



**Financial Literacy Council
Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2009
Business Meeting**

Council Members Present:

Liana Fernandez Fox
Paul Auslander
Deidre Newton
Obdulio Piedra

Council Members Absent:

Richard George
Liana Fox
Dulce Suarez-Resnick
Doug Heinlen

Call to Order and Welcome

The Financial Literacy Council met on March 25, 2009 in Tallahassee. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Obdulio Piedra at 12:30 p.m. Chairman Piedra thanked CFO Sink for allowing use of her conference room for this meeting. Sympathies were extended to Dr. Liana Fox who had to leave abruptly due to a family emergency.

Old Business

Harriet Sespico, Staff Director, provided an update on several outstanding issues. The requests for reimbursement for the November 2008 meeting in Fort Myers have been submitted and payment should be expected within just a few days. Those who do not receive reimbursement by Monday, March 29 should contact Harriet.

Discussion: Resolution and Award Presentations

Harriet Sespico asked the members to hold March 25, 2009 as the date for the next meeting to be held in Tallahassee. In conjunction with this meeting, the CFO will be speaking to the council and presenting them with a resolution proclaiming April as Financial Literacy month. Also during this meeting the council will present an award honoring the work of the Florida Prosperity initiatives. Dr. Liana Fox broached the question of how long the partnership had been in existence and it was agreed by the other members that if the partnership has not been active for at least one year the award would recognize their work throughout the state and encourage their efforts to form the Florida Prosperity Partnership. Harriet will research the group to determine the date of formation. She will also send out more information on the meeting as it becomes available and secure a block of rooms at a hotel in the area.

Discussion: Article sent by Dr. Liana Fox

Dr. Fox requested discussion on an article previously sent to the council members via e-mail entitled *Credit-Card Issuers: Buy Something or Else!* The article outlines the recent and troubling trend of credit card companies demanding that consumers place charges on the card or face cancellation of that card. It was suggested that perhaps a statement should be issued warning.

Update on Save Your Money Expos & Pledge Forms

Harriet reminded the council members of the Department's plans to hold Save Your Money Expos throughout the state, the first to be held in May in West Palm. Pledge forms were sent and should be reviewed for any assistance that can be provided in putting on these expos. Funds will

be needed to finance the venue, giveaways, food, etc. and sponsorships are requested. The council inquired about reciprocity and what the donors would receive in return by way of advertising. It was agreed that Harriet and Amanda Lewis would modify the pledge form to more specifically represent what is being asked for and what can be expected.

Discussion: Future meeting dates

Obdulio suggested a conference call in April with the date to be determined at the March 25th meeting. The next group meeting is suggested for West Palm Beach in May to coincide with the Save Your Money Expos. Future dates will be set at a later time.

Final Comments

Obdulio requested that the members submit 3 bullet points of financial issues impacting consumers in our state before the next meeting. These should be sent to Harriet to be compiled. The top issues will be presented to the CFO during the March 25th meeting. It was suggested that legislators be invited to attend the meeting.

Several unresolved issues were raised for status. They are as follows:

- ✓ Reimbursements - Harriet stated that she did not have any knowledge of the documents or if they had been submitted. She will contact R.Jai Howard, former Staff Director for the council, to learn where they were in the process.
- ✓ Certificates from the March 2008 meeting were not received by some of the members. Harriet will contact R.Jai about this as well.
- ✓ Joint letter from CFO and the Council to universities/colleges regarding credit cards issued to incoming students. Harriet will contact R.Jai to see if a draft letter has been written.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.