Each year the members of the TCC FAEP nominate outstanding organizations and individuals for their contribution to the environment. With so many ways to make a difference, awards are separated into five categories: Continuing Professional Achievement, Education/Communication, outstanding Project, Volunteer, and the Directors Award. The TCC FAEP Board of Directors had a difficult time selecting all the quality nominations submitted by members this year. Although the decision was challenging, the recipients are well deserving of the recognition. This year's winners were:

**Continuing Prof. Achievement—Baret Barry, *Gopher Tortoise Relocation Program Martin County***

**Education/Communication Award—Alyssa Dodd, *Lake Worth Lagoon: Discover a Local Treasure***

**Project Award—Eric Anderson, *South Cove Natural Area Restoration and Enhancement Project***

**Director's Award—Raymond E. Miller Jr., *Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP)***

**Volunteer Award—Dr. Paul Arena, *Volunteer Efforts at Lantana Nature Preserve***

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## A Message from the President of FLERA...

This past year, I was elected to serve as the President of FLERA ([Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies](#)). FLERA's mission is to enhance communication, education and advocacy for Florida local environmental protection efforts, and our membership includes fifty local government and private sector organizations. While FAEP is focused on the environmental professional, FLERA's focus tends more toward those organizations that typically employ the environmental professional.

The most casual read of the above paragraph begs the possibility of efficiencies associated with these two organizations improving their coordination, and hints at even more valuable coordination among other environmentally related professional associations throughout Florida.

Accordingly, and recognizing the challenging climate that is today's environmental profession, FAEP and FLERA are investigating how these two organizations might work together to improve services to and representation for their various members. If you are interested in this concept, or if you belong to another organization that might be interested in such coordination, we would welcome your thoughts. Feel free to email either me ([jhalsey@broward.org](mailto:jhalsey@broward.org)) or Kristin Bennett (President, FAEP, [kristin.Bennett@tetrattech.com](mailto:kristin.Bennett@tetrattech.com)).

Finally, in the spirit of this cooperation, FAEP was kind enough to allow me to take just a moment to share with the readers the recent winners of FLERA's 2012 Elected Official's Environmental Leadership Award and the Rick Wilkins Environmental Leadership Award.

As a commercial developer, Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson thought it seemed strange that he would be receiving the Elected Official's Leadership Award and wondered if it was a trap. However he was humbled and appreciative to have received the award. His family has lived in Florida for 200 years but whether it's been 200 years or 200 hours, he knows the primary draw to Florida is its environment. Emerald waters, white sand, oak hammocks with Spanish Moss, longleaf pine forests, prairies and wetlands; he is very proud of the stances Floridians have taken to improve our community. Florida's economic development is integrally tied to its environment. Those involved in either side of the debate have to realize that these are not mutually exclusive ideas and in fact are symbiotic. For local government it takes a team approach with elected officials and staff. This team has made significant improvements in our air and water quality.



**Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson (right) receiving FLERA's Elected Official's Environmental Leadership Award from Keith Wilkins of Escambia County at the 2012 FLERA Annual Conference.**

Richard Boler began his career at the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County in February of 1976 as an Environmental Technician. At that time, environmental awareness and pollution control activities were just starting to gain national attention and were desperately needed in the Tampa Bay area. In the early years, everyone at EPC was a generalist and in his first few years Richard inspected sewage treatment plants, dairies, solid waste sites, and smokestacks. He also answered citizen complaints, identified wetlands, collected water samples, and performed chemistry analyses in the lab. Richard's career would eventually become defined by environmental resource management and his name would become synonymous with water quality monitoring in the Tampa Bay area. In the 36 years that Richard served the citizens of Hillsborough County, he built one of the most comprehensive and well respected water quality and aquatic biology monitoring programs in the Country. We will always be proud and grateful for his dedicated service to our community.



