

Highlights of the June 15, 2011 COBWRA Luncheon at Indian Spring

COBWRA Celebrates 30 Years!

The celebrations began with a glass of champagne or a mimosa as Delegates and Guests entered Indian Spring Country Club. Posters of newspaper clippings published about COBWRA from the past 30 years decorated the bar area. The dining room was set for 36 tables of ten each decorated with a lovely centerpiece of white roses and hydrangeas. A copy of the 44-page Commemorative Program book and a cube of Post-It notes were at each place setting. Photographs of Green Cay Wetlands and Trudy and Ted Winsberg decorated the stage.

Co-Chair and Master of Ceremonies Lew Doctor opened the program with an **invocation by Rabbi Anthony Fratello** of Temple Shaarei Shalom. Then Palm Beach Fire Rescue Bagpipes and Color Guard presented the colors. After the Pledge of Allegiance, recording artist Lou Galterio sang our National Anthem magnificently.

President Ken Lassiter welcomed everyone and thanked our sponsors for helping COBWRA make our gala so spectacular. Our **Presenting Sponsor was Bethesda Memorial Hospital**. They supplied funds, worked on the committee and donated the design and production of the printed materials including the posters and program book. He introduced **Robert B. Hill**, President and CEO of Bethesda who welcomed everyone. Hill related how COBWRA supported the approvals for Bethesda West Hospital and congratulated COBWRA on 30 years.

Our **Supporting Sponsor was Florida Power & Light Company**. Ken introduced **Pamela M. Rauch**, Vice President, External Affairs for FP&L. She thanked COBWRA for making West Boynton so beautiful.

Next was recognition of **Indian Spring**, our host and a founding member. Delegate Bunny Steinman introduced Donald Mitgang, President of Indian Spring Master Association who thanked and welcomed COBWRA. Then Bunny introduced **Col. Edward Hersh**, longtime community activist. COBWRA presented Col. Hersh a plaque thanking him for his 36 years of military service, 33 years of community service, 11 years as President of ISMA and 30 years supporting COBWRA.

Next the **Past Presidents** were recognized and received the appreciation of the assembly for their service leading the Coalition for 30 years. Then the proceedings recessed while everyone enjoyed lunch.

After lunch, Co-Chair Eric Malkin introduced the 57 dignitaries present including ten PBC Firefighters. Next Vice Chair of the BCC **Shelley Vana** and Commissioner **Burt Aaronson** presented a proclamation honoring

COBWRA on our anniversary. Then **Mayor Jose Rodríguez** presented a Tribute from the City of Boynton Beach. This was followed by another proclamation from the LWDD presented by Rosemary Rayman.

The seven founding communities, **Bent Tree Villas, Delray Dunes, Greentree Villas, Indian Spring, Jamaica Bay, Le Chalet and Mirror lakes** were presented with plaques marking 30 years of membership.

After a tribute to our Founder and First President, Dr. Richard S. Carrington, the **Inaugural Carrington Award for Civic Leadership was presented to Trudy and Ted Winsberg** for their generosity, vision and unselfish actions leading to the creation of Green Cay Wetlands and Nature Center, Green Cay Village, In the Pines South and North farm worker housing and Fire Rescue Station #44. COBWRA presented the Winsbergs with an engraved hourglass and a special plaque. Copies of the plaque will be displayed at Green Cay Nature Center and the Jog Road Library.

Lassiter introduced the **featured speaker, Chair of the BCC, Karen Marcus**. Ken pointed out Marcus was an assistant to Commissioner Dennis Koehler when the Coalition was founded and has served on the BCC for 27 years. She is the only current commissioner who has seen and heard every COBWRA president speak. Commissioner Marcus remembered when Dr. Carrington first came into Commissioner Koehler's office. She reminded COBWRA we are the Guardians of the Ag Reserve and challenged the Coalition to protect the Ag Reserve for future generations.

Ken congratulated Anniversary Co-Chairs Lew Doctor and Eric Malkin. Lew Doctor thanked the Anniversary Committee and Eric Malkin thanked our advertisers and sponsors. Eric introduced **Glenis Green of Vi at Lakeside Village** for sponsoring the gorgeous table flowers. Glenis invited the person whose birthday is closest to June 9, COBWRA's Anniversary date, to take their centerpiece home. The gala ended with a **benediction by Rev. Dr. M. Randall Gill of First Presbyterian Church**.

Future Meetings (Open to the public)

July: No meetings

Aug 2, 6:30 pm: Growth Management at PBSO

Aug 17, 9:30 am: Delegates meeting at The Cascades (Jog Road, south of Woolbright) Speaker: Congressman Allen West, District 22.

—Ken Lassiter for COBWRA Communications
www.cobwra.org