



On Thursday, April 13, 2017 the Miami-Dade County League of Cities held it's April Board of Director's meeting. This board meeting was President Francis X. Suarez's last meeting as presiding officer. He will now assume the role of Immediate Past President. Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez, Doral, gave the invocation, Mayor Connie Leon-Kreps, North Bay Village, recited the Pledge of Allegiance. At this meeting President Suarez recognized Mayor Claudia Cubillos, El Portal, Councilwoman Vivian Casals- Muñoz, Hialeah, Commissioner Wifredo "Willy" Gort, Miami, Ms. Susan Trevarthen, Esq., Weiss Serota Helfman..., and Recipients of the perfect City Attendance Awards, Village of Bay Harbor Islands, Village of EL Portal, Village of Indian Creek, Town of Medley, and Village of Virginia Gardens. Thanks to your participation and commitment the League continues to be a strong advocate for our municipalities.

MDCLC Past President, Commissioner Wifredo "Willy" Gort, City of Miami, made a presentation on the Hemispheric Congress. Hemispheric Congress of Latin Chambers of Commerce and Industry is a program which is unique in that it has an established infrastructure comprised of the presidents of the national chambers of commerce throughout the Latin America and Caribbean region, as well as Spain. This infrastructure facilitates business linkages for Florida companies in the export sector, and supports new export business as well. The Congress has a year long program of activities which culminates in the 4-day event, where business representatives and owners can meet over 22 countries in 4 days. As such, the Hemispheric Congress has enabled the development of linkages which have translated into the creation of jobs and revenue for our community and State. *The dates for the 38th Hemispheric Congress are from June 5-8, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Miami, Florida.* The Congress program includes interactive panels, networking events, luncheons and a trade show expo. Commissioner Gort encouraged all to attend, and offered to personally work with interested municipalities.



*President's Distinguished Board Member Award* was presented to Mayor Claudia Cubillos, Village of El Portal



*President's Public Service Award* was presented to Commissioner Wifredo "Willy" Gort, City of Miami



*President's Municipal Service Award* was presented to Susan Trevarthen, Esq., Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.



*President's Community Service Award* was presented to Councilwoman Vivian Casals- Muñoz, City of Hialeah.



Representatives for the *President's City Attendance Awards*. Village of Bay Harbor Islands, Village of El Portal, Village of Indian Creek, Town of Medley, and Village of Virginia Gardens. Thank you to all for their perfect attendance.





Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County also made a presentation. Commissioner Levine Cava has sponsored, along with Chairman Bovo, a proposal to create a task force for Charter Review. She then informed everyone that Miami-Dade County passed an amendment to the Comprehensive Development Master Plan to

make it an age-friendly community. This involves taking measures so that our seniors can age in place, enjoy public and open spaces, and access public transportation with ease. There is an opportunity for cities to adopt similar measures. Commissioner Cava was excited to announce that Miami-Dade County is the first county in the country to pass an ordinance adopting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and we just released a report on the Status of Women in Miami Dade at the end of 2016. There are many opportunities for our cities to join in this effort to reduce violence against women and promote pay parity. Some municipalities have already passed ordinances. Moreover, the administration is currently developing the Miami-Dade Women's Compact to invite the private sector to voluntarily address the wage gap and promote best employment practices.



Ms. Rose Tydus, Florida Pageant Director, invited all senior women to compete in the upcoming *Ms. Senior Florida Pageant*. Ms. Senior Florida Pageant is a non-profit organization with the belief that seniors are the

foundation of America and our most valuable treasure. We seek to draw attention to the achievements of senior women by motivating and encouraging women to utilize their full potential and share a positive outlook on life with others. She was excited to inform everyone that the pageant used to be held in Vero Beach and this year, she brought it down to North Miami Beach. She urged all senior women present to apply before the deadline on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



#### EDUCATIONAL MINUTE:

MDCPS Board Member Susie Castillo spoke of a youth safety initiative called *Together for Children*. The MDCPS, Miami-Dade County, and the Children's Trust have agreed to protect children from violence and behavioral challenges. The program is focused on 20 specific zip codes in Miami that will receive additional support services to

aid increased school attendance, and counseling services for our students. This item offers the Superintendent to collaborate with intergovernmental agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders, including parents and students, to implement *Together for Children* neighborhood action plan. The Miami-Dade County School Board also approved the GOB funded projects. The project includes renovations at Greynolds Park Elementary School, Redland Middle School, Coral Way K-8, and South Miami Middle School. In Tallahassee they are monitoring many bills related to school and teacher salaries along with SB926 sponsored by Senator Anitere Flores which is aimed at reducing district wide testing. This item was heard last week and we are looking forward to a reduction in state mandated testing. And finally, after Spring Break students will resume testing for the end of the school year. Ms. Castillo wished all a Happy Easter.



Ms. Dionne Polite, Director of State Operations of AARP Florida welcomed everybody and thanked everyone for being supporters of the age-friendly community. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping people ages 50 and older to improve their quality of life as they age. AARP's presence encourages older adults to take a more active role in their communities and have their voices heard. Initiatives focus on areas such as housing, caregiving, community engagement, volunteering, social

inclusion and combating isolation among older citizens. AARP works with local officials and partner organizations around the country to identify communities for membership in the Age-Friendly Network. The most recent communities to join have been the Village of Palmetto Bay and Pembroke Pines. Ms. Polite encouraged everyone in their municipalities to join AARP.

**63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gala**  
***Saturday, May 13th, 2017***  
Hard Rock Stadium  
347 Don Shula Drive  
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

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