



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1  
MARCH 2017

# The PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.

## *From the President*



for your hospitality.

I am anticipating this 103rd annual session will be filled with sessions that are spiritually enriching as we worship and fellowship together throughout the week. It is my prayer that when we leave Panama City on Friday we will leave with transformed minds, renewed spirits for the work of ministry, and a determination to do more in service for our fellow men and women. We pray also that we will leave an incredible impact upon the city of Panama and every person who attended our sessions this week.

Have a safe return to your various cities and God be with each of you is my prayer!

*Reverend Dr. Bartholomew Banks,  
President*

### 103rd Annual Session

**THEME:**

**“TRANSFORMATION,  
RENEWAL AND  
SERVICE”**

Romans 12:1-2

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOST:**

New Gulf Coast Association  
Reverend Aldredge Young,  
Host Moderator  
Panama City, Florida

All Services Held at the:  
Bay Point Sheraton Hotel  
4114 Jan Cooley Drive  
Panama City Beach, FL

**G**reetings; and Welcome Progressive Messengers, Pastors, Ministry Leaders, visitors, and friends to the 103rd Annual Session of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.

We are excited that we are convening on the “Emerald Coast” and in Panama City Beach. Our host associations New Gulf Coast Association, Dr. Aldredge Young, Moderator, and all of the member churches of this great association has planned for our arrival in Panama City and have spared nothing to ensure our visit will be a pleasurable one! Thank you to Moderator Young and all persons involved in hosting us this week



## Greetings From Lady Banks

**I**t is with Jesus joy that we praise you. We give honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for sparing our lives one more time. I praise God every day for my husband, President Banks, who have stuck by my side through many of life's challenges. I am challenged, but no conquered. That is why I say great is thy faithfulness morning by morning, new mercies I see.

I thank Progressive M & E, my St. John family, Dr. N. S. Sanders and the St. Paul family for praying for me. I also thank Pam, Sonji and Valerie for coming and caring for me. As I look back through the telescope of time and look over my life as a teenager, Progressive, you have always been there and I can't help but give God the praise. So I praise God for you every day. Through every challenge, you have been there, and that is why I say great is thy faithfulness.

I am challenged, but I am not conquered. And like Job, I will wait patiently. As the late James Cleveland said, I am just waiting for my change to come.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

*Lady Vanessa Banks*



GREAT IS THY *Faithfulness*



## A Word From President Davis

Greetings to you in the Name Of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

**G**As we gather for this our Annual Session of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Incorporated, I reflect on the fact that we have so very much for which to be thankful. God has truly blessed us over the years. Our founding fathers and mothers had a grand vision in their quest towards unity, love, fellowship and support of one another as they broadened our outreach in kingdom building. Each generation has made a positive impact in the growth, spirituality , rich history and longevity of this convention. We joyfully thank and praise God for His divine favor!

We have truly been blessed in our efforts and missionary work from our last Annual Session, current Session and the work that stands before us. In our call to mobilize Mission in these very challenging times, we continue to be goal-oriented in doing the will of God in and through:

- Evangelism in supporting our national and statewide initiative of reaching out and sharing the Good News of salvation as we “Go” as directed by the Great Commission(Matthew 28:18-20). We give glory to God for the opportunity to do just that through our SWMU(National) and SWM(State) Field Missionaries Councils to increase our Out-Reach through additional training and sharing. We thank each of you across the State for the dedication and support .

- Educational Enhancement through our support of FMU in our Annual Donation Day. We were able to support several students from across the state as they worked to improve their lives both academically and spiritually. Our report this past year was over \$75,000.00 and for this, we say Thank You.
- Benevolence In Giving and Service To Others was evident in your monetary support in giving during our One Thousand Women In White Worship Service , as well as , personal donations to help others in need inclusive of gift cards and non-perishable items. Our gratitude to you is more than you could ever know.
- Biblical Classes and Spiritual Growth continues to be an important piece of our Ministry. Our State Congress and Annual Session Workshops, as well as Instruction during our Winter Board Session continues to build us up spiritually in biblical study as we grow in the grace, wisdom and knowledge of God’s Word. We are thankful to our Instructors and Ministerial Instructors that continues to share that we may “know to study and study to know.”

