



AIF councils are your way to take a leadership role in the public policy issues that effect your industry or your company's specific interests.



# AIF Councils

The Councils of Associated Industries of the business community promote issues vital to those responsible for the industry.

## Education, Economic and Workforce Development

In its second year of existence, the Florida Education, Economic and Workforce Development Council (EEWDC) has a new name, a new chair and a new charge. We have added the word "economic" to the name to underscore the belief that education and workforce development are ultimately the base of the pyramid for economic development and sustainability. Amy Evancho, President of the Florida Economic Development Council, will serve as the 2009 EEWDC Chair. Her goals include increasing Council participation among business and economic development professionals across the state. Barney Bishop has charged the EEWDC to focus on two priorities this year: college and career readiness and workforce issues.

The Council looks forward to another active session as recent budget cuts have once again brought attention to the state's PreK – 20 education system at a time when Florida has made some dramatic improvements in national education rankings.

## Financial Services

AIF's Financial Services Council (FSC) will be very active again this year as they take on a number of issues important to insurance and financial services companies. The Council met in late January 2009, to approve its legislative agenda for the upcoming regular session. The focus this year will remain on finding ways to bring back a healthy private property insurance market in Florida.

As a result of the ongoing property insurance crisis, insurance and financial services companies are determined to work with the Legislature on ways to address Florida's current financial peril. Cat Fund Chief Operating Officer Jack Nicholson's recent testimony at the Senate

# Update

tries bring together unique y in order to develop and ective industries.

Banking and Insurance Committee revealed the fund is facing an \$11 billion gap between the amount of money it has on hand and can raise, and what it would be forced to pay should a storm or a series of hurricanes hit a major metropolitan area.

**The Council has approved the following agenda items for the 2009 session:**

- Efforts to bring back a healthy and competitive private property insurance market to Florida;
- Reduce Cat Fund coverages and, thus, its exposure;
- Provide additional incentives for property owners to make improvements protecting their buildings against hurricane damages;
- Return Citizens to a non-competitive market of last resort;
- Oppose additional healthcare mandates;
- Reform Florida's Bad Faith laws; and
- Eliminate unnecessary and onerous criminal penalties for sales practice violations.

**In addition, the Council will focus on issues created by recent Supreme Court decisions:**

- The elimination of the surplus lines insurance market; and
- The elimination of the 2003 workers' compensation claimant attorney fee reforms.

The Council will also play a major role in policy discussions surrounding businesses' use of personal identification information, which is an ongoing legislative issue.

## Florida Energy

The Florida Energy Council (FEC), under the continued leadership of Co-Chairs David Rogers of the Florida Natural Gas Association and Dave Mica of the Florida Petroleum Council, has solidified its place among the Florida business community as one of the leaders driving the energy

policy debate in our state. The Council has held numerous discussions since passage of last year's omnibus energy bill (HB 7135). Its last meeting featured a presentation by Jeremy Susac, Executive Director of the Governor's newly created Florida Energy & Climate Change Commission (FECC), on the new Commission's mission and its role in shaping Florida's energy policy.

As we move forward this year, the FEC will once again take on many of the issues important to the business community including Florida's potential adoption of the California Low-Emission Vehicle (CA-LEV) standards and other proposed climate change rules. Other meetings taking place in the next few months will feature visits by both House and Senate Energy Committee Chairmen, members of the Executive Branch and the newly appointed FECC commissioners.

As energy will remain a hot topic for the foreseeable future, Associated Industries of Florida and the FEC will be there to discuss and assist with the issues affecting our members: the producers, providers and users of energy.

## Florida Maritime

In early December 2008, the Florida Maritime Council (FMC) met to refocus its efforts on improving Florida's seaport security standards. The meeting was headlined by newly-elected Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville) and House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee Chair Rich Glorioso (R-Plant City). Rep. Ray is a strong supporter of ports especially since his civil engineering practice focuses on port issues and Chairman Glorioso, being from the Tampa Bay area, is well acquainted with the important role ports play in Florida's economy.

During the December meeting, FMC Chairman Phillip Buhler and Vice-Chair Jennifer Nugent-Hill of Tropical Shipping announced the new AIF team assisting the Council. AIF's General Counsel Tammy Perdue will serve as the new FMC lobbyist and will be assisted by Stephen Shiver of the Advocacy and Government Affairs group of the prestigious Tew-Cardenas law firm. This new team will lead the Council's



To join one of our councils, committees, or task forces contact Jose Gonzalez, AIF's Director of Governmental Affairs, at (850) 224-7173 or [jgonzalez@aif.com](mailto:jgonzalez@aif.com)

legislative efforts to end Florida's unique and inefficient dual credentialing security issue.

