

Truex installed as president of Florida Association of Counties

By Hector Flores

Charlotte County Commission Chairman Bill Truex was installed as the 2023-24 president of the Florida Association of Counties board of directors last Thursday at the organization's annual conference.

Truex has served on FAC's Executive Committee since 2020, progressing from the position of second vice president. In addition to his service on the executive committee, Truex has been active in the association on numerous committees, including Health, Safety and Justice, Select Committee on Preemption, Finance and Audit, Federal, and Water. He has also been chosen by his peers to serve on the board of directors since 2016. In his induction speech, Truex emphasized the importance of public service and called on his fellow commissioners for guidance on issues of importance to their communities.

"Commissioner Truex is the epitome of a public servant," said FAC Executive Director Ginger Delegal. "His achievements at FAC speak to the dedication he has to his constituents, and I am looking forward to his continued success at the association."

In his first act as president, Truex awarded the \$2,500 FAC Presidential Scholarship to Charlotte County resident Kailee Harrison, who is majoring in public health at the University of South Florida.

The conference also featured workshops for county managers and administrators, attorneys, human services managers and engineers. County officials discussed a variety of topics including hurricane recovery, common challenges and opportunities, best practices, innovative programs and organizational culture building.

Hurricane recovery

This month brings a series of workshops and other opportunities for the public to provide input on long-term hurricane recovery, unmet needs, mitigation and resiliency.

The Department of Economic Opportunities has scheduled a public input workshop at 10 a.m., at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950. DEO will be soliciting input on workforce affordable housing, infrastructure repair, and housing repair and replacement. DEO will incorporate the feedback into its recovery workplan to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for potential funding.

Charlotte County has scheduled three long-term recovery workshops to gather public input for its own recovery plan. The workshops are scheduled for:

- 2 p.m., Friday, July 14, Englewood Charlotte Library 3450 N. Access Road, Englewood.
- 10:30 a.m., Saturday, July 15, Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, 401 Shreve St., Punta Gorda.
- 3 p.m., Friday, July 21, 2580 Aaron St., Port Charlotte Public Library, Port Charlotte

In partnership with the non-profit Community Organizations Active in a Disaster, the county is also soliciting input via an online survey. To participate in the survey, visit tinyurl.com/longtermrecovery.

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