Finally, as we continue to move from Mission - to Message- to Ministry, we must be prayerful, unified and committed to do that which the Lord would have us to do in the Mighty Name of Jesus. We look forward to a blessed and spiritual session of fellowship and love as we do His Will. May God richly bless and keep you!

***Dorothy P. Davis***  
***Senior Women's Ministry President***



*“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1)*

**G**reetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior,  
 The Deaconess Council of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention are excited about our gathering in Panama City for our March 2017 Annual Session. We thank and praise God for allowing us meet again and look forward to all that he has in store for us during this session. We praise and honor Him to highest for another blessed year in His service.

Deaconesses you are to be commended for a job well-done this past year. I believe that this has been your best year when it comes to meeting our goals. I am so appreciative for your outstanding support in giving to

our Holiday Harvest this past December. By your love, your kindness and giving spirit, we were able to provide gift cards for holiday meals to eight families. As I have stated before: one of the great joys of living is our giving. For giving not only make us happy but it also endears us closer to God.

We are grateful to Moderator Aldredge Young and the constituency of New Gulf Coast Association and Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church for serving as host. Special thanks to Sister Iva Tolbert, Sister Dianne Smith, Sister Linda Roulhac and all the Deaconesses of Panama City and the surrounding areas for their labor of love in preparing for our arrival.

I am so looking forward to seeing all of the new Deaconesses who has joined us since we last met!

May God always bless you is my prayer!

*Sister Gerri McCallister*

*State Deaconess Council President*



# APPRECIATION AWARD PRESENTED TO JUDY FAGINS

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DEACONESSES  
COUNCIL

**A**n Appreciation Award for outstanding service to the State Deaconess Council, was presented to former First Vice President Judy Fagins on January 29, 2017. The Award was presented to her during the Morning Worship Services at her Church, New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist of Lakeland, FL, Dr. Kendrix Gardner, Pastor.

Moderator Brian K. Brown of St. Petersburg was the Speaker of the hour. The scripture: John 15:1-15. His text was “Better.”

Points to remember from the message were:

- God specialized in broken things.
- There may be broken pieces in your life but God mends broken pieces.
- It doesn't matter how broken you are, God can make you better.

The three acts you need to do to achieve better things are:

- Be opened to other options or methods
- Be aware of offensive obstacles
- Be ready for on-going opportunities

Ministry members in attendance were:

President Gerri McCallister

President Emeritus Patricia Ball

Third Vice President Clara Cobb

Assistant Treasurer Gloria Terry

Judy Fagins





# WOMEN'S INTERMEDIATE AUXILIARY



**G**reetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior,

I am excited to welcome you to my home district for our annual session. We have been working hard to make sure your time in Panama City Beach, Florida is an awesome encounter. We have planned a spirit filled and informative week and look forward to hosting you here on the "World's Most Beautiful Beaches." We are thankful to you for your support of this ministry during the course of the year since our last annual session. We have been blessed with inspirational sessions and dynamic fellowships.

Most recently, vice ministry leader Teresa Curry, Second West Association and the churches of Cluster #1 held the Annual Rainbow Fellowship The Gospel Story By Colors. It was an awesome time of study and fellowship. Next, all roads will lead to the National WIA 18th Annual WIA Conference in Austin, TX, March 31 and April 1. We will be hosting our Annual State Mission Encounter and more information will be made available soon.

Also let's support Sister Renee Pope of New Golf Coast Association in representing Florida as our queen contestant at our National session in September in Louisville, Kentucky. Let's continue to pray for each other, this ministry, and our state convention. We are looking forward to seeing you all on the "sugar-white sandy beaches of northwest Florida."