**Richard Boler (right) receiving the Rick Wilkins Environmental Leadership Award from Dr. Rick Garrity of Hillsborough County's Environmental Protection Commission at the 2012 FLERA Annual Conference.**

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# Workshop for Certification of Environmental Professionals

The Tallahassee Association of Environmental Professionals will hold a workshop for certification of environmental professionals through ABCEP. The workshop instructors will be NAEP and ABCEP members. The event will be held in Room 609 at the FDEP Blairstone Road office from 2-5pm on Tuesday, February 26th. There will be no charge for the workshop and attendees will receive a discount on their testing/certification fees. FAEP members and potential members are welcome to attend. The instructors will give a detailed presentation about the certification program, answer questions and assist attendees in navigating the application process.

## About the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals

ABCEP's primary mission is to confer the CEP credential to meritorious environmental professionals found to meet exemplary standards of ethics and technical practice. The process used by this Academy to certify environmental Professionals is accredited by the Council of Engineering & Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB). For more information about professional certification, contact Ms. Nadine Jackson-Bey at [office@abcep.org](mailto:office@abcep.org) and visit the ABCEP website.

## ABCEP Partners with American Public University

ABCEP is excited to announce a partnership with American Public University (APU), part of regionally-accredited American Public University System.

Eligible applicants will receive six semester hours of omnibus credit towards an M.S. in Environmental Policy and Management at APU from any of ABCEP's five Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) functional areas. If a student does not pursue this specific degree, the hours may be credited towards other APU graduate degrees if there are available electives. For more information, please visit APU's transfer credit website.

## About the American Public University System

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## **TBAEP 6th Annual Falliday**

The TBAEP Board of Directors would like to thank our members and sponsors for making our 6th Annual Falliday member appreciation event a HUGE SUCCESS! Falliday 2012 took place on Thursday evening, November 29<sup>th</sup> at The Rusty Pelican in Tampa. The event drew over **250 attendees and 31 sponsors**.

The Rusty Pelican was a wonderful venue, providing a breathtaking view as the sun set over Tampa Bay. The staff did a great job serving up hors d'oeuvres and ice cold beverages to both members and guests. We were thrilled to announce the winner of our second annual TBAEP Environmental Excellence Award, and we proudly showcased the winning selections from the Inaugural Photo Contest. All attendees received a swag bag filled with sponsor give-away items and a 2013 TBAEP Calendar Featuring the Contest's top twelve photos as our member appreciation gift for 2012.



Raffle items were also donated by our wonderful sponsors and member companies, and many attendees went home with great prizes! Overall, the raffle raised \$916, half of which went to support the volunteering student chapter, TBAEP at USF Tampa. Student chapter members helped organize the raffle during Falliday and helped with the event setup.

We thank all of our members and sponsors for their support in 2012, and look forward to continuing the tradition of outstanding programs, networking opportunities, friendship and community service in 2013.

## **TBAEP Environmental Excellence Award**

TBAEP recognized the Watershed Management Section of Pinellas County's Department of Environment and Infrastructure for its outstanding work implementing the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance.

Some 40 Florida communities currently regulate the use of lawn/landscape fertilizers during the summer, when heavy rains wash fertilizer residues into the nearest lake, bay or river. Only Pinellas County and the City of Tampa have ordinances that also regulate the retail sale of nitrogen fertilizers. Tampa's ordinance was modeled after the innovative Pinellas law, which bans sale of nitrogen fertilizers completely from June-September, and requires sale of slow-release fertilizers the rest of the year. (*Landscape Maintenance and Fertilizer Use and Application Ordinance. 2010. Pinellas County Code of Ordinances*).

The Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance addresses nitrogen loading to Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico from overuse and improper application of residential landscape fertilizers. Nitrogen loading estimates from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program show that residential runoff accounts for about 20% of total nitrogen loadings to Tampa Bay. Implementation of the Pinellas County ordinance by the Watershed Management Section is conservatively expected to reduce nitrogen in Pinellas waterways by 22 tons per year. In comparison, one advanced Waste Water Treatment Plant in Pinellas County produces 10-12 tons of nitrogen per year; Keeping 22 tons of nitrogen from the bay is like taking two sewage plants offline.

With strong support from Pinellas County Commissioners, the ordinance has survived three years of attempts by the Florida Legislature to dilute or eliminate it, and a departmental reorganization that saw the county's entire Department of Environmental Management dismantled and staff parceled out to other departments or laid off due to budget cuts. Despite these obstacles, the staff of the Watershed Management Section, now housed within the county's Transportation and Stormwater Division, has risen to the task, and displayed a commitment, determination and efficiency that reflects the highest principles of public service.

