

**Florida Renewable Energy Association
December 8, 2008**

A Message from the President

A lot has happened since I wrote you last.

We are delighted to welcome a new Board member. Pedro Figueroa C.P.A., is a controller for IMDC, Inc., which is an engineering firm with a very wide variety of capabilities. Pedro Figueroa is a passionate advocate for renewable energy and has solar hot water and 5 kW of photovoltaic power on his rooftop at home.

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday the 19th of November, where I introduced several position statements that are now in the "review and comments" phase. Most are pretty straightforward. But it is interesting that the one on nuclear energy is not so easy. If I'm interpreting statements correctly, some of our Board members feel that nuclear energy is a kind of "bridge" technology to a renewables future, much as T. Boone Pickens' plan would in theory be. I personally disagree about nuclear, as I am concerned about startup expenses that could instead be used to implement renewables, about its considerable waste heat that I think contributes to "global warming" in the truest sense, and about the huge expenditures of energy (principally fossil fuel) needed to mine, process, and transport the nuclear fuel. To me, nuclear has a very highly negative lifecycle environmental impact. But there are counterpoints in this regard that need to have equal consideration. Should FREA concede to the nuclear industry the need for a "bridge"? The Board will be debating the nuclear position statement, and we'll see what we come up with (stay tuned). This is democracy in action, you see.

Also at that meeting, we decided to hold a membership campaign in the next 4 months, starting on December 8th, 2008. The plan is to discount our membership fee for all new and renewing members until March 31, 2009. So starting today, instead of \$25 per year, the cost of membership will be \$20 per year. We are doing this because as the slogan goes, "there is strength in numbers". We want our voice to be heard by the policy-makers. As with a choir, our voice is a lot stronger the more numerous we are---especially if we are singing in unison.

We are in the planning stages of two functions that will be open for everyone to fill up the available space: our 2009 Expo and a one-day seminar about the merits of a Public Benefit Fund for Florida, which would probably be called the "Clean Energy Trust Fund".

Finally, I plan to ask some of our members for volunteers to help us to bring all of this about. We want to expand, get strong, and be as effective as possible. Some of you may be able to help with the detail of doing this.

Again, stay tuned, and Happy December!

Sincerely,

Robert F. Stonerock, Jr., M.D.
President, Florida Renewable Energy Association