

August President's Message

I am honored to serve as your FAMB President for the next year. Thank you for such a privilege.

It is impossible not to recognize and thank the leadership of the preceding year. Steve Schneider, your outgoing President, did a remarkable job. Thank you, Steve, for your leadership and mentorship. Van Johnson will officially leave the Executive Committee and move into his role as Past President of FAMB. He should be commended for his outstanding contributions both to Florida and our national association. Van and Steve's years of service and commitment are part of the reason FAMB enjoys the success it does today.

The Executive Committee recently returned from the NAMB Convention in Philadelphia where Florida enjoyed many successes. FAMB officially had the highest national member retention rate and was presented a \$3,000 check as winners of the Retention Contest! The contest was sponsored by the NAMB Membership Committee. Joe Falk received the NAMB Leadership Award for his exemplary participation in NAMB over the years. This past year Joe served as NAMB Government Affairs Committee Chair and is a NAMB Past President. Ruth Faynor was recognized with the NAMB distinguished Service Award. Ruth has been an integral part of the NAMB curriculum design and is a National instructor who teaches throughout the United States. Currently, Ruth is a NAMB Education Consultant. Kelly Guldi received his CMC designation while in Philly. NAMB President Harry Dinham recognized and presented Kelly with a CMC pin at the Gala. Ritch Workman received the prestigious Presidential Award from outgoing NAMB President Jim Nabors. Jim was moved by Ritch's speech at FAMB's 2005 Convention, where he spoke of his military service to our country.

In this election year, both a new Chief Financial Officer and Governor will be elected. In addition to these state changes, there is pending federal legislation that needs our attention. Health Care Bill 1955 has not passed the Senate but only needs 2 additional votes to do so. The FHA bill that is currently in the House needs additional sponsorship. Please help with both of these bills by contacting Senator Nelson for the Health Care bill and your house representatives for the FHA bill. Secretary of HUD, Alfonso Jackson, continues to promise RESPA reform and predatory lending bills are still on the minds of our legislators. Legislative issues remain at the forefront of FAMB priorities and we will remain diligent in opposing legislation considered harmful to the business of mortgage brokers.

We created some serious waves at FAMB's Annual Convention in Tampa! What a huge success. Many thanks go to Convention Chair Valerie Saunders, Tradeshow Chair Sal Davide and the numerous committee members and volunteers who made it all possible. We would not have had such a successful convention without the staff at FAMB Headquarters. Special thanks are due FAMB Executive Director Karen Wordell-Smith and FAMB Director of Conventions Cindy Gramling. They always make the daunting task of putting together a convention look so easy!!

I want you to know that I will do my best to be the president you want. I hope to always make you proud. We have a lot to accomplish this year and I will need your help. I am counting on you and please know you can count on me.

Patrice Yamato
FAMB President