# NAEP NEWS



JW Marriott L.A. LIVE  
Los Angeles, CA  
April 1 - 4, 2013  
NAEP | AEP JOINT CONFERENCE

## 2013 NAEP | AEP Joint Conference

*Walk the Talk: A Convergence of Environmental Professionals*



For updated information [www.n-aep2013.org](http://www.n-aep2013.org)

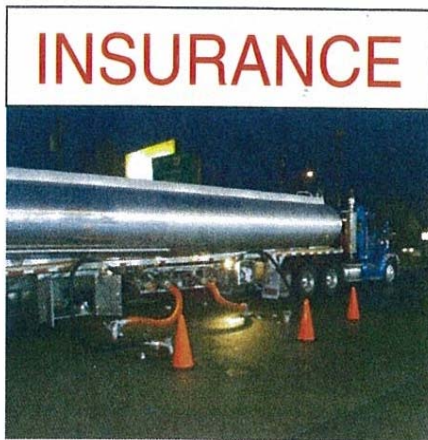
The conference committee is hard at work planning an informative and engaging event for environmental professionals. The conference will be held in an outstanding, state-of-the-art conference facility at the JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. Live, located in the vibrant L.A. Live complex in downtown Los Angeles.

The hotel and conference facility sport a front-row seat to some of Los Angeles' top attractions, including the Staples Center, the Nokia Theatre, Regal Cinemas, and a wide variety of shops and restaurants. In addition, many world-class attractions can be reached via public transit, which is easily accessible from the complex.

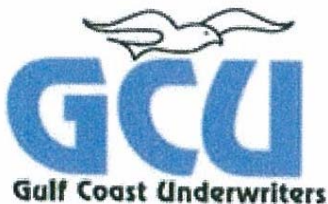
The conference program will feature dynamic regional and national keynote speakers, a pre-conference symposium on climate change, and a pre-conference NEPA Basics workshop. There will also be comprehensive update sessions on NEPA and CEQA that will cover the latest legal and policy developments for the two laws. Concurrent conference sessions will cover topics including Air Quality & Climate Change; CEQA; Cultural Resources; Energy; Land Use, Water & Sustainability; NEPA; Public Involvement; Transportation & Noise; Visual Resources; Wetlands; and Wildlife & Habitat. There will also be numerous other conference and social events, including several mobile workshops and a 5K Scholarship Walk/Run through some of downtown Los Angeles' top attractions. **Early on-line registrations ends Feb. 1st!**

Go here for the conference flyer:

[naep.memberclicks.net/assets/Conference/2013/pre%20program%2018.pdf](http://naep.memberclicks.net/assets/Conference/2013/pre%20program%2018.pdf)



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## FAEP WELCOMES THESE NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

