

2020 OFFICERS:

President Mary Gentile, CSM, CRX
Vice President Bill Morris, P.E.
Treasurer Kent Poli
Secretary Lori Moore

2020 GOVERNORS:

BJ Brundage
Gordon Glover
Michael Lehnert
Don Miller
Josh Philpott
Molly Scott
Justin Thibaut
Past President Alexis Crespo, AICP

BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Monthly Programs:

The **October 13th meeting** will feature an update on airports by Ben Siegel, Acting Executive Director of the Lee County Port Authority. The program will be a live webcast, presented at no charge by REIS and sponsor [DeAngelis Diamond Construction](#).

The **November 10th luncheon** will be an in-person event at Pelican Preserve Country Club. Charlotte County Economic Development Director Dave Gammon will be the guest speaker. The luncheon will be sponsored by [GFA International](#).

The December luncheon will feature the Construction Management School at Florida Gulf Coast University. Check the [REIS website](#) regularly for the latest details on meetings and events for REIS and other organizations in Southwest Florida's real estate community.

Sponsorships:

Contact [Molly Scott](#), 239.226.0500, for information and availability of opportunities to sponsor REIS events.

Scholarship Program:

Donations are needed for scholarships to be awarded in 2021. REIS Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation and donations may be tax deductible. Visit the [REIS webpage](#) or contact [Bev Larson](#) for details.

Real Estate Symposium:

The 2020 REIS Real Estate Symposium, "Back to Basics," was taped and may be viewed via the link on the REIS website [Resources page](#). The slide shows presented by speakers Joe Bonora and Mark Stevens are also available on the site.

REIS Annual Party: November 12th

Festive event for REIS members and their guests will take place at the Edison - Ford Estates riverside pavilion. Invitations will be sent in October.

Lee County Commissioners Reception:

Popular bi-annual event is postponed to April 22nd, 2021. Event is exclusively for REIS members and their guests, hosted by Edison National Bank and Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt. Invitations will be sent in March.

M-CORES DEADLINE APPROACHES

The M-CORES (Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance) Task Force for the Southwest-Central Florida Corridor is accepting public comment on the draft report until October 14th. Comments may be submitted via the M-CORES [public comment page](#). The Task Force must submit final recommendations and evaluations to the Legislature by November 15th. The map and more information are available on the [M-CORES website](#).

REIS 2021 BOARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the REIS 2021 officers and board of governors have been announced. The election will be conducted at the November 10th luncheon meeting. Any at-large nominations must be submitted to [Alexis Crespo](#) prior to the election. The nominations are:

President: Bill Morris, PE, Morris-Depew Associates

Vice President: Kent Poli, Busey Bank

Treasurer: Lori Moore; Roetzel & Andress

Secretary: Justin Thibaut, LSI Companies

Board of Governors: Dan Adams, Stevens Construction; Greg Blurton, Edison National Bank; and Kristine Smale; Meyers Research; nominated to 2-year terms.

Returning board members are: BJ Brundage, DeAngelis Diamond Construction; Donald Miller, RWA Engineers; Josh Philpott, Stantec; and Molly Scott, Chris-Tel Construction. 2020 President Mary Gentile, CRX, CSM, LandQwest Property Management, remains on the board.

Current board members Gordon Glover, Suffolk, and Michael Lehnert, Henderson Franklin, Attorneys at Law, will be retiring from the board.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) students Justin Fiorello, Cydnee Sims, and Tania Vega-Arreola will each receive \$2500 from the Paul Sands Memorial - REIS Scholarship Program. The scholarships will be awarded at an upcoming luncheon. The scholars also become honorary members of REIS for the coming year, providing them with the opportunity to learn about the commercial real estate business and meet leaders in the associated professions. Donations to support the [scholarship program](#) are now being accepted on the REIS website.

BEV LARSON, CCIM

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2020 REAL ESTATE SYMPOSIUM

The annual REIS Symposium focused on “**Back to Basics - Real Estate Strategies and Investment Advice.**” The live webcast was presented in partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) Lutgert College of Business.



Due to restrictions on public gatherings, the speakers and panelists looked to a mostly vacant room while the FGCU tech team kept the cameras rolling. The program received outstanding reviews and may be replayed via the link on the [REIS website Resources page](#).

Speakers included economist **Dr. Christopher Westley**, Dean of Lutgert College of Business, **Joe Bonora**, of Catalyst Asset Management, and **Mark Stevens**, of Stevens Construction. A panel discussion, moderated by former REIS President **Sean Ellis**, of Roetzel & Andress, focused on values, lending, and return factors with panelists: **Matt Simmons**, of Maxwell-Hendry-Simmons; **Greg Blurton**, of Edison National Bank; and **Brandon Hall**, of Midland Trust.

The title sponsor was **Roetzel & Andress**. **Morris-Depew Associates** and **Busey Bank** were gold sponsors and **LandQwest Commercial Property Management** and **Grandbridge Real Estate Capital** were silver sponsors.

REIS WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER

Please join in welcoming our newest member:

Dan Spears is with Elias Brothers Group Roofing Division, based in Naples.

Membership information is on the [REIS website](#).

FLOOD INSURANCE EXTENDED

Congress approved a federal spending bill that includes an extension of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through September 30th, 2021. The legislation also extends federal highway and transit programs.

TAX AMENDMENTS ON BALLOT

The November 3rd general election ballot includes 2 proposed amendments that would extend property tax benefits. Amendment 5 would increase the time from 2 to 3 years for accrued “Save Our Homes” property tax benefits that may be transferred from a prior home to a new home. Amendment 6 would allow the property tax discount received by combat-disabled veterans age 65 or older to be transferred to surviving spouses.

RETAINAGE RATE REDUCED


Governor DeSantis signed House Bill 101 into law. This legislation reduces the rate of retainage on public construction to a flat 5%. This law has an enactment date of October 1 and will impact any public procurement projects from that date forward. The current rate of retainage on public construction is 10% of every pay period until the project is 50% complete, at which point the rate is reduced to 5% for the remainder of the project. The new law reduces that first 10% down to 5% and keeps it at that rate for the entirety of that project.

ECONOMIC ALMANAC RELEASED

The Regional Economic Research Institute (RERI) at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) has released the [Southwest Florida Economic Almanac](#). The resource provides a wealth of socioeconomic and demographic information on agriculture, charitable giving, employment, finance, education, the environment, government spending, health, housing, income and poverty statistics, real estate, and much more.

RURAL LANDS RESTUDY

Expanded areas for development and larger villages may be allowed in eastern Collier County. The [proposed amendments](#) to Collier County's Rural Lands Stewardship Area Overlay were reviewed at the Collier County Planning Commission September 3rd and 17th, prior to consideration by the county commissioners. More information on the meetings and the [Rural Lands Stewardship Area Overlay Restudy](#) are available at Collier County Comprehensive Planning Section.



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