

## 2017 Annual Award Narratives

### **Bike Club: *Naples Velo Bicycle Club***

Over the past four years, Naples Velo Bicycle Club has transformed their club from a fast-paced cycling group to a formidable presence for safe cycling in Collier County. The following is listed on their website as their current mission:

*"Naples Velo Bicycle Club (NV) is a not-for-profit organization promoting cycling at all skill levels and dedicated to improving cycling safety and awareness in southwest Florida. Towards these objectives, NV promotes cycling activities, develops and conducts educational programs on cycling safety and skills, enhances cycling awareness through advertising and community events and supports the enactment of cycling safety laws, amateur cycling racing, and other charitable organizations with a common mission."*

With this change of purpose, Naples Velo has increased their membership, diversified their bike rides for all skill levels and partnered with various organizations including the Collier County Police Department. NV now promotes safe cycling, conducts organized safety educational programs and events, produces videos and ads for public awareness, has established a cyclist's code of conduct and distributes cycling shirts with "share the road" and other safety messages.

### **Off-Road Promoter: *Maxwell Gledhill, Florida Interscholastic Mountain Biking***

Maxwell Gledhill is a public school science teacher and advocate for NICA – National Interscholastic Cycling Association. NICA develops interscholastic mountain biking programs for student-athletes across the United States. NICA sees a future where every American youth has the opportunity to build strong body, mind and character through interscholastic cycling.

NICA Florida is the dream that is coming true across the state thanks to Maxwell. In fact, Maxwell has formed the first Florida NICA team – Red Hills Composite – in Tallahassee.

Enabling every Florida teen to develop a strong mind, body and character through lifelong participation in cycling is the goal of Florida Interscholastic Mountain Biking or FIMB. This goal fills a niche for students whose needs may not be met by traditional interscholastic sports. Mountain biking as an interscholastic sport will get kids outside and will welcome and support those of diversity in ability, ethnicity, gender, orientation and skill level.

It's for the children, children that will promote trail-building efforts and environmental awareness because they will learn *it's their fun that is at stake*. Their focus and academic performance in school will improve because *it's their fun that is at stake*. This fun, this mountain biking, at the interscholastic level, will further what all of us have known all along – mountain biking promotes health and fitness for the family – and it's fun!

### **Enforcement Officer: *Cpl. Michael Nelson, Collier County Sheriff's Office***

Mike Nelson is not only a corporal within the Collier County Sheriff's Department who rides his bike on and off duty, he is also president of the Bikes for Tykes® in Naples, FL. Founded in 1987, Bikes for Tykes® was developed from the simple idea that any child with a bicycle on their Christmas wish list

should receive that all empowering and memorable gift, even if their family cannot afford one. Bikes for Tykes®, since its inception, has distributed over 19,000 bikes to children throughout the county.

Corporal Nelson has personally provided bike safety programs to 9000 school children as the "bicycle" patrol officer. He teaches bicycle safety in schools and at various bicycling events in Collier County.

**Educators: *Robert and Rose Jordan***

Robert (Bob) Jordan and his wife Rose are avid cyclists and members of bicycle clubs in The Villages, including Sumter Landing Bicycle Club, 2016 FBA Club of the Year. They also serve on the Bike Friendly Advocacy Council with a goal to have The Villages become the first Gold designated League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community for the state of Florida.

In 2017, Bob and Rose answered the call to assist the University of Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation to assist with development of a bicycle safety education program specific to older adults. The success of this workshop has led to the Bicycling is Golden program.

In addition to teaching Bicycling is Golden, Bob and Rose have taught numerous safety workshops in The Villages and have led or assisted with youth-focused safety events, including the UF Florida Traffic & Bicycle Safety Education Program outside of this region.

**Supporting Agency: *Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department***

The Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Department is being recognized for their trail planning, their dedicated efforts to promote bicycling and for making great strides in developing and improving their parks and pathways so they are safe and accessible to everyone. Miami-Dade PROS is currently working on the ambitious plan for the 225-mile Miami Loop with its vision of expanding transportation options, making bicycling and walking safer, strengthening the local economy, and improving the health and wellness for everyone throughout the county.

**Program: *7<sup>th</sup> Day ReCyclery***

7<sup>th</sup> Day ReCyclery (7DR) is a nine-year ministry operated by Russ Durham and Rowland Kenna that repairs and/or provides reconditioned bicycles for the poor and homeless in the Orlando area. Every quarter 7DR hosts a bike repair day at the Orlando Coalition for the Homeless where numerous volunteer mechanics repair up to 100 bicycles in a day. If a bike cannot be repaired 7DR will take the old bike in trade for a refurbished bicycle. The unrepairable bikes accepted in trade are salvaged for any parts that can be used in future repairs. This year 7DR hopes to refurbish and give away 1000 bicycles. By giving the poor and homeless a bicycle, 7DR is providing independence and the ability to support themselves and their families with a much-needed form of transportation.

