

## Gavel is Passed to New FAPE President

### President's Message

Dear FAPE Members and New Friends,

As a little girl, growing up in a suburb of Chicago, I had a dream to become a teacher. Today, it's hard to believe where that dream has taken me some fifty years later. First, it was off to Baker University, a great little school in Baldwin City, Kansas where I met my husband of 34 years. Then it was on to University of Kansas for a Masters and my first teaching job in Lawrence.

Growing up with a learning disability, I had struggled in school. So my dream was to help other kids with those same struggles. My first job was an itinerant position traveling from school to school working with kids with special needs. That was way before laws like 94142 when special education was in its infancy. What a challenge!! My next teaching job was in an "open space" classroom. I had a "room" (with no walls) full of children who today would probably be diagnosed as ADHD and Oppositional Defiant. But I loved that class and still can remember every single one of those kids.

All too soon Allen and I were off to Los Angeles, where he was accepted into Ross Perot's brokerage training program and then on to St. Lucie County, Florida, where we have lived ever since. St. Lucie County has been a wonderful home for our family. We've raised a son here. Chris is now married and we're expecting our first grandchild in October. Allen and I can't wait. We feel very blessed!

The years have gone by so quickly. I spent more than a decade as a clinician and then co-owner of Developmental Learning Center continuing to work with children who struggled academically. Even back then, much of my free time was devoted to helping in our local schools as a business partner and member of several education committees. I

(Continued on page 2)



FAPE President Jane Lane passes the gavel to newly elected President Judi Miller. The new board officially began their duties at a recent board retreat held in Daytona. (See article on page 2.)

### 2005-2006 Board of Directors:

- Judi Miller, President**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie County
- Doretha Jackson, President Elect**  
Pinellas County Schools
- Rick Everitt, VP, Govern. Technology & Business**  
Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
- Holly Laiben, Secretary**  
Martin County School District
- Donna Houchen, Treasurer**  
SERVE, Inc., Hillsborough School District
- Jane Lane, Past President**  
Seminole County Public Schools
- Susan Walton, DOE Representative**  
FL Dept. of Education

## FAPE Board Establishes Annual Goals at Daytona Retreat

By Holly Laiben

At their annual retreat in June, FAPE board members reviewed suggestions submitted by you, the members, in our recent survey. Input and comments submitted by conference attendees on their evaluations were also informative and useful in setting the goals. Using that information as a springboard, your Board recently identified the key goals and objectives for the 2005-2006 Annual Plan.

As we now turn to accomplishing these goals, we need your energy, advice and advocacy. We are looking for several hard-working people, dedicated to promoting FAPE's vision, mission, and purpose. Please choose to serve on one of the following committees:

### Increase Professional Development

- Provide on-line training
- Expand partnerships
- Offer CEU credit for conference workshops

### Increase FAPE Membership

- Develop a plan for a membership drive
- Develop welcome packet
- Increase membership services, etc.

### Legislative Advocacy

- Appoint a professional lobbyist
- Develop legislative strategies
- Expand resources and partnerships

Any amount of time you can give is welcome and greatly appreciated. For further information or to sign up for a committee, contact Pam Lastowski, Executive Director, [pamlastowski@comcast.net](mailto:pamlastowski@comcast.net).

*(Continued from page 1)*

*can even remember going to a Business Partners in Education Conference all those years ago. Little did I know that I would become State Chair of FAPE.*

*Advocacy for children's issues led me to run for a seat on the School Board in 1986—an elected office I still hold today. The School Board has been a vital part of so much change over that time: from court order to Unitary Status, bond issue to renovations, academic struggles to academic reforms and our newest challenge huge growth! Port St. Lucie was just declared the fastest growing city in the nation last week.*

*In 1991, I was offered an Executive Director's position with Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie. Again, it was a chance to help children grow and thrive-- this time through mentoring. Almost 15 years and thousands of kids later, I still love my work. Ironically, it was involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters in the Governor's Mentoring Initiative, as State Association Chair, that led me back to FAPE a few years ago.*