Be Blessed,

*Sis. Kathy Jackson*

President



# HEALTH AWARENESS TEAM



*Bless the Lord, O my soul:  
and all that is within  
me, bless his holy name.  
Psalms 103:1*

**W**e are excited to welcome you to the 103rd Progressive M & E Baptist State Convention of Florida and the 48th Annual Session of the Health Awareness Team here in Panama City.

Congratulations to our own Ella Williams, New Gulf Coast Association on receiving the Cross Award during the National Convention of America in Cincinnati, Ohio this past September. Thank you for community work and service.

During the week, we will continue our partnership with the Health Service Advisory Group as we share Diabetes information with several of our ministries, i.e., Senior Women, Ushers, and Women Intermediate Auxiliary. Workshops will also be provided by Dr. Keith Banton and Dr. Awantage.

In His Service,  
Dr. Cosette Whitmore, RN



# USHERS MINISTRY



**G**reetings to each of you in the Name of our Lord

and Savior, Jesus Christ! We give praise, glory, and honor to our awesome Father for this great Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention. We are grateful God saw fit to allow us to fellowship one more time in this annual setting. As we gather in the great City of Panama City Beach celebrating 103 years as a convention we can't help but reflect on how awesome God is in all His wonders and ways.

I am humbled to have serviced this past year and excited about what God has for the Ushers Ministry in the future. I thank God for the support and prayers of each of you in this transition year and ask for your continued prayers. I am also grateful for the continued guidance of our past presidents, Sis. Bernice Milton and Sis Mary K. Heard, the wisdom of our advisor Rev. David Swackard. I am thankful for my leadership team for their support and each of my brothers and sisters in this ministry.

It is my prayer that this week's session will be spiritually uplifting and enriching, and that we will return to our various location energized and ready to do more for those in need.

To God Be the Glory  
**Curtis A. Wilson**  
Ministry President

# BROTHERHOOD MINISTRY



**G**reetings in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All roads has led us here to Panama City to convene the 103rd Annual Session of the Progressive M & E Baptist State Convention of Florida. It is our prayer that God has granted us

all traveling grace allowing us to come together at this appointed time and place.

“How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in Unity” We welcome you to come and worship with the Brotherhood Ministry this week through prayer, song, the teaching and preaching of God’s Word. We can assure you that you will gain great knowledge and be blessed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit as we usher Him in to lead and guide us through this week of service.

We are looking to have a glorious time of fellowship one with the other.

“Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

Let us all come together on one accord, please come praying and knowing that God will do great things in us and through us, all He needs are willing vessels.

God’s riches blessings be upon you all

**Wayne Herring**  
Ministry President

# *The 103rd Annual Session*

**March 20th – 24th**

Theme:

## **“TRANSFORMATION, RENEWAL AND SERVICE”**

Romans 12:1-2

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOST:**

New Gulf Coast Association  
Reverend Aldredge Young, Host Moderator  
Panama City, Florida

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Bay Point Sheraton Hotel  
4114 Jan Cooley Drive  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408



# The 103rd Annual Session

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*Monday, March 20*

**7:00 P.M.**

## **PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**

### **Musical and Welcome Program**

Presented by:  
New Gulf Coast Association  
Reverend Aldredge Young, Moderator

### **LATE NIGHT SERVICE**

*Reverend Dr. Kendrix Gardner, Chairman*

**Sermon** ..... Reverend Hugh Strafford  
*Mount Olive, Medulla*

*Tuesday, March 21*

**9:00 A.M.**

## **OPENING SESSION**

*Vice President At Large, Dr. Rufus L. Wood, Jr.,  
Presiding*

**Inspirational Singing**..... The Music Department  
Reverend Dr. Delwynn G. Williams

**Devotional Period**..... Brother Eugene Jackson  
*Beulah First Baptist, Ft. Walton Beach*

Brother Levardis Burton  
*Zion Hill, Orlando*

**Presentation of the President** . First Vice-President  
Dr. H. D. Rucker

**Call to Order** .....President Bartholomew Banks, Sr.

**Directions for Enrollment**.....President Banks

## **PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 CONVENTION HOST CHURCH & PASTOR**

*East Florida and Bethany District Association  
Reverend Clifford Johnson, Moderator  
Pastor, Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church,  
Jacksonville*

