

# Local and Regional Leagues and the FLC

Manasota League of Cities

May 12, 2016



# Today's Agenda

- Brief FLC Overview
- History of local leagues and their staffing
- Discussion of services to local leagues



# FLC History: The First 90 Years

- 1922: Tampa City Manager holds open event; formation of Florida League of Municipalities
- 1960s: FLM based in Jacksonville – hires Ray Sittig. Major changes to board, committees and advocacy
- 1969: New Constitution adopted; annual Legislature
- 1970: FLC renamed; offices move to Tallahassee
- 1977: start of pooled trusts; Orlando office space rented then purchased



# The First Local Leagues

- Broward County – discussion of municipal association in 1950s – formal in 1957
- Dade County – similar discussions once it has Metropolitan form of government adopted (also 1957, but implemented in 1958)
- Other States: some regional divisions, but FL only state with separate leagues
- Formations: most as 501c6; some less formal
- Regional leagues: multi-county with geographic similarities (NE, NW, Suncoast, SW, Tri-County, Gold Coast, Suwannee River, Treasure Coast)
- Initial Associations with FLC: sought membership; FLC By-laws prohibit it



# Differences Between FLC and L/R

- Each L/R sets its own membership definitions/restrictions
- Each L/R chooses own boards, committees and attendance rules
- The FLC does not staff or provide insurance to any L/R
- Some of the L/R have affiliate and corporate memberships; FLC cannot



# Focus on Advocacy

- Promotion of issues, responses to legislative questions
- Build relationships with Federal & State representatives
- Help them identify Key Contacts
- Send teams to Tallahassee for day/week
- FLC lobbyists visit FL Reps with L/R officials
- Work with Kathy Till on Regional Advocacy Team (where created – features H/S leadership)
- Example: entire FL Senate up this year; lots of strategy



# Focus on Leadership

- Seek FLC nominating committee members from L/R
- Structure of FLC board after 1990 – boundaries don't divide L/R
- Some candidates for FLC offices travel to L/R to meet members and gain support
- L/R officers often are recommended for FLC board seats
- FLC has always appreciated 'locally grown leaders'



# Federal Advocacy

- ManaSota League has sponsored FAST fly-in attendees
- Need FAST members within each L/R (example: next trip 5/24)
- FAST committee members across the state



# The FMIT & FMIvT Stipend of Support

- Originally designed to help staff buy telephones/faxes/copying
- Some Leagues receive a flat fee, rather than the percentage from Pooled Trust (usually regional leagues receive percentage)
- Now a reflection of support of Pooled Trusts
- Hope it helps support Advocacy and Outreach while also giving Trusts common ground with each L/R



# Staffing of Local/Regional Leagues

- Some have used Institute of Government (at state colleges and universities)
- Some have employed former city officials (elected and appointed)
- A few have been staffed through a city – like ManaSota
- A few were given office space by COG/County Government



# More on L/R Staffing

- Bank records, meeting minutes, materials: usually stored with the respective staff
- Just as no two municipalities are the same, no two L/R are identical!

# Questions and Discussion

- Thank you for asking me to attend your meeting!

