

January 2024



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS  
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Happy  
New Year

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## President's Message



Happy New Year FBC-LEO Members and Friends!

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to FBC-LEO. Your hard work shines through with the growth of our association. May this year bring more wisdom and success as you continue to make a positive impact on the municipalities you serve. Your commitment is truly appreciated, and I look forward to witnessing the continued progress and achievements of our association.

Wishing you a year filled with prosperity and fulfillment in all your endeavors.

Our next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. West". The signature is written in a cursive style.

President Morris West  
Commissioner, City of Haines City

## 2024 FBC-LEO Dues



**2024 FBC-LEO dues will be emailed soon.**

Thank you for your membership. We appreciate your continued support of FBC-LEO.

2024 FBC-LEO Essay Contest



# Essay Contest

Deadline:  
**January 22, 2024**  
at **5:00 p.m. ET**

For more information visit [fbcleo.org/essay-contest](https://fbcleo.org/essay-contest)

[View More Here](#)

2024 FBC-LEO Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATE

2024



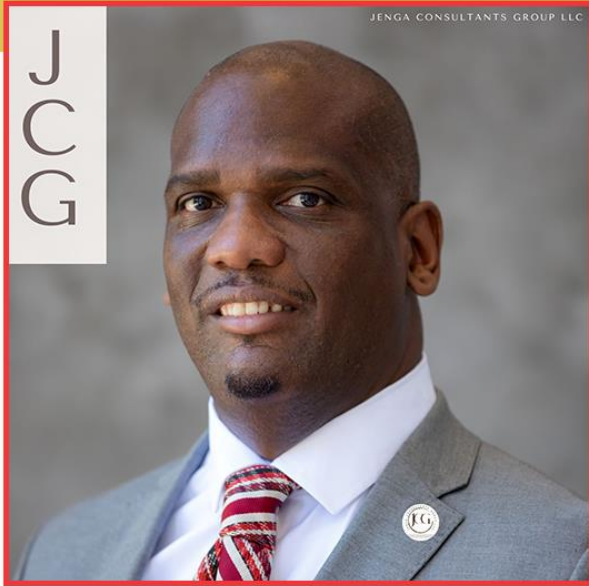
FBC-LEO  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

**APRIL 4-5**

Embassy Suites  
Kissimmee, Florida

**Registration Opening Soon!**

2024 Annual Conference  
Keynote Speakers



**2024**  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER**

**Dr. Chad Jackson**  
President/CEO  
Jenga Consultants Group, LLC (JCG)





**2024**  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER**

**Yolanda Cash Jackson**

Government Law Attorney  
Becker & Poliakoff





**2024**  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER**

**Gordon Weekes**

Law Office of the Public Defender  
Broward County



**FBC-LEO Membership Inquiry Form**







FBC-LEO Consultant Linda J. Bridges retired on December 30, 2023, after an illustrious career of 41 years with the Florida League of Cities. Linda was honored by colleagues on December 12th to show their love and appreciation. Her dedication and contributions have left an indelible mark on our organization. As Linda embarks on this new

chapter of her life, we express our deepest gratitude for her unwavering commitment and wish her a retirement filled with joy, relaxation and the fulfillment of all her aspirations.

Linda, your legacy will continue to inspire us. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement!

**Kindly review Linda's heartfelt expression of gratitude:**

FBC-LEO Board,

As I transition to retirement this week, I want to take a moment to thank you so much for the honorary membership (wow!), the sparkling crystal vase, the beautiful gift basket, and the beautifully worded resolution, all in celebration of my retirement. THANK YOU!

It has been a true pleasure, honor, and privilege to work with you, as well as the FBC-LEO membership and your dedicated staff. You have much to be proud of in your association and I am proud to have been associated with you to celebrate the history, help make it what it is today and what it will become in the future. Congratulations! And thank you!

I hope our paths cross in the future. Until then, please know that I respect immensely what you do as local elected officials for your cities, towns and villages and the citizens who entrust you with their communities. May God continue to bless you and FBC-LEO.

## From Our Partners

# FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES



The 2024 Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days will be held January 29-31, 2024 in Tallahassee. [Register Now](#)

If you are a first-time attendee to Legislative Action Days, don't miss the "Know Before You Go Session" on January 17, from 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. via Zoom [Click here to register](#)

The registration fee for Legislative Action Days is \$50.00. Also, on Monday, January 29, the Florida League of Cities is offering a four-hour ethics workshop that meets the state requirements for Continuing Education in Ethics. The cost to attend the Ethics workshop is \$50.00. The cost to attend both Legislative Action Days and the Ethics workshop is \$100.00.

Note: To cancel your registration, submit your request no later than Friday, January 19, 2024, to Heidi Hogarth, [hhogarth@flcities.com](mailto:hhogarth@flcities.com). Cancellations are subject to a \$25.00 cancellation fee.

The Florida League of Mayors will also be holding events during this time.



The Florida Beverage Association (FBA) has announced the opening of the application period for its **Community Grant Program**, a competitive grant funding initiative focused on advancing environmental sustainability and health and wellness programs across Florida. In its ninth year, FBA's Community Grant Program is open to 501(c)(3) charity organizations or a state or local governmental entity that will use the grant funds for a charitable purpose.

The Florida Beverage Association, the state trade association representing non-alcoholic beverage producers, marketers, bottlers and distributors, oversees the grant program. The Florida beverage industry employs nearly 20,000 Floridians across the state with a direct economic impact of \$14.8 billion. In addition to the statewide grant program, Florida's beverage companies and their employees generously contribute \$124.5 million to charitable causes across the state.

Grant applications should be submitted online through FBA's website by Wednesday, January 31, 2024. To be considered for a grant, all nominees must meet the requirements listed in the "**Grant Program Criteria**" found on the FBA website at [www.flabev.org](http://www.flabev.org). Grants awarded through the FBA program are generally capped at \$25,000; however, flexibility can be considered for unique situations. In addition, some grant applications may be eligible for a matching grant from the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America (ABFHA). Learn more on ABFHA grants [here](#).

All applications will be reviewed by the FBA Board Grant Subcommittee. FBA Community grant recipients will be selected and notified by the FBA Board of Directors by March 15, 2024. The FBA will submit their selections for award to the ABFHA matching grants program. Matching grants from the ABFHA will not be announced until May 2023. General questions may be directed to FBA president and CEO Elizabeth DeWitt by phone at 407.385.2708 or by email at [Liz.dewitt@flabev.org](mailto:Liz.dewitt@flabev.org).

# SAVE THE DATE

Be sure all of the upcoming FBC-LEO events are on your calendar.

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
5:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

**Register Here**

## **General Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

**Register Here**

## **2024 FBC-LEO Essay Contest**

Please share on all of your social media platforms.

**Deadline for submissions:**

January 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. ET

For more information visit

**<https://fbcleo.org/essay-contest/>**

## **FBC-LEO Annual Conference**

April 4-5, 2024  
Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista  
Kissimmee, FL

**Registration Opening Soon!**

## Find Us on Social Media



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



Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected  
Officials