The program is also being expanded to include opportunities to learn about bike safety. As a part of this process 7DR hopes to give away helmets, lights and locks as a part of the program. 7DR does all of this incredible work on a shoestring budget. Individuals and businesses donate bicycles. For example, a number of local bicycle shops donate their returned bikes and trade-in bikes. If a bike cannot be fixed 7DR will remove any workable parts to be reused in a future repair. Anything that can be reused is reused. Anything that can be recycled is recycled. Nothing goes to waste if it can be helped.

**Bicycle Professional: *Amy Ingles, City of Jacksonville Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator***

Every day is bike to work day for Amy Ingles, the City of Jacksonville's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. Amy hasn't owned a car for nearly five years and rides her bike each day between her home in Riverside and her downtown office at the Ed Ball Building. This fits right in with her job of making sure Jacksonville evolves into a city that depends less on the automobile and more on walking and bicycling as a means of alternative transportation.

A cyclist all her life, Ingles used her bicycle to get to class at Georgia Tech, where she earned a dual master's degree in civil engineering and urban planning. After she graduated, she went to work in Boston as an analyst for the U.S. Department of Transportation at Volpe, the National Transportation Systems Center.

As Ingles works toward making Jacksonville a better place for walkers and cyclists, she's also having an effect on her colleagues in the Planning Department. When she started working for the city, she was the only person in the department who rode a bike to work; now there are three.

**Citizen Bike Advocate: *Mary Crowe***

Mary Crowe is the driving force behind Bicycling in Lakeland (BIL), a volunteer-run organization focused on supporting and improving bicycling in the greater Lakeland area. In 2014, BIL obtained 501(c)(3) status and continues to carry out its mission through local and regional advocacy, forming strategic alliances, education, events and service.

Mary's dedication to community goes beyond bicycling by organizing food drives for disadvantaged kids during the holidays and getting her bicycle buddies to help. She has recruited board directors comprised of avid bicyclists, employees from the local bicycle shops, and representatives from other bicycling groups in and around Lakeland, such as the Pedal Power Ministries, Ridge Riders' Association and Polk Area Bicycling Association (PABA).

The ultimate goal of Bicycling in Lakeland is to provide safe and convenient bicycling for all, a mission that Mary lives and mentors every day.

**Citizen Bike Advocate: *Lee Hiatt***

Lee Hiatt has been volunteering as a ride leader for the Joyride Bicycle Collective for the past two years. He has put in several hundred miles leading rural route rides designed especially for beginners.

Often times when joining a group for a long ride, a new rider may feel intimidated by the speed and distance others are striving for, but Lee always assures every rider that their pace is what is best for them, that no one will be left behind and that everyone will have a peaceful, enjoyable day on their bike. Because of his approach, he is lovingly referred to as the Bicycling Buddha.

Lee's Zen approach has carried many new riders through when the last big climb of the day makes them feel like they want to give up. Lee has enhanced long distance riding for everyone who has had the pleasure of riding with him. Lee's dedication to engaging and supporting new riders, helping others discover the love of biking and exploring the beautiful, rural roads of North Florida has led many people to incorporate long distance bike riding into their lives who otherwise would have not.

### **Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee: *Marco Island Bike Path Committee***

The Bike Pathways Committee is a volunteer committee that was established in 2006 to promote safe and convenient bicycle access to all parts of Marco Island. The Committee also looks at pathway uses in order to minimize overall city costs, reduce traffic congestion, ensure public safety, improve the environment, boost the economy and to enhance recreational opportunities and the quality of life on Marco Island.

At the end of 2012, the City of Marco Island had completed approximately 29 miles of bicycle lanes and 11 miles of shared-use pathways. The members of the Marco Island Bike Path Committee are strong advocates of responsible use and stewardship of the natural environment and believe that both motorists and bicyclists must behave responsibly.

### **Bicycle Business: *Revolutions Cyclery***

Revolutions Cyclery of Melbourne offers over 30 years of cycling experience for those looking to purchase a new bicycle or service the one currently owned. Beyond the sale, the dedicated and passionate staff of Revolutions Cyclery also provides the community much needed support and advocacy for bicycling safety.

