



SERVING THE INTERESTS OF SIESTA KEY RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS

You've heard the old saying: "Don't quit your day job!" Last year at this time, I had "forecast" that during 2015 we would see final decision/plans for the Big Pass Dredge Project, as well as the Siesta Promenade and the traffic assessment at the intersection of Beach Road and Midnight Pass Road. Obviously, I will never make it as a forecaster!

These lingering issues as well as the continuation of the upgrades at Siesta Key Beach, the maintenance work on the South Bridge, the completion of the new seawall at the North Bridge, the dedication of the new Nora Patterson Park, as well as the finalized plans for the Turtle Beach restoration, just to name a few, all made for a very busy 2015. And 2016 will be just as busy, if not more so.

Any issue that affects Siesta Key, its residents, and/or its environment is an issue that your Siesta Key Association may weigh in on. And not all issues that we get involved in and advocate for will have media coverage. Members and non-members alike contact us via email and phone on a daily basis to ask questions, voice complaints, and look for assistance. In all cases, we personally respond to their issues/queries. We are here to serve you, our loyal members, and our Siesta Key community.

The Siesta Key Association is proud of its rich tradition of service to our island community for more than 67 years. And with our members' continued support, we are committed to our service to you in 2016 and beyond!

Michael T. Shay, President

**** SKA contributed more than 3,000 volunteer hours for our community January-December 2015****
THANK YOU SKA MEMBERS!

SKA Board of Directors

Beverly Arias	Joyce Kouba	Michael Shay
Helen Clifford	Catherine Luckner	Robert Stein
Deet Jonker	Daniel Lundy	Joe Volpe

SKA Annual Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, March 5, 2016

**Open at 8:00 A.M. for Coffee, Tea, Juice
Breakfast Buffet opens at 8:30 A.M.**

Annual Meeting from 9:30 - 11:00 A.M.

St. Boniface Episcopal Church, Community Room

TWO FREE admission tickets with your 2016 SKA
Membership AND advance reservation.

\$20 for Visitors (\$15 for Members' additional guests)
(You may become a member of SKA at our Breakfast Meeting)

Reservations: by email: info@siestakeyassociation.com
by phone: 941-364-4880

Speaking at our Breakfast

The Honorable Alan Maio

Commissioner, Sarasota County
and

Tom Harmer

County Administrator, Sarasota County

The 2016 membership drive is underway and we ask you to encourage your friends to join SKA. We can't emphasize enough the importance of SKA representing a large group of Siesta Key residents when it comes to addressing important island issues.

Please go online and sign up for 2016. The cost is \$30 and you receive 2 free tickets to our annual membership breakfast.

Join the Board of Directors

SKA needs your participation! Join SKA as one of our Board members to share in this good work on behalf of our Siesta Key residents. Your application may be sent to Joyce Kouba, Nominating Committee Chair at info@siestakeyassociation.com or call for information at 941-364-4880.

BIG PASS - LIDO BEACH RENOURISHMENT/EROSION MITIGATION UPDATE

Since hosting the first community presentation by Army Corps of Engineers (COE) in **December of 2013**, SKA has continued seeking a “do no harm” solution to the Lido Beach Renourishment Project. **On March 17, 2015**, the Dredge Permit Application and Lido Renourishment Plan were filed with the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP). State of Florida must first issue a permit in advance of federal funding. There is no dedicated project funding listed through year 2016.

On April 2, SKA submitted a public comment letter to FDEP specific to the permit application filed by COE. Our questions included environmental impact issues as well as project design questions. By submitting our comments, SKA receives notifications regarding any actions or comments through the application process. **On April 15**, FDEP sent its first Request for Additional Information (RAI #1) to the COE. This process will continue until all information requested is submitted to FDEP. **On May 10**, SKA submitted a second comment letter to FDEP. This outlined new concerns with the COE response and highlighted a pending third party independent review by a coastal engineering firm. Atkins North America was chosen by Sarasota County to provide this independent review. The scope of work was defined to address any shoreline impact to Ted Sperling South Lido (county) Park, the navigational channels and potential coastal impact to Siesta Key.

The Atkins Executive Summary is available on the SKA website. It provides significant information and questions regarding the project design. Of note are questions regarding the type of groin field and risk of erosion to South Lido Park. The alternative technology now available wasn't considered in the initial 1999 federal permit as it was not yet “proven”. However, the COE didn't consider Permeable Adjustable Groins (PAG) when the current design was optimized in 2002 and 2004; also wasn't considered in the Value Engineering Report of 2013. This technology has been approved by FDEP since 2007 for successful use along Longboat Key. It allows for adjustments in sand retention.

The COE has six months from October 7, 2015, to respond to RAI #2. If they do not respond, the COE can request another six months. If there is no response, the permit application is dismissed and the COE must reapply in future. SKA submitted our most recent comment letter **December 5, 2015**, accompanied by the Atkins Engineering report. **On December**

23, 2015, SKA received a response from FDEP in which they stated, “The application is still considered by the Department to be incomplete”.

WHY JOINING SKA IS IMPORTANT

Looking back over the last year, Siesta Key Association (SKA) has been involved in many projects and discussions, including the Big Pass dredging plan, FDOT proposed roundabouts at Midnight Pass Rd. and Beach Rd., traffic flow and lights at Midnight Pass Rd. and Stickney Point Rd., illegal house rentals in residential areas, noise complaints, Sheriff's reports, Siesta Beach Park revamp, and road speed limits. Our shared Audubon project for imperiled nesting beach birds, the Adopt-A-Road and Keep Sarasota Beautiful beach cleanups were completed with many SKA member volunteers. This year, SKA donated money on our members' behalf to the Sarasota Sheriff's program providing help to local families in great need during Christmas. Once again, we donated to the Junior Lifeguard Program, the Crystal Classic sand sculpture contest, and the July 4 fireworks celebration, and SKA took part in the Light Up the Village parade with our volunteered antique fire truck. Although our truck briefly tired out, parade goers stepped up to push and we still gave out 650 candy canes to the children.

Your membership helps continue our civic work and assures success on important issues affecting our residential community. Please join us the first Thursday of each month for our community meeting. Please join us for our Annual Member Breakfast meeting March 5, 2016. Information for this event and how to join is found on the first page of this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support!

WELCOME DANIEL LUNDY

Welcome to Dan Lundy, the most recent addition to the SKA Board of Directors. Dan and his wife, Janet, are transplants from New Jersey and have been permanent residents on Siesta Key since 2012. Dan practiced law for 35 years. Since retiring, he has engaged in community activities focused on helping families living in poverty. He is involved with Legal Aid of Manasota, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Siesta Key Kiwanis. We anticipate that his legal, accounting, business, and managerial background will be an asset to SKA. Please introduce yourself to Dan at our monthly SKA meetings.

**Visit our SKA website, www.siestakeyassociation.com
Look for Siesta Key Association on Facebook and “Like” us!**

SKA continues to work for YOU. THANKS to all of you, our members and friends, for your care and continued support of our mission to protect and maintain the natural beauty of Siesta Key.