

A Privilege to Serve

This past year has flown by and has arrived much quicker than I expected. I am sitting at my desk writing my last President's Message for the *Florida Green*. The prospect of writing these articles four times over a period of a year loomed as the most daunting task that I could foresee in becoming president of the Association. I always find myself struggling to write an article that someone (other than my Mom), would find interesting and useful. So away we go!

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together towards their goals. A so-called committee in the past often consisted of one person who communicated only with the board. Hopefully, this trend will be continued and we will expand the input that the board receives on all issues.

Thank you to each and everyone on the board and the committee members. We would not have been able to accomplish our goals that we completed without your diligent efforts.

Joe Pantaleo and Craig (Bulldog) Weyandt were always at the ready for suggestions. They each did their homework on issues and were always very prepared to take on any task that was presented to them. Thank you for all of your help and support.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greg Pheneger

Unfortunately, David Court will be leaving the board. Those of you that do not know David cannot begin to fathom the steady influence that he has had on the board. David always had a very controlled, well-thought-out voice of wisdom. The voice of wisdom is not a new phenomenon for him. I first met him many years ago well before the lines on my face appeared and my hair started turning gray and after my first conversation, I knew this was someone that I was going to respect. Now, at least I have had the privilege of working with him and on behalf of the entire board, thank you for allowing us to gain by your being involved.

Joel and Marie, (sounds like the title of a love song from John Mellencamp), are the lifeboat of this organization. They both have been there to correct my mistakes and make me look good. I thank you both for your guidance, patience and especially their understanding during the past year. Each and every member needs to thank Marie and Joel daily for their contributions.

During the course of the past year, for those of you who read these articles, I have mentioned the idea of learning from the past to improve the future. When I look back to see who shaped my involvement in superintendent matters, first in the Treasure Coast Chapter and then the state, I look to two past presidents having the greatest influence.

First was Mark Jarrell who took the time to make me feel a part of the gang on a softball team years and years and years ago. I was new to Florida and knew only one person on the team of estab-

lished superintendents. Mark took the time to introduce himself and actually showed some interest in me.

As the years went on, I asked Mark questions concerning the association and I gained a whole new respect for his passion and listened to him talk about the need for involvement from others, I decided to get involved on the local level with no immediate intentions of becoming this involved, but I am thankful and have gained from my involvement. Mark writes a column for each and every *Florida Green* called "Mark My Words". His articles are a must read in every issue and his continued involvement is a great asset to the Board.

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The second past president was Paul Crawford. "Crawdaddy" prodded and poked at me to get more involved years ago but with the tournament schedule at my previous job, it was nearly impossible. Now I realize that I had the time if I just had the wisdom and maturity to manage my time better. They both had different methods but they both left a lasting impression on me and I thank them for all of the guidance that they provided over the years.

At the 2004 Past President's Dinner, I had the privilege of presenting the Distinguished Service Award to Darren Davis. Darren has become a very good friend and it was a wonderful experience to present such a prestigious award, but to also give it to someone that I respect so much was the icing on the cake. Darren served on the board for many years and also spent two years as immediate past president. He continues to serve the FGCSA on the national level through his involvement as a committee member. Congratulations Darren, on a well-deserved honor.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to represent the FGCSA at several functions over the past year. My club has benefited from my involvement through contacts that I have made during the past year. It was an extreme honor and privilege to serve as President and I thank you for allowing me to do so.