

## 2021 OFFICERS:

President Bill Morris, PE  
Vice President Kent Poli  
Treasurer Lori Moore  
Secretary Justin Thibaut

## 2021 GOVERNORS:

Dan Adams  
Greg Blurton  
BJ Brundage  
Don Miller

Josh Philpott  
Molly Scott  
Kristine Smale  
Past President Mary Gentile, CSM, CRX

## BOARDROOM REPORT

### News from recent REIS board meetings

#### Monthly Programs:

School system growth and taxes were discussed by Dr. Ami Desamours, Finance Director of Lee County School District, at the October 12th luncheon. Her presentation is available on the [REIS Reports & Documents webpage](#).

There will be no luncheon in November, in favor of the REIS annual social event on November 10th.

Sports-based tourism will be presented by Jeff Mielke, executive director of Lee County Sports Development at the **December 14th luncheon**, sponsored by [Morris-Depew Associates](#).

We welcome your ideas for programs and speakers, which may be submitted to [Kent Poli](#), 239.689.7174. If you would like to lead the pledge of allegiance and prayer at a luncheon, please contact [Don Miller](#), 239.571.4968.

#### Annual Party:

The popular social event is planned for November 10th at Sidney's, the new rooftop venue at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center in downtown Fort Myers. The event is exclusively for members and their guests, and special guests of REIS. Sponsored by [Hans Wilson Associates](#), [LandQwest Commercial Property Management](#), and [Stevens Construction](#).

#### Horizon Council:

The annual Industry Appreciation Awards event will be October 22nd at the Caloosa Sound Convention Center in Fort Myers. REIS will be represented by 2020 REIS President Mary Gentile, the REIS representative to the Horizon Council. The event is presented by Lee County Economic Development, Horizon Council, and Horizon Foundation. Tickets are available on the [event website](#).

#### Scholarship Program:

The **25th Annual Paul Sands Memorial Slaw Dog Invitational** golf tournament is December 15th and provides funding for scholarships. Contact [Lisa Sands](#) for details and sponsorships. REIS thanks Art Castellanos and Lori Moore for their generous support of the REIS Scholarship Foundation. Learn how you can participate and support the REIS scholarship program on the [REIS webpage](#) or contact [Bev Larson](#), (239) 281-1290.

## PARTY! PARTY!

The annual REIS Holiday Social happens Wednesday, November 10th at Sydney's Rooftop, overlooking the Caloosahatchee River and historic River District in Fort Myers. Join fellow REIS members and their guests for live music with the popular band "After Hours," an incredible array of hors d'oeuvres, full bar, and a rousing good time.

The party is exclusively for REIS members, who may each bring one guest. Admission is \$40 per person, which includes 1 drink. Make your reservations now on the [REIS web site](#). Remember to log in on the home page in order to register. Special thanks to sponsors [Hans Wilson & Associates](#), [Stevens Construction](#), and [LandQwest Commercial Property Management](#).

## REIS 2022 BOARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the REIS 2022 officers and board of governors have been announced. The election will be conducted at the annual social event on November 10th.

The nominations are: **President:** Kent Poli, Busey Bank; **Vice President:** Lori Moore; Roetzel & Address; **Treasurer:** Justin Thibaut, LSI Companies; **Secretary:** Josh Philpott, Stantec. **Board of Governors:** Richard Akin, Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt, P.A.; Art Castellanos, Castellanos & Tramonte Architects; Janet Davis, CCIM, Midland 1031; and John Williams, RWA; nominated to 2-year terms.

**Returning board members are:** Dan Adams, Stevens Construction; Greg Blurton, Edison National Bank; and Kristine Smale; Zonda. 2021 President Bill Morris, PE, LEED AP, Morris-Depew Associates, remains on the board. Current board members BJ Brundage, DeAngelis Diamond Construction; Donald Miller, Dagostino Geospatial; and Molly Scott, Chris-Tel Construction will be retiring from the board.

Any at-large nominations must be submitted to [Mary Gentile](#) prior to the election.

## WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

The American Water Resources Association (AWRA) [annual conference](#) will take place in Kissimmee November 8-10. The event provides innovative, practical, and applied water resource management solutions, management techniques, and current research.

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## REIS HONORS LEE COMMISSIONERS



Commissioners Frank Mann, Brian Hamman, Ray Sandelli, Cecil Pendergrass, and Kevin Ruane.

REIS welcomed the Lee County Board of County Commissioners to a private members-only reception on October 14th at the Burroughs Home & Gardens, hosted by Edison National Bank and Henderson Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. The festive bi-annual event provided an opportunity for REIS members to become acquainted with elected officials in a relaxed, social atmosphere.



REIS 2004 President Russell Schropp and REIS 1995 President Robbie Roepstorff represented the hosts.



REIS 2021 President Bill Morris



## REDISTRICTING UNDERWAY

The job of remapping political districts to account for shifts in population has begun. Lee County is now conducting public meetings on proposed maps. Schedules and population data are on [Lee County Redistricting Website](#). Collier County will begin public workshops in November, with information on [Collier County Redistricting Website](#).

## LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY

Lee County is updating its Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), a plan that is reviewed and approved every 5 years by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The LMS includes a hazard and vulnerability assessment, mitigation goals and objectives for the community. The public is encouraged to read the current LMS and take a survey on ways to update it at the [Lee County website](#).

## FLOOD INSURANCE RATES CHANGE

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) initiated the "Risk Rating 2.0" policy for homebuyers October 1st and plans to apply it for existing homeowners April 1st, 2022. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) policy bases rates on the risk and rebuilding costs for individual homes instead of using flood zones. FEMA also intends to phase out subsidized rates for high risk properties. Over 1 million Florida properties are expected to see significant increases in flood insurance premiums. Homebuilders are already confronting major increases on new policies. FEMA rate increases on existing policies are capped at 18% per year.

There is considerable opposition in Congress, including a bill in the House of Representatives that would require legislative approval to reduce subsidized rates. The NFIP Risk Rating 2.0 Delay Act of 2021 has been introduced in the Senate and seeks to push implementation to September, 2022.

## REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

**Andres Navarrette**, asset manager with Blue Waters Development, is a financial analyst and is actively involved with CCIM, ULI, and ICSC.

**Daniel Aguirre**, manager of Blue Waters Development, is experienced in managing capital investments in real estate and development projects.

**John Bolen**, real estate associate with Coldwell Banker, is a certified Real Estate Negotiation Expert (RENE) and Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES).

**DJ Waddell**, Green & Co. Business Brokers, specializes in business acquisitions and dispositions.

**Alon Naftali**, senior vice president at Regions Bank, is a commercial financing specialist.

**Andrew McGillicuddy**, real estate agent with TRK Real Estate Services, specializes in commercial properties.

**Steven Gust**, director of land acquisition in Southwest Florida for PulteGroup, has a background in real estate and finance.

**Phillip Ford**, executive director with Lee BIA, previously led the Charleston, South Carolina BIA.

**John Strohm, CAM**, is senior vice president and COO at Alliant Association Management.

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

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