



ASLA Florida Chapter President | President's Message

February 2016

For this month's message, I want to try to convince you all to make our Government Affairs Committee your valentine. With all of the work they have been doing over the past 10 years, there is plenty of reason to fall in love! Here are just a few of the significant ways in which the Florida Chapter Government Affairs volunteers have affected the practice of landscape architecture in our state:

- ♥ Thwarted deregulation of the practice of landscape architecture in Florida
- ♥ Defended our statutory right to practice Stormwater Design and Permitting and as a result we successfully emended FDEP rules to reference "registered professionals" in Statewide Environmental Resource Permit rulemaking and solidified our inclusion in stormwater permitting.
- ♥ Defended our statutory right to design transportation facilities, including parking lots and bicycle / pedestrian trails
- ♥ Defended our statutory right to interpret transportation related design standards such as the Florida Green Book, FDOT Design Standards, and MUTCD
- ♥ Gained an FLASLA representative "seat at the table" for FDOT's Green Industry working group to advocate on behalf of the Florida Chapter
- ♥ Placed an FLASLA representative on the board for the Florida Urban Forestry Council
- ♥ Placed an FLASLA representative on the board of the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation
- ♥ Participated in a committee made up of representatives of other design professional societies to review potential changes to the Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA)
- ♥ Defended and helped affect the Preservation of the 1.5% highway beautification program
- ♥ Passed legislation that authorizes landscape architects to conduct mold assessment without the need for an additional license
- ♥ Passed legislation to protect landscape architects from tort liability for certain contracts related to economic damages
- ♥ Passed legislation to allow landscape architects to use an electronic sign and seal. And then...several years later, suggested to the Florida Board of Landscape Architecture to initiate rule changes to allow ink stamps!
- ♥ Each year FLASLA passes either a cabinet or legislative resolution declaring April Landscape Architecture Month. Governor Scott and Commissioner Putnam have both sponsored this in previous years, and CFO Atwater is sponsoring this year's resolution.

A special valentine should be reserved for FLASLA's lobbyist, Diana Ferguson, Esq., for her excellent representation for our membership in Tallahassee. We could not ask for a better prepared, resourceful, creative, and professional representative for our interests.

[Contact me](#) if you, too, are head over heels in love with the FLASLA Government Affairs Committee; I'll pass along your valentines to the committee and/or Diana. Thank you!

Jonathan Haigh, PLA, ASLA
2015-16 Florida Chapter President
president@flasla.org
North Palm Beach, FL

American Society of Landscape Architects Florida Chapter

1390 Timberlane Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32312
Tel: 850-222-6000

www.flasla.org

COREY G. MATHEWS, CAE
Executive Director

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