

2024 OFFICERS:

President Justin Thibaut, CCIM
Vice President Josh Philpott, AICP
Treasurer Kristine Smale
Secretary Phil Fischler, CCIM

2024 GOVERNORS:

Kevin Beuparlant
Matt Caldwell
Jennifer Fisher
Zannon Garza
Donald Schrottenboer
Ryan Shute, P.E.
Shelton Weeks, PhD
Past President Lori Moore

BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Monthly Programs:

The **February 13th luncheon** will feature a program on the role of sporting events in tourism and economic development with Mary Schaak, executive director of the City of Palms Classic. The luncheon is sponsored by [ADG Architecture](#).

When registering for REIS luncheons, please check the drop down menu for "ticket type" and select the correct ticket before submitting the reservation.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for 2024 luncheons and other events. Please contact [Ryan Shute](#), (239) 337-3993, for details.

Scholarship Program:

The REIS Scholarship Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 corporations and donations may be tax-deductible. Learn more about the program and how you can participate on the [Scholarship webpage](#) or by contacting Bev Larson.

Membership:

REIS memberships expired December 31st but still may be renewed on the [REIS website](#). A limited number of new memberships are available and the application is also on the website.

WELCOME NEW REIS MEMBERS

Alicia Dixon is director of planning and environmental compliance with Lee County Port Authority, applying her background in environmental consulting and permitting.

George Pfaffendorf is with Advanced Drainage Systems, a national leader in water management solutions.

Neil Campbell is with SCS - Service Contracting Solutions, painting and waterproofing specialists.

Cynthia Valenti Smith is vice president and mortgage production manager with Regions Bank.

Jay Sinha is with Vikrant Properties, based in Naples.

David Uman, business development specialist with Pacifica Engineering Services.

A limited number of memberships are currently available. Details and application form are on the [REIS website](#).

WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

REIS is co-hosting the 33rd annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference on January 26th at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). The theme is Opportunities for a Resilient Recovery for Southwest Florida, focusing on managing the coastal ecosystem, water quality projects, and a regulatory update. Keynote speaker is Saskia Pardaans, Senior Advisor Infrastructure and Water Management for the Netherlands. A panel discussion with government leaders will address partnering on Hurricane Ian recovery efforts. Dresden Ferrand, CEO, American Water Resources Association (AWRA), will deliver an update from the AWRA national perspective. Details and registration are at [Southwest Florida Water Resources Association](#).

BUSINESS LEASE TAX REDUCTION

The state sales tax on rental of commercial property may be reduced from 4.5% to 2.0% in June 2024, ahead of the planned reduction in August. The timing of the reduction is tied to tax collections and replenishment of the Unemployment Trust Fund that had been depleted due to covid. Florida TaxWatch and Florida Association of Realtors continue to press the Legislature to further reduce the rate and eventually repeal business rent tax.

2024 REIS OFFICERS AND BOARD



Front row, from left: Secretary Phil Fischler, President Justin Thibaut, Vice President Josh Philpott, and Scholarship Chair Bev Larson. Second row, from left: Governors Ryan Shute, Jennifer Fisher, Donald Schrottenboer, Kevin Beuparlant, and Shelton Weeks. Not pictured: Treasurer Kristine Smale, Past President Lori Moore, and Governors Matt Caldwell and Zannon Garza.

BEV LARSON, CCIM

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MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Horizon Council Annual Meeting takes place February 1st in Fort Myers. The Horizon Council, Horizon Foundation, and Lee County Economic Development Office will report on the state of the local economy, including economic indicators, a recap of business growth and opportunities, and a vision for 2024. The Real Estate Investment Society is a member of the Horizon Council and is represented by 2023 REIS President Lori Moore.

SW Florida Real Estate Focus Forum is presented by ULI Southwest Florida at Florida Gulf Coast University on February 22nd. Topics include Hurricane Ian Recovery and Rebuilding, Development in Charlotte, Lee and Collier Counties, and Trends in Healthcare, and Future Forecast. Details at <https://swflorida.uli.org>

Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference examines emerging trends in office, retail, hospitality, and industrial sectors throughout Southwest Florida. Presented by CCIM Florida Chapter Southwest District in Bonita Springs on February 28th. Speakers include former REIS Presidents Matt Simmons and Stan Stouder, plus current Governor Shelton Weeks. Details at [Conference website](#).

2024 Market Trends features "The Thrill of the Chase" for inventory in residential, commercial, and development sites in Southwest Florida in Fort Myers on March 1st. Networking, data and analysis, and projections. Former REIS President Matt Simmons will address commercial sectors. Residential markets will be explained by Denny Grimes, GRI, and REIS President Justin Thibaut, CCIM, will discuss land and development and new home sales. <https://www.marketrendsswfl.com>

Cape Coral "Catch the Vision" is a look into Cape Coral's future and projects that will change the commercial, residential and retail environment of the city. The event will be in Cape Coral on March 18th. <http://www.catchthevisioncapecoral.com/>

Information on these and other industry events and meetings are on the [REIS online events calendar](#).

COLLIER GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Collier County commissioners will conduct a public hearing January 24th to consider an ordinance that would place a moratorium on management plan amendments for properties along Immokalee Road and Vanderbilt Beach Road east of I-75. County staff is also looking into other ways to manage growth in the two east-west corridors.

VULCAN SUPPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Vulcan Materials Company presented a check for \$25,000 to the REIS Scholarship Foundation at the REIS January luncheon. The funds are already being awarded to worthy scholars at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU).



REIS President Justin Thibaut, Frank Suarez of Vulcan Materials Company, REIS Governor Shelton Weeks and Scholarship Chair Bev Larson, Michael Saban of Vulcan, Lisa Sands, Rosie of Vulcan, Lutgert College Dean Chris Westley, Angela Kunkle of FGCU, and Lutgert College Associate Dean Matthew Sheep.

A GOOD TIME FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Team Weeks (above), Event organizers Lisa Sands and Scott Fisher (center), and Team Fischler with Rockstar

The 27th annual Paul Sands Memorial Slaw Dog Invitational golf tournament and party in December was a good time for all and a major source of funding for the Paul Sands Memorial - REIS Scholarship program at Florida Gulf Coast University.



REIS BOARD MEMBER HONORED

Janet Davis, CCIM, outgoing member of the REIS Board of Governors, was recognized for her exemplary service at the January luncheon.

REIS 2024 President Justin Thibaut presents the award to Janet Davis.

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