

SFBTA conference provides education, networking for fixed income community

BOCA RATON, FL, February 12, 2012 – The inaugural South Florida Bond Traders Association (SFBTA) conference was held in February at the iconic Boca Raton Resort and Club, bringing together fixed income professionals from throughout the country for two days of education and networking.

The SFBTA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose membership is comprised of investment and trading professionals from the South Florida area, representing over 20 firms involved in the buying, selling, and trading of fixed income securities.



In line with the Association's mission, this inaugural event was held to provide its members with product-specific discussions about current issues facing the securities trading industry. There were also social events to encourage those in attendance to develop and deepen their professional relationships. In addition, the conference benefitted in part The Chiera Family Foundation, a local charity that has raised over one million dollars to send thousands of children battling cancer to The American Cancer Society's Reaching Out to Cancer Kids summer camp (R.O.C.K.). The

Foundation has also given several young adults who have beaten cancer a chance to pursue their dreams by attending college through its scholarship program.



The conference kicked off on Friday afternoon with opening remarks by SFBTA President George Barbar, who also serves as Senior Managing Director at Mesirow Financial, Inc. A special guest appearance was also made by a teen cancer survivor who attended R.O.C.K. camp as a child and came to share her experience with the conference attendees.

After the opening remarks, attendees broke out into their chosen product-specific sessions for panel and roundtable discussions. There were four different product-specific panels — Agencies and Mortgages, CDs, Corporates, and Structured Products — and experts in these fields talked about industry specific topics and then took questions from the audience. At the conclusion of the panel discussions, attendees came together for a cocktail reception in the exhibitor hall and then reconvened with their product-specific groups for separate dinners.

Although the week had seen rain in South Florida, the clouds parted enough Saturday morning to allow for the fun of golf, tennis, and fishing. Attendees then had a few hours of break time before meeting again for a cocktail reception followed by dinner, during which recognition was given to the golf, tennis, and fishing tournament winners, and also to the event's host firms: Amherst Securities Group, Incapital LLC, JVB Financial Group, LLC, Mesirow Financial, Inc., Multi-Bank Securities, Inc., and Pershing LLC, as well as other sponsors and exhibitors. A highlight of the event was a live auction of items that the Miami Marlins donated, and 100% of the money raised was donated to the Chiera Family Foundation.



"It was great to have the local South Florida fixed income community come together to host our clients, provide educational opportunities, and, most importantly, to give back to our community," said Mr. Barbar. "We hope everyone will join us again next year!" •

Save the Date!

Next year's
conference
will be
Feb 7-9, 2013
at the
Boca Raton
Resort & Club

Donation made to Chiera Family Foundation

As a result of our successful inaugural conference, the SFBTA was pleased to donate \$5,000 to the recent Chiera Family Foundation's Nicholas R. Chiera Dinner/Auction Golf & Tennis Classic. The live auction at our conference, with items donated from the Miami Marlins, raised an additional \$2,000 for the Foundation. More information on The Chiera Family Foundation and the America Cancer Society's Reaching Out to Cancer Kids summer camp (R.O.C.K.) is available online at www.chieragolfclassic.com.

Donation made to Cohen trust

The SFBTA has donated \$5,000 to the Lily and Aiden Cohen Trust, benefitting the children of Association member Patty Cohen in honor of her late husband Aaron, who passed away in February. We are honored and grateful to be able to contribute, and ask that you continue to keep Patty and the entire Cohen family in your thoughts and prayers.

SFBTA Board of Directors

Our organization is excited by the opportunity to serve and promote the interests of our members.

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(L to R: C.Trimarco, V.Butkevits, K.Martin, M.Drews, P.Leary, T.Kane, M.Toth, D.Bove, G.Barbar)

*Our next
Members event
will be at 5:30 pm
on Wednesday, May 30th
at The Cove
in Deerfield Beach.*

We hope to see you there!



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South Florida Bond Traders Association, Inc. (SFBTA) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS Section 501(c)(6) whose membership is comprised of investment and trading professionals from the South Florida area. We represent many firms involved in the buying, selling and trading of all fixed income securities.

SFBTA is committed to the following objectives:

- Provide members with educational opportunities including seminars, conferences and training sessions relating to current issues facing the securities trading industry.
- Sponsor social and networking events to encourage members and other industry professionals to develop and deepen professional relationships.
- Support the South Florida community through funding of local charities and scholarships.

Visit us online: www.SouthFloridaBondTraders.org