

February 2022



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

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President's Message



Happy Black History Month FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

I hope that your year is off to a great start and you are as excited about our upcoming 2022 Spring Conference as I am! We have many exciting sessions and activities planned for you. Registration for the conference is now open and spaces are filling up quickly, so please **register soon** to secure your spot and book your room.

The FBC-LEO Apparel store has been reopened for a limited time only! The store will remain open until February 28th.

Click here to purchase a shirt to wear during the Spring Conference.

This year's Black History Month theme is "Black Health and Wellness." As you know, that topic was the focus of our webinar series last year titled, "On the Road to Healthy Living." We hope that you will continue to implement the practices and principles that we learned last year, to promote health and wellness in our communities. Stay tuned for upcoming learning opportunities related to my other presidential initiatives, this year.

2022 Membership Dues have now been invoiced. If you have not received your invoice or would like a paper copy, please contact staff at fbcleo@flicities.com.

Finally, I am very excited to announce that the 2022 FBC-LEO Essay Contest opened this week. This year's topic is on Abandoned African American Cemeteries. The deadline for submissions is February 18th. Please spread the word about this contest to the counselors, high school teachers and eligible students in your area.

I look forward to seeing you all on March 17-18, at the 2022 Spring Conference!

Sincerely,

Teresa Watkins Brown

President Teresa Watkins Brown
Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

Member News



Welcome to our new FBC-LEO Members

Warmest welcome! We are delighted to have you as members of the FBC-LEO organization and look forward to getting to know you.

- Samson Borgelin, Commissioner, North Lauderdale
- Joyce Davis, Commissioner, Dania Beach
- Commissioner Lorenzo Wood, Commissioner, North Lauderdale

2022 Spring Conference

Registration is now open!
Slots are filling fast. Register Soon!



March 17-18, 2022
#FBCLEO2022

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando
Lake Buena Vista South
Kissimmee, Florida

Registration: \$175.00

Guest Dinner Ticket: \$65.00

(A guest ticket is required for anyone attending the dinner who is NOT a registered conference attendee.)

Registration deadline: March 3, 2022

Click the "View Conference Announcement" button for more registration information and to download the registration form.

Register Online

View Conference Announcement

For additional information or assistance with registering, please contact Heidi Hogarth at hhogarth@flcities.com.

Hotel Information

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando
Lake Buena Vista South
4955 Kyngs Heath Road
Kissimmee, FL 34746



Room rate: \$129.00 per night + tax

Self Reservation Deadline: February 23, 2022

Telephone reservations will not be accepted by the hotel at this time.

You will receive reservation instructions with your registration confirmation.

Parking:

Self-parking daily and overnight for guests: Free
Daily parking for non-guests: \$7.00

2022 FBC-LEO Essay Contest

Abandoned African American Cemeteries

Essay Contest for 11th and 12th Graders

Prize: \$1,000 Scholarship

#FBCLEOCONTEST22

A promotional graphic for the FBC-LEO Essay Contest. It features a background image of a young man with glasses smiling. Overlaid on the right side is the FBC-LEO logo, which consists of a stylized rainbow arching over a city skyline, with the text "FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS" around the top. Below the logo, the text "FBC-LEO" is written in a bold, black font, followed by "Essay Contest" in a large, white, bold font. At the bottom, the text "Deadline: February 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. ET" and "For more information visit fbcleo.org/essay-contest" is displayed in a smaller, black font.

The **Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials** is sponsoring a statewide essay contest on Abandoned African American Cemeteries.

This contest assists 11th- and 12th-grade students in FBC-LEO member municipalities who are pursuing post-high school education. We are encouraging students to learn and write about Abandoned African American Cemeteries.

Entries must be emailed by February 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. ET. Essays will be judged by a committee comprised of members from the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Board of Directors.

The winner will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship for the Florida college or technical career institution of their choice. The selected essay will be published in the association's newsletter, and the winner will be recognized virtually at the FBC-LEO Spring Conference on March 17-18, 2022.

FBC-LEO members are asked to encourage 11th- and 12th-graders in their city to participate in the essay contest. The contest will also be promoted on our social media platforms.

Please promote this contest by doing the following:

- Share the application with your school superintendent and high school principals. Encourage them to share the contest information with their schools and school counselors.
- Share the application with local 11th- and 12th-grader teachers and encourage them to share it with their students.

Click the "Download Application" button below to view the full essay prompt and contest rules.

Download Application

Visit Website

If you have any questions, please contact Nykierama Cooper at ncooper@flcities.com or 850.222.9684.

Online FBC-LEO Directory

In May, FBC-LEO will release its online membership directory. Being placed in your organization's online membership directory is an important membership benefit, that allows members to connect and network easily.

If you would like to be included in FBC-LEO's online membership directory, please email a photo of yourself to fbcleo@fkcities.com and renew your FBC-LEO membership dues by April 1, 2022.



To renew your dues, **click here** or click the button below.

FBC-LEO dues invoices were emailed in January. If you did not receive your invoice, contact Nykierama Cooper at ncooper@fkcities.com.

Thank you for your membership.

We appreciate your continued support of FBC-LEO.

Renew FBC-LEO Membership

FBC-LEO Shirts Available

The ordering window is open until February 28, 2022.



Purchase your shirt now to wear at the FBC-LEO Spring Conference in March!

There are many great colors and styles to choose from. Short sleeve and long sleeve shirts are available.

Click the "View Shirts" button below to view available options and to place your order.

If you are paying with a city/town/village credit card and need the sales tax turned off, please call Full Press Apparel before placing your shirt order. The phone number for Full Press Apparel is (850) 222-1003.

View Shirts

Events & Training Opportunities

2022 Legislative Action Days

February 8-9, 2022
Tallahassee, FL

Every year during session, city officials from across the state come together in Tallahassee for Legislative Action Days. This is a valuable



opportunity for members to get to know their legislators and to view the legislature at work first-hand.

The cost for this event is \$50.00

[Click here](#) to register and view the agenda.

FLCities Strong Webinar

Monday, February 14, 2022

10:00 a.m. ET



Join us on **Monday, February 14, at 10:00 a.m. ET** for the latest edition of **#FLCitiesStrong!**

February's **#FLCitiesStrong** broadcast will explore recent research and practices addressing Florida's critical workforce housing shortage.

Special guests include:

- **Dr. Ned Murray, AICP, Associate Director, Jorge M. Perez Metropolitan Center**
- **Frances De Jesus, Manager, Housing and Community Development, City of Kissimmee**

We'll also learn about the final rule guiding the expenditure of **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** funds from the League's ARPA Experts:

- **Allison Payne, Manager, Federal Affairs**
- **Wade Burkley, Research Analyst**

Join our regular hosts **Shwanda Barnette** and **Scott Paine** along with our special guests for information and insight! Register today!

[Register today!](#)

Find Us on Social Media



Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, Indeed, YouTube and Twitter!



Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials