




## May President's Message

Hello from the Sunshine State President

March has passed, the winter chill is off the air and now we're into the spring and looking forward to the beautiful weather for which our state is so famous.

A lot has happened since my last President's Letter. I had the pleasure of visiting the Palm Beaches Chapter to teach one of our FAMB law courses and then got to rush back to Jacksonville to attend the Jacksonville Chapter monthly meeting. We had the pleasure of having John Peyton, the mayor of Jacksonville as our guest. Then, it was off to Tallahassee





for our annual FAMB Lobby Days and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting. After that I dashed off to Washington DC for the NAMB Lobby Days where, I'm proud to say, the delegation from Florida was the largest group from any of the states represented. I then got to visit the Volusia Chapter for their annual PAC event at the end of the month. I don't think I spent much time in my office or at home this month!!

Our Tallahassee Lobby Days took place in mid March. The event was a huge success and all went very well, with much being accomplished. Our members spent a day on the Hill meeting with their legislators and our legislative reception that evening was well attended. We had a lot to talk to our elected officials about this session. We have had three pieces of legislation in play this year. First, the Fraud Bill drafted to create specific statutes to criminalize fraud; second, the bill requested by the Office of Financial Regulation amending our laws, Florida Statutes 494, regarding disclosure; and third, the Exemption Bill which would have allowed companies to purchase a bond and employ unlicensed independent contractors without their originators being subjected to Florida law. I am happy to report that thanks to our efforts, the Exemption Bill is now dead.

NAMB's Lobby Days immediately followed FAMB's Lobby Days. Our delegation was approximately 65 strong. Thank you to all of our chapter delegates who attended. The breaking news on the national front is the posture the FTC has taken with Trigger Lists. The FTC, which has regulatory oversight concerning consumer credit, says it lacks the legal authority to crack down on unwanted "trigger-list" phone solicitations to consumers who have applied for mortgages within the preceeding 24 hours. Rebecca E. Kuehn, the FTC's assistant director for privacy and identity protection, said that even though the FTC lacks statutory authority to ban pre-screened telemarketed mortgage offers, it does have enforcement authority against bait-and-switch scams and misuse of consumers' credit information. NAMB is not giving up the fight; they are still keeping it very high on the priority list. The FAMB is considering taking a strong leadership position by calling for action in our state to ban trigger list sales in Florida. Also nationally, FHA reform remains at the forefront of the legislation we hope to have passed in the current session. The bill, if passed, would open the doors for more brokers to provide FHA lending by foregoing the need for audited financials.

The first ever strategic plan for the Florida Association of Mortgage Brokers is complete. The final plan will be rolled out at the May Quarterly Board of Directors meeting in Orlando. This plan will take us through the next 3 years. The Strategic Planning Committee along with their facilitator, Bob Harris, did an excellent job during two full days of non-stop work.

There is a lot coming up over the next few months on the FAMB calendar. The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Board of Directors meeting is coming



up in May at The World Center Marriott in Orlando. Then, its Convention time! Keep your calendar open and plan on attending our Annual Convention and Tradeshow July 11<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> at Orlando's beautiful Shingle Creek Resort. I hope to see you all there.

Now is a very important time to be a member of FAMB. As this is being written, your association is hard at work keeping onerous legislation from stopping your business. Your membership is needed.

Until next time,

Patrice Yamato, CRMS  
FAMB State President