Additionally, the Council met at the end of January at the Port of Palm Beach. The meeting provided a tour of the port for local legislators and members of the respective House and Senate committees which oversee port and domestic security issues. At this meeting, Council members were briefed on the Senate interim project on seaport security, as well as all other issues affecting port tenants.

FMC members also testified before the Senate Select Committee on Florida's Economy meeting in Miami. This newly created, yet powerful committee has been charged with making recommendations for kick-starting Florida's slumping economy. The Committee will be traveling the state meeting with business leaders to learn more about what is working and what is impeding businesses from growing and expanding. FMC members also attended a Miami meeting on port and maritime issues and provided their expert input on how to capitalize on Florida's port infrastructure and bring this industry to the forefront of our state's economy.

The Council is currently preparing for trips to Tallahassee to present their proposals to legislative committees and members for action in the upcoming session.

### Governmental Outsourcing

The Governmental Outsourcing Council reorganized for the 2009 Legislative Session with four co-chairs each representing substantive service areas of the membership. Cathy Craig Myers will be responsible for Juvenile Justice; Mike Cusick for Children and Family Services; Mark Fontaine for Substance Abuse; and Dr. Bob Sharpe for Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The Council focused its efforts on: identifying redundant and unnecessary regulatory requirements; utilizing existing oversight and monitoring organizations to obtain significant cost savings without reducing accountability, quality or the frequency of review; and reducing paperwork and other costs related to overlapping oversight by multiple state agencies. The Council was able to draft legislation for the upcoming session that would ensure accountability, elimi-

nate duplication and improve efficiencies. This will lower the costs associated with providing services and maximize state dollars.

A January 2009 Florida TaxWatch report noted that while ensuring a high level of accountability and transparency in outsourced client services programs is critical, studies have shown there is significant duplication, overlap and waste in the paperwork required of health and human services providers. This costs the state resources and simultaneously diminishes the resources dedicated to clients. It is critical that the Legislature implement a more efficient and effective system of oversight of the health and human services contracts for client-related services.

### Hospital

AIF's Florida Hospital Council (FHC) is ready to take on new challenges this upcoming 2009 Legislative Session. The Council was extremely active last session; achieving some major legislative victories regarding the Certificate of Need (CON) issue, which dominated the debate among healthcare providers and members of the Legislature.

The Council continues to be chaired by Bob Broadway, Vice President of Bethesda Healthcare System, and had its first meeting in January to discuss legislative priorities for this session. Due to the state's recent economic slowdown, funding will be a key issue for members of the Council. The FHC's priorities for 2009 will be developing a steady funding stream for Medicaid, eliminating duplicative and unnecessary regulations for hospitals and opposing additional mandates on healthcare providers.

### Information Technology

The Information Technology Council (ITC) has been busy the last few months preparing for session and adding many new IT companies to our membership, which now exceeds 40. At our most recent meeting, David Foy, Policy Director in the Executive Office of the Governor, spoke to the Council regarding the Governor's vision for IT and his goals for putting technology to better use within state government. He answered several difficult questions and our members seemed to appreciate his attendance at the meeting.

The Council is headed by a new chair, Tanya Jackson with BearingPoint. Jackson, past Chair Claudia Diaz de la Portilla and members of the Executive Committee have been meeting with several legislative leaders to position the ITC and its growing membership as a resource for technology issues when they want an outside view and/or research that can assist them. These meetings with legislative leadership were well received.

The ITC recently formed a Political Action Committee (PAC) and funded it sufficiently to make contributions to seven House candidates, all of whom were elected. Membership is open to all ITC members for any amount of contribution with voting members contributing \$1,000 or more. During the January Special Session, the Council held a dinner at AIF for legislative members who were supported by the ITC PAC. It was well attended by both legislators and members.

This session, the Council has decided to provide input on any legislation regarding the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology and the Data Center Consolidation System. The ITC also supports several business/technology projects being proposed by several agencies. The Council will monitor and play an active role in influencing these bills.

### International Affairs

AIF's International Affairs Council (IAC) was formed to promote business development, particularly on a global scale. To fulfill that mission, the Council has been concentrating on economic development legislation that includes opportunities for new venture capital and expanded trade missions.

Additionally, the Council has recently focused on issues important to foreign companies doing business in Florida, such as the treatment of employees coming in and out of Florida's international airports, especially Miami. Council members have engaged Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen on this issue and met with her staff to find ways to improve this experience. The Council will also continue to support the passage of free-trade agreements with important trade partners like Colombia and other nations in the region.



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