*Since that time, I've had the chance to meet so many wonderful people through Florida Association of Partners in Education! Your Board's dedication and your commitment to our mission, make us an unbeatable team. Jane Lane, last year's Chair, led FAPE to great heights. As you read this newsletter, you will see that we have exciting new goals and high expectations again this year. Team spirit and effort give us power to accomplish those goals. So please, come join our team. There are so many ways to help!! (Call me at (772) 528-4545 to talk about the opportunities.) Let's all continue to dream big dreams and work together to make those dreams come true.*

*Sincerely,*

*Judi Miller*



## Thank You Conference Sponsors!

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- Platinum:** Publix Super Markets  
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- Gold:** Scott Foresman  
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Florida Educational Technology Conference, Inc.
- Silver:** Florida Power & Light  
Notification Technology  
Florida School Board Association  
Florida Association of District Superintendents  
NOVA Southeastern University  
Wal-Mart



Winners of the "Best Dressed Male and Female Cowboy" competition held at SUNSPRA's Sunshine Medallion Awards at Dixie Stampede were James Hunter, Broward County, and Debra Tharpe, Palm Beach County.

# Commissioner's Business Recognition Award

## 2005 DISTRICT WINNERS

| <u>District</u>     | <u>Company</u>   | <u>District</u>   | <u>Company</u>   |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>Alachua</b>      | Coca Cola Enterprises<br>o2b Kids!   | <b>Marion</b>     | Ocala Star Banner<br>System Components Corp  |
| <b>Baker</b>        | Wal-Mart Distribution Center 6099  | <b>Martin</b>     | Creech Engineering<br>Quality Business Concepts                                    |
| <b>Bay</b>          | Lansing Smith Generating Plant<br>Callaway Wal*Mart Super Center                                   | <b>Miami-Dade</b> | The Miami HEAT<br>Dr. Bruce Heiken Memorial Fund, Inc.                             |
| <b>Bradford</b>     | Kiwanis Club of Starke   | <b>Monroe</b>     | Wachovia Bank<br>Gonzalez Landscaping  |
| <b>Brevard</b>      | The Viera Company<br>Bartman Enterprises   | <b>Nassau</b>     | First Coast Community Bank<br>Shoney's Restaurant                                  |
| <b>Broward</b>      | Cynthia Gayle's School of Dance<br>North Broward Hospital District<br>Nova Southeastern University | <b>Okaloosa</b>   | First City Bank<br>Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation                                    |
| <b>Charlotte</b>    | Florida Power & Light  | <b>Okeechobee</b> | Walpole, Inc.  |
| <b>Citrus</b>       | Homosassa Wildlife State Park<br>WYKE-TV   | <b>Orange</b>     | Baker and Hostetler, LLP<br>Hewitt Associates<br>Universal Orlando Foundation      |
| <b>Collier</b>      | Wynn's Market<br>Comcast Cable   | <b>Osceola</b>    | Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Assoc.<br>Avatar                                   |
| <b>Columbia</b>     | Scrap to Music   | <b>Palm Beach</b> | Columbia Hospital<br>Oxbow Corp<br>Washington Mutual                               |
| <b>Dixie</b>        | Cross City Correctional Institution  | <b>Pasco</b>      | Saint Leo University<br>Wachovia Bank  |
| <b>Duval</b>        | Wachovia Bank, N. A.<br>Landstar<br>Crowley  | <b>Pinellas</b>   | St Petersburg Kennel Club<br>Walker's Rising Stars<br>Non-Profit Hospitals Venture |
| <b>Escambia</b>     | BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.<br>St. Luke United Methodist Church                             | <b>Polk</b>       | Polk County Builders Association<br>Lakeland Regional Medical Center               |
| <b>Flagler</b>      | Flagler Palm Coast Kiwanis Club Found.   | <b>Putnam</b>     | Beck Chrysler/Dodge/Jeep<br>Golden Corral  |
| <b>Gadsden</b>      | All American Sports  | <b>St. Lucie</b>  | Tri County Animal Hospital<br>Fort Pierce Utilities Authority                      |
| <b>Hendry</b>       | Nisbet Enterprises, Inc.   | <b>Santa Rosa</b> | Gulf Breeze Ford<br>Buffalo Rock   |
| <b>Hernando</b>     | Red Lobster of Spring Hill<br>Vulcan Materials Co.   | <b>Sarasota</b>   | WCI Communities, Inc.<br>Kitchner & Pierro Company, Inc.                           |
| <b>Highlands</b>    | Glades Electric Cooperative<br>Highland County Emergency Operations                                | <b>Seminole</b>   | Altamonte Springs Rotary Club<br>Fiserv, Inc.                                      |
| <b>Hillsborough</b> | Capital One Services, Inc.<br>Bright House Networks<br>Caspers Comp./McDonald's Restaurants        | <b>Sumter</b>     | Oxford Assembly of God   |
| <b>Indian River</b> | Greens +<br>Marsh Landings Restaurant  | <b>Suwannee</b>   | Capital City Bank  |
| <b>Jackson</b>      | Marianna Kiwanis Club  | <b>Union</b>      | Pritchett Trucking, Inc.   |
| <b>Lake</b>         | Progress Energy  | <b>Volusia</b>    | Allstate Insurance<br>The Daytona Beach News-Journal                               |
| <b>Lee</b>          | McBLT Ventures, Inc.<br>SunTrust Bank  | <b>Wakulla</b>    | Envision Credit Union  |
| <b>Leon</b>         | Mainline Information Systems<br>Florida Department of Law Enforcement                              |                   |  |
| <b>Levy</b>         | Parrish Construction Company   |                   |  |
| <b>Manatee</b>      | Mangrove Grill Beach Bistro  |                   |  |