**Music**.....Choir

**Introductory Sermon** ... Reverend Clifford Johnson  
*Moderator/Pastor, Zion Hope, Jacksonville*

**Alternate** ..... Reverend Leslie Rawlis  
*Pastor, Second Mount Moriah, Panama City*

## **LUNCH BREAK**



# The 103rd Annual Session

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**2:00 P.M.**

## **ORTHODOXY HOUR**

*Reverend Dr. Rollie Murray, Presiding*

### **Prayer**

**and Praise Period...** Reverend Dr. Marcelious Willis

*Pastor, St. Luke, Panama City*

Reverend Darryl Hill

*Assoc. Minister, First Mt. Moriah, Panama City*

**2:10 p.m.**

### **Orthodoxy Speaker**

Reverend Troy Adams

*Jerusalem, St. Petersburg*

**2:30 -3:55 p.m.**

## **PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

**Addressing Safety and Security in the Church  
A practical guide for every Pastor and church  
leadership.**

**Reverend C. E. Dollison**

**3:55 p.m. ....ENROLLMENT & OFFERING**

**Sermon:** ..... Reverend James Williams

*Friendship, Apalachicola*

**Alternate:** ..... Reverend C. L. Wilson

*St. Mary, Blountstown*

**DINNER BREAK**

**7:00 P.M.**

## **EDUCATIONAL EMPHASIS NIGHT**

*Reverend Dr. Rayford Harper, Chairman/Presiding*

**Devotional Period** ..... Deacons

*St. John & Mount Olive*

**Selection** ..... Choirs of St. John & Mount Olive

**Greetings** ..... Dr. Alex Harper, Sr., *President*

*Florida Theological Seminary & Bible College Inc.*

Dr. Jeffrey Swain

*Chaplain, Florida Memorial University*

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

**Offering**

**Selection** ..... Choirs of St. John & Mount Olive

**Sermon** ..... Reverend Dr. Delwynn Williams, Pastor

*St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Panama City*

**Alternate** ..... Reverend Woodrow Wilson, Pastor

*Mount Olive, Panama City*

## **LATE NIGHT SERVICE**

*Reverend Dr. Kendrick Gardner, Chairman*

**Sermon** ..... Dr. Jimmy Downing, Sr.

..... *Greater New Jerusalem, Lakeland*

# The 103rd Annual Session

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*Wednesday, March 22*

**9:00 A.M.**

## **PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

*Reverend Clifton Dollison, Presiding*

**Devotional Period** ..... Reverend Lionel Camel, Jr.  
*Bethel, Okeechobee*

Reverend Remer Baker, Jr.  
*Shiloh, Kissimmee*

**9:15 - 9:30 A.M.** ..... **Enrollment**

**9:30 - 11:55 A.M.** ..... **“The Advantage and Use of  
Technology/Multimedia in the Church.”**  
Reverend Eddie Hadley

**LUNCH BREAK**

**2:00 P.M.**

## **PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

*Reverend Clifton Dollison, Presiding*

**2:00 - 2:10 P.M.** ..... **Devotional Period**

**2:15-2:20 P.M.** ..... **Enrollment & Offering**

**2:20- 3:50 P.M.** ..... **“The Counter Culture Reality”  
(How Should We Engage)**  
Reverend Dr. Kendrick Gardner  
Reverend Dr. Frank O’Harroll

