



**Scott Fairbarin, CCM, CCE**  
**Gator Region Update**  
**December 2013**

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you, your families and Club doing well following what was likely a busy, but festive Holiday Season.

Just a few short months ago, I had the honor and privilege to take over as Regional Director for the Gator Region. I would like to thank Mitch Krach, CCM for his leadership and direction the past two years. Mitch's efforts have helped to position our Region for the future and have left big shoes to fill.

I am pleased to announce the Regional Committee Chairmen for the 2013-2014 year. Allied Association Liaison, **Jeff Hartigan, CCM**; By-Laws, **Joe Meyer, CCM**; Executive Career Services & Communications, **David Yarzab, CCM**; Membership, **Robert Lovejoy, CCM**; Student Development, **Dan Callendar, CCM**; Club Foundation & Historian, **Dennis Ahearn, CCM**; Wine Society, **Lee MacKay**; Ethics, **Bob Ley**; Legislative Affairs, **Damon Williams**; Certification, **Kelley Williams, CCM**; Charity Golf Tournament, **Bob Max**; National Club Association, **Bernie Kloppenburg**; Professional Development, **Damon Williams and Lee MacKay**. These committees provide an excellent opportunity for any member to become more directly involved in the Regional and Chapter activities. If you have an interest in any of these areas, please contact the appropriate chairman.

This past November, twenty Gator Region members visited Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club in Tampa to not only hear Frank Vain, President of McMahon Group, discuss Trends in Successful Clubs, but were also treated to a spectacular lunch and tour of the facilities. Thank you to Bob Ley and Damon Williams for their hospitality!

Professional Development Chairs, Damon Williams and Lee MacKay have put together a spectacular line-up of locations and educational topics for 2014. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, I invite all of you to visit Tampa Yacht & Country Club as we welcome **Ray Cronin** and **Russ Conde** from **Club Benchmarking** for a session titled **Demystifying Club Governance: Lead with Knowledge**. January is also Gasparilla in Tampa, our version of Mardi Gras, so there are bound to be a few pirates and surprises lurking in the shadows. In an effort to help the Florida Chapter win the coveted Wine Society "Bucky Award", Regional Wine Society Chair, Lee MacKay, asks that you bring a bottle of wine to this meeting as we close in on World Conference in Orlando. On March 26<sup>th</sup> we will visit Sarasota Yacht Club for a session by the always entertaining, **Phil Newman** of **McGladrey**. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> we visit St. Petersburg Yacht Club for a session by **Karen Post** of **Brain Tattoo Branding**, titled **Brand up! Taking your Club to a Higher Level**. While scheduling conflicts have these two meetings running "back to back," these are two storied yacht clubs that you will not want to miss! Be sure to visit [www.flcmaa.org](http://www.flcmaa.org) for information on the remaining educational offerings this year.

Sarah, the children and I wish you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year! I look forward to seeing you in Tampa on January 29<sup>th</sup>!