



Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association, Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Oct. 4 • Ft. Myers**  
**Mini Conference**

## FloridaFAPA.org Relaunched

The association's website underwent a major revision in July, and there are many new features to be found.

There is now an integrated search feature to make it easier to find what you are looking for, and the resources are now all indexed by county, FSFAPA and DCF region as well as by what role they play. The goal is to make the site as easy to use as possible, and that starts with being able to simply enter your county name into the search bar and seeing resources available in that area.

## Duffels Update

The Duffels program is still running strong ... but we're gonna change things up a little bit. The logistics of delivering duffels across the state has proven to be a huge challenge, so the program is being reorganized to focus on distribution and FSFAPA events (and a select few that we participate in.)

If you have any questions about how to get a duffel, log on to FloridaFAPA.org or ask chair Keith Best about it at the mini-conference.

## FSFAPA on FB

Did you know that FSFAPA is on Facebook? We have more than 1,400 people on the page, so it is a great resource for finding out about what is going on, or just sharing ideas. Check it out at [facebook.com/FSFAPA](https://facebook.com/FSFAPA).



## NexGen Band on a Run!

What started out as merely a "cool idea" at the June conference in 2013, is now a runaway success, and gaining momentum!

The NexGen Band (made up of foster, adoptive and bio children from foster families) debuted at Children's Week in Tallahassee in April, and has now performed at the 2014 National Foster Parent Association Conference and the DCF Summit (both in Orlando) with

plans for even more. They kicked off the DCF Summit and even had Secretary Carroll dancing to their rendition of "Happy." (Performance sponsored by Pepsi.)

We're thankful that they are getting the opportunity to represent a positive side of what kids in "the system" can become.

Thanks to Victoria Herrin, Chris Johnson and all the sponsors that have helped make this happen.

## Mini Conference set for Ft. Myers, Oct. 4

We continue to take our show on the road, this time to Southwest Florida on Sat., Oct. 4, at Hodges University in Ft. Myers. (Hosted by Children's Network of Southwest Florida.)

The daylong event will start at 8:30 and run to 4 p.m. with sessions that

include the FSFAPA Quarterly Meeting; Debra Bass (managing CLS attorney for Circuit 20) presenting on legislative updates; Diane DeMark (Community Based Care Integrated Health) presenting on Sunshine Healthcare; and guided discussions

on visitation and co-parenting.

Childcare will be available as well. Email [SWFLfostercare@gmail.com](mailto:SWFLfostercare@gmail.com) or call (239) 292-2428 to register by Friday, Sept. 26.

More information and updates can be found at [www.FloridaFAPA.org](http://www.FloridaFAPA.org).

## Joint FSFAPA/NFPA Education Conference a Success

As many of you know, this year our annual education conference was a joint effort with the National Foster Parent Association. Held June 5-8 at Caribe Royal in Orlando, more than 550 adult attendees plus more than 125 teens and tweens from FSFAPA

families.

In addition to many hours of training and fellowship, we honestly think everyone had a good time. One of the more popular additions to the conference was a dress-up photo booth complete with wigs, feather boas and

various hats and other props. (Check out the FloridaFAPA facebook page for hundreds of pictures!)

Mark your calendars now for the 2015 FSFAPA Annual Education Conference, June 19-21 at the Orlando Hilton.

## FSFAPA News and Notes

### BOARD CHANGES:

Long-time Board Secretary Curtis Byrd submitted his resignation in June. We'd like to thank Curtis for all his hard work and dedication through the years.

Webmaster/PR Chair Charles Parker was appointed to the open secretary position.

### PRESIDENT ELECT:

Harriet Wynn was elected the next president of FSFAPA at the Annual Education Conference in June (unopposed). She'll assume the top post in January.

### NEW PROFESSIONAL:

The FSFAPA board voted

to create a second professional position to serve the needs of the association and board. The executive director position is a part time role that will focus on the goals and mission of the organization and work with the volunteer board to ensure they are met.

Trudy Petkovich will step into this role in January, at the end of her current board term.

**GAY'S BACK!:** It may seem like she never left, but officially she retired from DCF and left the FSFAPA DCF Advisor role to Carrie Toy. Gay simply moved

into a new role as the FSFAPA Quality Parenting Initiative Advisor. For those of you that were at the conference and saw the presentation surrounding Gay's "retirement" ... we have not asked her to return the gift, however the board will be a little more suspect the next time she announces a "retirement."

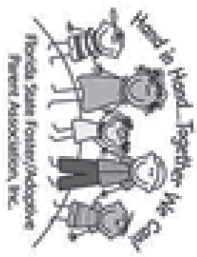
### WHAT ABOUT A WINTER CONFERENCE?

Planning for the Winter Quarterly Mini Conference is underway, and it is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 14 in Nassau County (north of Jacksonville.) Stay tuned to FloridaFAPA.org for updates.

**RETREAT:** The board extended their DCF Summit stay by one day to work on becoming more focused and cohesive. RVP Chris Johnson facilitated a number of team-building exercises and focusing the board on the mission and business of the association.

**COWBOY UP:** FSFAPA and the NEXGEN Band will be participating with Kids Central and Youth and Family Alternatives in the Cowboy Up Barrel Race for Adoption event at the "End of the Trail Ranch" in Reddick on Nov. 7. The Shane Wooten Band will also perform. Admission is free!

See anything that interested you? Join FSFAPA and become a part of positive change. #ItCanBeDone



*Together are excited to bring to you*

## Fall Mini-Conference

**Saturday, October 4, 2014**

**8:30am to 4:00pm**

(registration opens at 8:30am)

Hodges University

4501 Colonial Blvd., Room #364

Ft. Myers, FL 33966

**A free daylong event, featuring subject matter experts from around the State of Florida presenting on a variety of topics:**

***\*Legislative Updates***

***\*Visitation & Co-Parenting***

***\*Sunshine Healthcare***

**Free childcare will be available!**

**Email [SWFLfostercare@gmail.com](mailto:SWFLfostercare@gmail.com) or call (239)292-2428**

**for more information and registration today**

***RSVP Required by Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> for childcare!***



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