## NEWS from DOE ...

# Florida Outstanding School Volunteers

The Florida Department of Education honored fifteen exemplary school volunteers at their annual Outstanding School Volunteer Awards luncheon on April 15 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando. The Commissioner of Education was present to personally congratulate each volunteer. The event was sponsored by Dairy Farmers Inc./Dairy Council of Florida and Publix Super Markets. Last newsletter we highlighted the senior category winners. Here are the five recipients in the adult category. Next month—the youth category!

## 2005 Winners—

### RENEE BOOKOUT

#### Region I Winner from Santa Rosa County

Outstanding volunteers wear many hats, but Renee Bookout also wears many titles. While wearing a pink, plastic pig head to teach Sunshine Math, she is affectionately nicknamed “Mrs. Pigout.” Students benefiting from her cooking class fondly call her “Mrs. Cookout,” and the Spanish students greet “Senorita Bookout” whenever she enters the classroom. Whatever name she’s using, during the seven years she has volunteered at Oriole Beach Elementary she has succeeded in making a lasting impression on the students. Mrs. Bookout engaged first graders in science experiments, taught Spanish to three grade levels, and spearheaded a fifth grade project called *Leaving a Legacy*. This wife, mother of three, attorney, and television and radio talk show host sets aside her demanding schedule and devotes Fridays to the children at Oriole Beach. She is like that favorite aunt who breezes in for a visit and makes everything fun and exciting, leaving students longing for her return. To teachers, she is a partner in education, a helping hand, and a breath of fresh air on a busy day. To Oriole Beach Elementary, Renee Bookout is truly an invaluable gift.



### JUDY LUNDELL

#### Region II Winner from Alachua County

Mrs. Judy Lundell has the extraordinary distinction of being nominated as Outstanding Volunteer of the Year by three Alachua County schools. Her service shines so brightly that we marvel at the level of generosity and commitment she gives to each of her three daughters’ schools. During the past five years, Mrs. Lundell has volunteered over 3,000 hours quietly helping students get needed glasses, steering many committees, and preparing literary competitions. Her varied activities at Kanapaha Middle include service on the PTA Board and as an active member of the Kanapaha Band Boosters. At Buchholz High, Mrs. Lundell shouldered the enormous responsibility of making sure the struggling PTSA thrived. She has filled temporary vacancies as chairperson for the Academic Enhancement and Program Committees and can often be seen in the front office greeting parents, students and visitors with her usual warmth and welcoming manner.