In 2012 Revolutions Cyclery was acknowledged for its Community Partnership by Brevard Safe Routes to School Program and the Space Coast Transportation and Planning Organization. The shop has also worked with the Space Coast Early Intervention Center during the Cycle Jam for the Kids to provide outstanding support at the start/finish point and with roving SAG (Support and Gear) vehicles. Shop owner Ginger Twigg has served on the Cycle Jam for the Kids committee.

Ginger herself is a bicycle commuter and is known to remove trash from the bicycle lane as she rides. She is not afraid to express the concerns and issues she sees while riding to the local and state transportation authorities. Her efforts to serve the cycling community also include hosting Florida Bicycle Association presentations at the shop to further educate cyclists and motorists.

### **Bicycle Friendly Community: *City of Winter Park***

The City of Winter Park is one of seven League of American Bicyclist's Silver Designated Bicycle-Friendly Communities in the state of Florida. As city staff and local bicycle advocates know, this is not an easy accomplishment; the application alone is nearly 50 pages.

The process, however, demonstrates what the community is providing in terms of its very vision of building a healthy and sustainable future for all generations. Winter Park is the city of arts and culture and as it turns out, cycling. As stated in the 2017 Comprehensive Plan under Transportation, the very first goal is a balanced transportation system.

*"The City of Winter Park desires to ensure a balanced and safe transportation system that promotes a walkable, bicycle-friendly environment that encourages transit as well as ensures efficiencies along the roadway network."*

This vision for Winter Park was built through conversations about values, hopes, dreams and desires

for a shared future. A silver designation from the League of American Bicyclists is quite an accomplishment.

**Trails Promoter: *Edyie McCall, Economic Director, City of Titusville***

*"We're Blazing Trails / #LaunchFromHere"*

"Launch From Here" is a local campaign created by the people who love to live here for the people who will love to visit here. The "here" is the City of Titusville – Gateway to Nature & Space.

This gateway to nature is becoming a cycling hub. Brevard's newly installed section of the Florida East Central Regional Rail Trail, which stretches from Canaveral Avenue to the Volusia County line, is a paved 12-foot wide multi-use trail that will connect with 52 miles of rail trail in Volusia County. This regional trail is also part of three larger systems:

- The Coast to Coast Trail which stretches from St. Petersburg to Titusville
- The St. Johns River to Sea Loop which will connect five counties
- The East Coast Greenway that runs the East Coast of the United States, Maine to Key West

Titusville's trails have the potential to draw cyclists, pedestrians, equestrians and other trail-blazers who will boost the economy via use of local businesses, restaurants and lodging. The city continues to invest in developing trails, trail amenities, trails marketing and it has opened a new Welcome Center with bicycle concierge through the Coast-to-Coast Bike Shop. Edyie McCall, Economic Director, and the City of Titusville have fully embraced the value of trails.

**Volunteer: *Paul Gagnon***

Paul Gagnon is described as 'relentlessly involved in cycling and cycling events throughout Southwest Florida and beyond.' Although he is more likely recognized as Santa and plays Santa most of the Christmas season.

Paul is an active member of the Peace River Riders Bicycle Club and participates in virtually every cycling event the club sponsors. He also participates in rides sponsored by other clubs, including the Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club in Fort Myers and the Highland Pedalers of Sebring. In 2017, he traveled to the Tampa Bay area to ride along with Amanda Coker as she shattered the world record for most miles ridden by bicycle in one year.

Paul is a recognizable and contagiously positive ambassador for cycling wherever he goes. The spirit of Christmas, the season of giving if you will, should be practiced year-round and not just reserved for December. Paul is the Southwest Santa doing just that – giving of himself in the most delightful way, every day throughout the year.

**Elected Official Champion: *Senator Keith Perry, District 8***

Senator Perry is a native Floridian, born in Tallahassee and a member of the "Gator Nation." He served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2010-2016 and elected to the Florida Senate in 2016 to represent District 8.

During the 2017 Florida legislative session, Senator Perry co-introduced Senate Bill 144, a measure to make texting while driving a primary offense. This bill was assigned to four committees; it died in the third. Towards the end of 2017, Senator Perry filed Senate Bill 90 for the 2018 legislative session to make texting while driving a primary offense. Although this measure died in the fourth and final committee, the dedication and demeanor of Senator Perry has not gone unnoticed.

Public service is not easy. As a Floridian, one of our greatest responsibilities is to help elect the legislators who represent us and the state's other residents, at nearly 20 million. Sharing our opinions and ideas helps them decide what to do about the issues and pending legislation that affect us all. We commend Senator Perry for his persistence to keep fighting the good fight to save lives on public roads.

