

I serve as a trustee of the North Collier Firefighters Pension Fund. I have been an active member of the FPPTA for over 20 years, and I now also serve the membership as vice chairman of the Board of Directors, which is elected by the FPPTA membership.

After attending many FPPTA workshops and classes, I earned my CPPT certification. I then applied for both the FPPTA New York program and a Harvard University program to further my knowledge about defined benefit pension funds.

To show my gratitude to the FPPTA for providing world-class educational information, I chose to pay it forward by helping the organization thrive and grow. I decided to seek a leadership position in the FPPTA as a director.

As a director of the FPPTA, I serve on the Education Committee and the Bylaws Committee, and I am chairman of the Raymond T. Edmondson Scholarship Committee.

The FPPTA membership is made up of individual pension fund trustees who have an enormous responsibility to both the plans they represent and the individuals who have earned pension benefits.

It is through education and one-on-one conversations at FPPTA events that all aspects of pension funds are discussed. I firmly believe the sacred promise made by employers to their employees—a safe and sound pension benefit upon retirement—is a promise that must be kept.

I believe this is a non-negotiable truth that all FPPTA members strive to uphold. To do that, we need to stay current with education, technology, and changes in the law, and remain cognizant of those who seek to undermine defined benefit programs.

Through focused work, the FPPTA remains committed to its mission of providing educational materials that are specific, accurate, and cutting-edge. As an elected FPPTA director, I have taken the next step forward for FPPTA trustees by completing the new FPPTA TLC program. This interactive program incorporates group work, class discussion, and the use of easy-to-use tools like artificial intelligence and the FPPTA Bot, enabling trustees—even those with novice tech skills—to get answers with just three taps on a tablet.

Nationwide, the FPPTA has positioned its membership and the organization as the premier leader in pension trustee education. I am forever grateful to the FPPTA membership and thrilled to be part of this respected organization.