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Holly Andreotta	Christina Curtiss	Justin Hofmeister	Jenna Martin
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Ken Blevins	Michael Early	Donna Kaluzniak	KT Moran
Adam Bonaventura	Ronald Edenfield	Erin Kane	Gene Morelli
Kristee Booth	Vincent Encomio	Jack Keiser	Luis Moreno
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Jim Clark	Harmony Hancock	Paul Looney	Jeffrey Pennell
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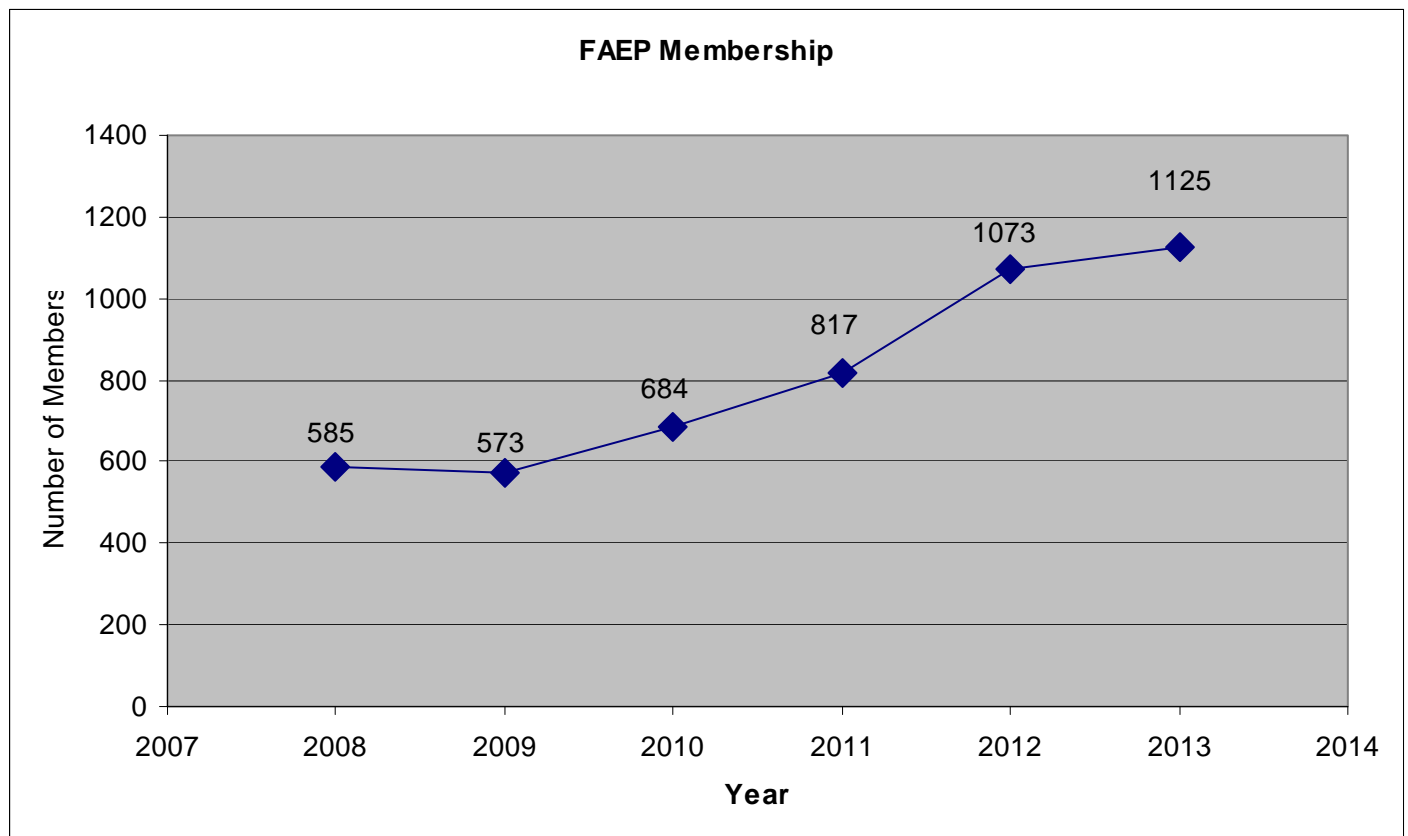
Members who have renewed or joined during the past quarter

## FAEP WELCOMES THESE NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Rob Race	Erik Sandsmark	Steve Sweeney	Margarita Wells
Sarah Raya	Greg Sawka	Budd Titlow	Robyn Wharton
Erick Revuelta	Larry G Schmaltz	Ronnie Van Fleet	Jessie Wheeler
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Donald Ross	James Spencer	Leslye Waugh	Andrew Woodruff
Arnaud Roux	Eldon Stills	Jonathan Welker	Chelsea Wulff
			Mariya Yudova

Members who have renewed or joined during the past quarter

## FAEP IS GROWING, DON'T BE LEFT OUT !!!



# FAEP Group Discount Memberships

Did you know that FAEP provides a discount on our memberships to employers who have 5 or more members? If your company or organization qualifies for the Group Membership you save \$5 on each FAEP new member or renewing member, lowering the FAEP membership fee from \$30 to \$25 for everyone from your company or organization. If your company or organization is on this list, you are eligible to join or renew at the discounted Group rate. The FAEP Board would like to extend a thank you to the following employers for supporting their employee's professional development and the FAEP mission:

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