**3:55 P.M.** ..... Sermon  
Reverend Ron Shipp  
*St. John, Palmetto*

Alternate  
Reverend David Mazon  
*Mt. Olive, Palmetto*

**DINNER BREAK**

**7:00 P.M.**

*Moderator Reverend Aldredge L. Young, Chairman*

## **THE MODERATOR’S NIGHT**

**Devotional Period** ..... Moderator Brian K. Brown  
*St. Mark, St. Petersburg*  
*South Florida Progressive Association*

Moderator Rayford Harper  
*First Baptist West Tampa, Tampa*  
*First South Florida Association*

**Sermon** ..... Moderator John Gardner  
*Second Elizabeth, Quincy*  
*Union Baptist Association*

**Alternate** ..... Moderator Larry Watson, Sr.  
*Englewood, Pensacola*  
*Equal Rights Association*

## **LATE NIGHT SERVICE**

*Reverend Dr. Kendrick Gardner, Chairman*

**Sermon** ..... Reverend Alonza McKenzie  
*New Bethel, LaBell*

# The 103rd Annual Session

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*Thursday, March 23*

**9:30 A.M.**

## **PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

*Reverend Clifton Dollison, Chairman*

**Devotional Period..**Reverend Anthony M. Johnson  
*Union Springs, DeFuniak Springs*

Reverend Edwin L. Stallworth  
*Evelenar, Crestview*

**9:45-11:20 A.M. .... Pastoral Conference**

**“The Need for Social Justice in the Local Church/  
Speaking Truth to Power.”**  
Reverend Robert Rease

**Enrollment and Offering**

**11:30. .... Closing Sermon**

Reverend Carlos Jones  
*Campton First Baptist, Campton  
Marianna, Florida*

**Alternate**  
Reverend Obediah White  
*St. Mary, Jacob*

**LUNCH BREAK**

**2:30 P.M.**

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE HOUR**

*Reverend Kenneth Holly, Chairman, Presiding*

**Devotional Period**

Reverend Leon Jones  
*New Hope, Wewahitchka*

Reverend Luther V. Farmer  
*New Hope, Two Egg*

**(Supplementary Program Provided)**

**7:00 P.M.**

*Fourth Vice President Dr. J. J. Pierce, Presiding*

## **MISSION EMPHASIS**

**Devotional Period**..... Deacons of  
*New Mt. Zion, Lakeland*  
Deacons of Greater New Jerusalem, *Lakeland*

**Music**..... New Mt. Zion Choir, *Lakeland*  
Greater New Jerusalem Choir, *Lakeland*

**Sermon** .....Reverend Dr. Kendrix J. Gardner Pastor  
*New Mt. Zion, Lakeland*

**Alternate** .....Reverend Dr. Jimmy Downing  
*Pastor New Jerusalem, Lakeland*

## **LATE NIGHT SERVICE**

*Reverend Dr. Kendrick Gardner, Chairman*

**Sermon** .....Reverend Terrance Bulger, Pastor  
*Greater Peace, Ft. Walton Beach*

# The 103rd Annual Session

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*Friday, March 24*

**9:00 A.M.**

*First Vice President Dr. H. D. Rucker, Presiding*

## **Devotional Period**

*Brother Sylvester Jackson  
New Beulah, Haines City*

*Brother Hinesman Duke  
First Baptist, West Tampa*



**10:00 A.M.**

*Annual President's Hour*

**Dr. Bartholomew Banks  
President**

(Supplementary Program provided)

**Reports from the  
Financial Committee  
Treasurer**

**Announcements and Dismissal**

**CLOSING OF THE ONE HUNDRED & THIRD ANNUAL SESSION**



# RUBY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR, PRESIDENT DR. BARTHOLOMEW AND AND LADY VANESSA BANKS



By Dr. Barbara F. Wright

THE RUBY ANNIVERSARY IS A SPECIAL ONE. FORTY YEARS TOGETHER IS A GREAT REASON TO CELEBRATE. RUBIES ARE THOUGHT TO POSSESS AN ETERNAL INNER FLAME WHICH IS A SYMBOL THAT THE PASSION IN A MARRIAGE IS STILL VERY ALIVE AND STRONG AFTER “40” YEARS TOGETHER.

