

Okaloosa County News Release¹

7/7/2008

Cutline: (L-R) FAC Executive Director Chris Holley, Commissioner Jannazo and Commissioner Jacobs of Orange County.

Commissioner Amunds completed the CCC course; however, did not attend graduation.

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us

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Commissioners Don Amunds & John Jannazo Receive Certification

--Florida Association of Counties graduates Jannazo & Amunds from certification program--

Miami-Dade County, FL – The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) presented Okaloosa County Commissioners Don Amunds & John Jannazo with the Certified County Commissioner (CCC) designation following their completion of a comprehensive study program developed by the association. The commissioners received the designation along with 24 other county commissioners during an awards ceremony held at the FAC Annual Conference in Miami, FL.

Commissioner John Jannazo had this to say: "The course provided an excellent opportunity to attend courses taught by experts in Florida government from all over our state. The certification allowed me to master many of the advanced Commissioner skills needed to be a highly effective elected official in our County government in a very short period of time. And as an added benefit, it provided a venue to explore many of the best practices in place around the state and bring new ideas back to Okaloosa County to help improve our services to our citizens."

CCC certification is not a requirement to serve as a county commissioner in Florida. However, county commissioners may voluntarily enroll in the program and complete a series of courses totaling 42 hours. The coursework is designed to provide information and enhance skills relevant to a commissioner's duties and responsibilities as an elected official.

"The Sunshine, Public Records and Ethics Laws are a requirement, while the other classes offer a general working knowledge of government interactions with all its publics, from other governments to the service of local citizens. I especially enjoyed networking, learning and sharing ideas with other county commissioners," stated Commissioner Don Amunds.

The CCC program coursework covers a variety of topics, such as county government roles and responsibilities, county government structure and authority, financial management, ethics and sunshine law, negotiation skills, economic development, and effective communication. Completion of all coursework averages 18 to 24 months.

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“This certification allows our citizen electorate to become experts in county government improving their communities,” said FAC Executive Director Chris Holley. “The more than 200 graduates is a testament to the importance of this program to Florida and our counties”

For more information about the CCC program and courses, visit the FAC web site at www.fl-counties.com. Founded in 1929, the Florida Association of Counties is a non-profit association representing the diverse interests of Florida’s 67 counties.

(CCC List follows.)

27 County Commissioners Complete CCC in 2008:

Commissioners

Robert Abbott, Flagler County
Don Amunds, Okaloosa County
Clif Betts, Okeechobee County
Noel Chandler, Okeechobee County
Douglas Conkey, Clay County
Tricia Duffy, Charlotte County
Barbara Fitos, Marion County
Joseph Flesher, Indian River County
Doug Gilpin, Sumter County
Eddy Holman, Washington County
John Jannazo, Okaloosa County
Dick Loftus, Charlotte County
Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Michael McLean, Seminole County
Peter O’Bryan, Indian River County
Sydney Joel Pate, Washington County
Jean Reed, Polk County
Ben Rich, St. Johns County
Stacy Ritter, Broward County
Grover Robinson, Escambia County
Ron Sanchez, St. Johns County
Tammy Chereese Stewart, Clay County
J.C. Davis Stoutamire, Liberty County
Cliff Thaell, Leon County
Gene Valentino, Escambia County
Marvin Wherrell, Okeechobee County
Kevin White, Escambia County.