



SFBTA Newsletter

Spring 2025



From the Founder's desk

As the South Florida Bond Traders Association approaches its 15th year, I've been reflecting on all that we've accomplished together.

From growing our annual conference in attendance and content, to raising awareness and funds for over 60 charitable organizations, our mission continues to shine bright.

We are incredibly proud of the successful events we've already held this year and are excited at what we're planning for the future.

Thank you for your continued involvement with the SFBTA and for showing our community that Wall Street cares.

George Barbar
SFBTA Founder and President

Another Successful Conference!

Thank you again to everyone who attended our annual conference in February — with almost 500 attendees, this year's event was our largest turnout to date!

With your help, we've been able to continue our tradition of giving back by supporting this year's conference charity, [Operation Healing Forces](#).

The conference materials and photos are available [on our website here](#).



The 2025 SFBTA Conference was a huge success!

Mark your calendar for next year's conference:



Interested in sponsoring?

*Email us at conference@southfloridabondtraders.org
to discuss available sponsorship opportunities.*

Winter Charity Night

The SFBTA hosted a networking charity event at Throw Social in Delray Beach the evening of Wednesday, January 29, 2025 benefitting [Special Operators Transition Foundation™ \(SOTF\)](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to providing best-in-class training, education, and business connectivity for our military's most elite Special Operators who are transitioning to their next successful career. ([learn more here](#))





Holiday Happy Hour Charity Event

The SFBTA hosted a networking charity event at Tap 42 in Boca Raton the evening of Wednesday, December 11, 2024. The event benefited [Open Hearts for Orphans](#), a local organization that provides resources for orphaned and abandoned children in the U.S. and abroad through medical intervention, meeting basic needs, and adoption assistance.

Board of Directors Spotlight on...

Thomas Kane
Zeus Financial LLC



How did you get started in our industry?

When I saw this question I knew it would be a little bit of a story, which is par for the course with me, and it's a story I have told to folks over the years. It begins when I went to St. John's University in Queens NY from 1978-1982... It was a commuter school back then and I had an apartment near the University. To pay for my apartment and for school, I had a full-time job working for a big supermarket chain in the Deli department. Over the years I became manager of the deli, moved up the food chain, and would work at different stores for the company in helping improve delis that were struggling. There is another story about that but that's for another time.

Well, after four years of college and working a ton of hours (double \$ for overtime - good union), I graduated, but continued to work at the grocery store and not really try to get another job. I was probably earning close to \$30K at the deli (which was a good living back then) and I never went hungry. In September of 1982 I was working in a store in South Ozone Park Queens. It was a crazy heat wave, and I figured out if I put dry ice under a pan of Jello with fruit and whipped cream so it wouldn't melt... it cost nothing to make and we sold it with a huge markup. Well, the powers above me were so happy they gave all 50 stores a mandate to do the same thing and presented me with an award while they were at it.

That's when it hit me... I was killing myself working full-time and going to school full-time... and dry-ice with Jello was going to be my biggest achievement? At that point I took the first job that was offered to me, which was brokering whole loans at Mabon Nugent for a starting salary of \$12,500. From brokering whole loans and working with Mortgage companies and banks, we started showing the accounts how to securitize their loans with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. That's how I joined the brave new world of Mortgage-Backed Securities Sales and my journey truly began.

What is something you enjoy about being involved with the SFBTA?

The People! The People! The People!

I love working with the SFBTA fellow board members. They are a great group of people; plus, being there from day one means we have such a great history together. Planning and putting on the events with them and touching the charities is awesome. When it's all done, you really get the feeling that you are a part of something special.

Staying with "The People Theme," we get to see up to 500 hundred folks each year at our outing. In a world where the business has gone to electronic trading-messaging-IB's, nobody is on the phones anymore, which means that the conference gives us all a vital chance to be able to connect with folks in person and form new relationships.

Is there something our members would be interested to learn about you?

I have been married for 30+ years to my wife Ellie (who continues to put up with me even after all these years) and have raised four children (ages 29-27-25-23). They all ran away from home (or flew the nest) a few years back and we were able to move from the burbs back into the city, into the same high-rise we lived in when we first got married... we love it here and coming full-circle.

What are some of your other activities?

I am a sports guy and enjoy rooting for my teams. I do like to play golf, but these days my main form of exercise is taking walks on the lake front with my 4-lb Yorkie.

Have a Charity Suggestion?

One of the SFBTA's main objectives is to offer financial assistance to educational and charitable organizations in the local area, in order to give back to the South Florida community.

We have supported [over 60 non-profit organizations](#) to date, and invite you to submit suggestions to us for the future.

Please [go here](#) to print a Charity Nomination Form. We look forward to hearing your ideas!

Have a "Bond Talks" Suggestion?

We're always looking for interesting and valuable presentation content for our events - and we want to hear from YOU!

Send your "Bond Talks" session topic and/or speaker suggestions to info@SouthFloridaBondTraders.org.

Individual Membership

Individual SFBTA membership provides a forum for networking and sharing industry information, along with access to industry leaders and decision-makers.

Benefits of SFBTA membership include:

- Forum for networking and sharing industry information
- Exclusive access to industry leaders and decision-makers
- Reduced registration fee for the SFBTA Annual Conference
- Complimentary admission to the additional SFBTA networking events during the year

For more information, please [visit the Membership section of our website](#).

Corporate Partnership

The [SFBTA Corporate Partnership Program](#) provides the opportunity for organizations to be involved in our industry and the local community, along with gaining exposure for their company in a number of ways throughout the year. For an annual fee, your firm will receive:

- Recognition (logo and link) as an SFBTA Corporate Partner on the Association's website
- Recognition in press releases and marketing materials
- Logo on SFBTA t-shirts at community volunteer events
- Recognition on signage at SFBTA events
- Gold sponsor level benefits at the Annual Conference

[Contact SFBTA today](#) to learn more about becoming an Annual Corporate Partner!

SFBTA Corporate Partners

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About SFBTA

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.



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