**Elected Official Champion: *Representative Emily Slosberg, District 91***

Representative Emily Slosberg has dedicated her career to public service and safety advocacy. As vice president of the Dori Slosberg Foundation, named in memory of her sister, Dori Slosberg – also daughter of former state representative Irving Slosberg – whose life was tragically ended when the car she was in crashed while she was unbuckled, Emily has, along with her father, worked tirelessly to bring together issues and individuals concerned with safety on all major roadways in Florida.

In her first year as a state representative, Emily filed House Bill 121 in August 2017 to make texting while driving a primary offense. This bill was later withdrawn and House Bill 33, co-sponsored by Representative Jackie Toledo, was filed in December and became the bill to move through House committees and floor.

Throughout the 2018 legislative session, Emily testified at committee meetings to advocate the importance of this bill and will continue to file and fight for public safety bills to ensure no more lives are needlessly lost on public roads.

**Elected Official Champion: *Representative Jackie Toledo, District 60***

A product of Tampa's public schools, Representative Jackie Toledo graduated from Gaither High School and was awarded an academic engineering scholarship to the University of South Florida from the Latino Scholarship program.

After graduating, Jackie became a Licensed Professional Engineer and worked on several transportation plans in the Tampa Bay area. Recognized professionally as a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) and the recipient of the 2002 Florida State Institute of Transportation Engineer of the Year, she has made great strides in her field and has a unique perspective on solving Tampa's infrastructure and transportation challenges, including public safety measures that address distracted driving.

In December 2017, Jackie co-sponsored House Bill 33 with Representative Emily Slosberg, a measure to make texting while driving a primary offense. Throughout the 2018 legislative session, Jackie testified at committee meetings to advocate the importance of this bill and will continue the fight until it becomes law.

**Special Recognition: *Kathy Oates McLeod***

During our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2017, Kathy's efforts to re-establish the Florida Bicycle Association came to light. Kathy gave her heart and soul for bicycle advocacy and helped collect over 1,000 signatures for the Share The Road specialty license plate campaign in its first year. She represented the bicycle racing community through the Bradenton Bicycle Shop and her connections as a competitive cyclist.

Kathy assisted with the first Bike Action Florida website and helped recruit Charlie Gandy of the Bicycle Federation of America to be our first guest speaker. Without her encouragement and energy much of our early second inception of FBA would have never happened.

Today Kathy works in Marin County, California, for the Safe Routes to School organization and manages the School Crossing Guard program. She's still out there doing bicycle advocacy and racing bicycles and will always be a valued founder of the Florida Bicycle Association.

### **Special Recognition: *Joanna Hoit***

During our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2017, Joanna's efforts as one of the 1987 original board directors came to light. Joanna served as the Association's first secretary and newsletter editor, back when the hardcopy newsletter was called "Florida Bike Lanes."

Joanna had kept the original newsletters and other materials, proof that FBA did exist in 1987. Her willingness to share these Association archives were a history lesson of their own. The newsletters contained stories of Florida's first Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Dan Burden, the creation of Florida's first Rail-to-Trail project (St. Mark's Trail) and the battles being fought for bicycle lanes and funding for future trails, one such trail concept being the Pinellas Trail.

Today Joanna lives in Auburn, Alabama, where her love of cycling continues. In her own words, sent along with her award photo, "City of Auburn Bike Bash - our Annual Community Bike Ride. Either the 18th or 19th year! This group was doing the 9-mile route. So great to see parents and youngsters enjoying cycling together!"

### **Special Recognition: *Meg Daly, Friends of the Underline***

Meg Daly is the founder, president and CEO of Friends of The Underline, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization leading the initiative to transform the underutilized land below Miami's Metrorail into a 10-mile, urban trail and linear park. This trail is being designed to create a safer, healthier, more connected, mobile and engaged community. The Underline will be open to all and serve all with amenities and art that will connect people to place and each other. The Underline has partnered with Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces and Transit Departments. They also have endorsements from Miami-Dade County, the cities of Miami, Coral Gables, South Miami, and the Village of Pinecrest, the University of Miami and numerous organizations.

Meg came up with the idea for this urban trail after suffering a serious bicycle crash about four years ago. She broke both arms and could no longer bike or drive a car. She started walking beneath the Miami Metrorail for physical therapy (a path she did not know existed before her crash). Meg saw the potential of creating a linear park with two lanes (one for bikes another for pedestrians) with a network of neighborhood gathering spots. Thanks to Meg's persistence and passion, the Underline is part of the proposed Miami Loop.