



Chairman's Message Winter 2007

On behalf of the Sterling staff, I would like to wish everyone well as we move into 2007! January and February have already started off with substantial activity scheduled around the Sterling assessment processes and I want to personally acknowledge and thank each of our examiners for the hard work that they are undertaking as we move into the height of our assessment season.

Consensus meetings for the Governor's Sterling Award and Challenge are already underway. Over 20 teams have received their applications and are busy at work in preparing for site visits that will be taking place in late February, March and through mid April. The assessment process will culminate with recognition taking place at our Governor's Sterling Award Banquet on Friday, June 1, 2007. This is a gala evening filled with wonderful entertainment and recognition. Look forward to seeing you there.

The planning for 2007 Conference is complete and exceeded our goals in attracting new companies and educational sessions. The online registration form is available on our web page and as of our early registration deadline of January 12, 2007 over 500 people have already registered for the conference. This year's conference looks to be one our best ones yet and we are excited about the number of new organizations that we have as presenters including Home Depot, Mercedes Homes, Johnson Controls, and Wachovia. The 2007 Conference will truly be your opportunity to maximize your return.

On a more personal note, I would like to offer my thanks to a wonderful staff. Perry Dollinger, Dione Geiger, Jennifer Holmes, Lauren Keen, Abby Richter, Pat Sciarappa, Jim Sherlock, and Heather Yzaguirre all do a great job of keeping Sterling focused on our strategic priorities. In this competitive environment, Sterling is fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard working group working to support our mission to improve the quality of life and competitive edge for the state of Florida. Thanks to each of these wonderful people for making sure that the Florida Sterling Council maintains our state of excellence.

In closing, I again would like to acknowledge the hard work of our over 400 volunteers. They are the foundation of the Florida Sterling Council and we genuinely appreciate their time and commitment to helping us to continue our success as we celebrate 15 years of performance excellence. Thank you!

I'll look forward to seeing you at the JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes, from May 29 – June 1, 2007.

Thank you!

John A. Pieno
Chairman
Florida Sterling Council

"Enhancing Florida's competitive edge and quality of life through promotion, assessment, and recognition of performance excellence."