**T**he stage was set, the curtain rises, we were ready to begin. Lady Vanessa Banks’ ideas for the renewing of her marriage were executed by wedding coordinator/stage manager, Mrs. Joyce Austin. How perfectly staged on Valentine’s weekend, the day of romance. At the same hour “Shakespeare in Love” was playing at Tampa Theater, the children, grandchildren, family members and original wedding party were walking down the isle of St. John Progressive M. B. Church, to celebrate a relation more precious than a gem, much better than a diamond, an endless, limitless and unbounded love.

As the groom stood with a fixed smile, awaiting his bride, she sat in the lead stretched limousine anxiously awaiting her time to join her groom in celebration of love, trust, partnership, tolerance and tenacity. She entered the sanctuary, escorted by her two sons, Bartholomew Banks, II and Rev. Dr. Barron Banks, DDS, in a purple and gold sequenced top gown by Chanel with a purple veil designed especially for her by Olivia Carmichael-Brown, and shoes by Jimmy Choo.

A scrumptious reception followed immediately in the St. John Progressive Christian Life Center, catered by Sis. Lutricia Monroe.



The grand finale was an elegant sit down dinner in the Ballroom of the Tampa Airport Hilton Hotel.





After many positive and heartfelt expressions of love and toast to Dr. Bartholomew and Lady Vanessa Banks, the curtain closed on the 40th Anniversary Celebration, one blessed and honored by the Lord.

To God be the Glory!

“In the name of God, I take you, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to live and to cherish all the days of my life. This is my solemn vow.”



## The Wedding Party

### **Bride and Groom**

Lady Vanessa Banks &  
Rev. Dr. Bartholomew  
Banks, Sr.

### **Parents of the Groom**

Bishop Elijah & Mrs.  
Atlean Banks  
(Deceased)

### **Parent of the Bride**

Mrs. Elizabeth W. Rosier  
(Deceased)

### **Matron of Honor**

Kenya Hamilton Banks

### **Bridesmaids**

Dr. Barmethia Banks  
Peggy Mason  
Kim McCrae  
Tiffany Banks  
Dr. Sharon Miller  
Carol Aldrich  
Terry Rambert Strom  
Wanda Walker  
Latanya Raffington  
Koki Nealy  
Sophia Green  
Pamela Williams

### **Best Man**

Dr. Barron Banks

### **Groomsmen**

Bartholomew Banks, II  
Rev. Dr. Earl B. Mason  
Min. Emory Banks  
Alvin Banks  
Chris Anthony  
Rev. Larry Roundtree  
Pastor Gee Thompson  
Greg Walker  
Ramadan Marshall  
John Nealy  
Dea. Albert Green  
Hugh Strafford

### **Hostesses**

Cynthia Epps-Lester  
Sheritta Gibson  
Gloria Castillo  
Bertha Vickers  
Elaine Riggins  
Cherlene Levy  
Lutricia Monroe  
Bernice Hamilton

### **Wedding Coordinator**

Joyce Austin

### **Mattre D'**

Maurice Jackson

### **Seamstress**

Betty Gallmon

### **Bride's Attendants**

Olivia C. Brown  
Helen Glymph

### **Bride's Accessories**

Just Fabulous Boutique

### **Music**

Sis. Betty Sanders &  
Company  
Min. Hal Ringold - Organ  
Dea. Carl Bryant -  
Saxophone  
Timothy Roundtree -  
Keyboard  
Hal Ringold, II - Sound

### **Litany**

Sis. Sameya Roundtree

### **Graphics**

Drew'S Graphics

### **Catering**

Lutricia Monroe

### **Limousine**

Integrity



**THANK YOU**  
for attending the  
**103rd Annual Session**  
of the Progressive Missionary  
and Educational Baptist State  
Convention of Florida, Inc.