## Valeh Levy

### Region III Winner from Volusia County

Dr. Levy has shared her extensive knowledge of horticulture through beautification efforts at Coronado Beach Elementary in New Smyrna Beach, and through creative lessons born from these gardening efforts. This "Garden Rebel" has recruited other adult and student volunteers to put their hands in the ground. She initiated the school's first garden club and annually helps kindergarten with a vegetable garden. From all these efforts bloom numerous lessons, from birds and sea oats to ocean currents and the "Message in a Bottle." Always positive, always loving, if students or teachers have a need Dr. Levy will make every effort to see the need is met. Struggling readers can count on her assistance in the Reading Counts program, and teachers receive assistance in grant writing and field trip coordination. Though she seeks only the satisfaction of a job well done, everyone at Coronado Beach recognizes the remarkable impact of Dr. Levy's presence.



## DIANA MENEELY

### Region IV Winner from Highlands County

For some adults, just getting up and going to work is a struggle. Then there is Diana Meneely, who for the past four years, arrived at Park Elementary to volunteer for a few hours before going to her job, and returns often during her lunch hour. She has continued to help one student that has required extra assistance for several years. It doesn't matter what she is asked to do, Ms. Meneely is always willing to help, be it tutoring, photocopying, or escorting sick children to the office. Her dedication, flexibility and approximately 1,000 volunteer hours this year working with students and teachers is greatly appreciated by the entire school community. She is truly one of those beautiful people who uses her time and energy to make a difference in the lives of children.



## NORA LOPEZ

### Region V Winner from Broward County

As the number of Spanish-speaking families increased at Country Hills Elementary, students, parents and staff members began commenting about how nice it would be to have Spanish as a special class. Knowing that the budget would not support a Spanish teacher, in stepped Mrs. Nora Lopez. She spent many months writing the "Hola Espanol" program, consulting with teachers about the curriculum, planning the lessons, and even gathering interesting learning materials from her native Mexico. Once the program was ready, Mrs. Lopez began inspiring other interested volunteers. Soon there were forty trained Spanish tutors presenting the curriculum throughout the school. Country Hills Elementary recognizes and cherishes all cultures represented at the school. "Hola Espanol" has not only brought one of these cultures to the forefront, but it has also brought a celebration of all the other languages and cultures represented at this school. The program was honored as a recipient of the state's prestigious Little Red Schoolhouse Award.





Shelly Parpard (center), Volunteer Coordinator of Palm Beach County Schools, accepts the new FAPE membership plaque, given to the county with the largest increase of members. Congratulating her are Pam Lastowski (left), FAPE Executive Director, and Jane Lane, FAPE Past President.

### Become a FAPE Member!

Individual membership: \$25.

Institutional membership (10 members): \$200

Visit [www.flpie.net](http://www.flpie.net) or contact Pam Lastowski:

850-514-FAPE (3273)

[pamlastowski@comcast.net](mailto:pamlastowski@comcast.net).



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## District Coordinators Take Note!

### September 2005

- 26 Family Day
- 29/30 Leadership Training—Tallahassee

### October 2005

- 22 National Make A Difference Day

### November 2005

- 13-19 American Education Week
- 20-26 National Family Week

### December 2005

- 2 Outstanding School Volunteer Nominations Due

### January 2006

#### NATIONAL MENTOR MONTH

- 13 Commissioner's Business Recognition Award Nominations Due

### February 2006

#### FLORIDA SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MONTH

- 12-18 School Volunteer Week

### March 2006

- 6-10 FCAT TESTING
- 17 Parent Involvement Award Nominations Due
- 28-31 National Learn & Service Conference

### April 2006

- TBA FL Learn & Serve Applications Due
- 19-21 FAPE Conference—Daytona Beach
- 20 Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards Event

- 16-22 National Volunteer Week
- 21 Golden & Silver School Award Nominations Due

### May 2006

- 1-5 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 3 National Teachers Day
- 19 Annual School Volunteer Program Survey Due

### June 2006

- 23 Five Star School Award Nominations Due

### July 2006

- 14-16 PTA Leadership Conference/Parent Involvement Awards Event

## Rev Up Your Engines ... for Student Achievement

2006  
Florida Association of Partners in Education  
Annual Conference

April 19-21  
Hilton Daytona Beach Ocean Walk Village

Save this date and plan NOW to attend!

Make hotel reservations ... 386.252.8678

Visit [www.flpie.net](http://www.flpie.net) for updates.

See you in Daytona Beach in 2006!

Contributing Editors: Pam Lastowski, Judi Miller, Susan Walton, Marilyn Parcels, Holly Laiben.

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