

Message from the Directors and Officers

“Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning.” *Winston Churchill*

As we observe the impacts of nature’s fury on our citizens and populations worldwide, we must keep foremost in our thoughts that hurricanes do not care that budgets have been cut and that resources are dwindling. Our obligation to serve our populations in time of emergency does not lessen as budgets are reduced. Knowledge comes from training, and knowledge is power.

The Governor’s Hurricane Conference® (GHC) remains dedicated to providing training to responders in a cost effective manner. The 2011 GHC provided over 360 training hours to attendees. Additionally, 63 workshops offered panel presentations and roundtable discussions on a myriad of emergency response related topics.

In 2010, the GHC began two initiatives that have proved beneficial in enhancing our mission of providing training to our responders and future leaders. One is offering on site delivery of the Emergency Management Institute’s “Integrated Emergency Management Course” to small cities and counties in Florida and the other is to provide scholarships to college students to attend the GHC.

The GHC Board of Directors, which represents our four sponsoring agencies, understands the constraints we face and continues to focus on cost effective training and education for our attendees. The Board of Directors has taken the following actions for our 2012 conference:

- There will be no increase to training or conference registration fees in 2012. It should be noted that there has been no increase in registration fees since 2004 even though expenses have increased;
- Training remains expanded to three full days to accommodate more certified courses at the same registration fee as 2 ½ days in past years;
- Our conference hotels have again worked with us to keep your room rates as low as possible.

The Board of Directors will continue to look for ways to reduce attendee costs for the 2012 conference and will make every effort in maintaining a structure that will not only provide more training for the same dollar spent, but also continue with a quality venue that allows the opportunity for the response community to receive the training and education necessary to protect the citizens of Florida.

We appreciate your past support and feel confident that together we can continue to ensure that the high level of planning, training and education for all responders is maintained and that it does not stagnate due to a lack of foresight and funds. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 26th Annual Governor’s Hurricane Conference® in Fort Lauderdale May 13 – 18, 2012.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Smith
GHC President