

Lee County Medical Society

Bulletin

Physicians Caring for Our Community



**LCMS
FOUNDATION
RACE RESULTS
ON PAGE 7**



BULLETIN

Lee County Medical Society is a Virtual Operation
 Mailbox address: 5781 Lee Boulevard, Suite 208-104
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
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LCMS DISCLOSURE POLICY

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Lee County Medical Society Mission Statement

The mission of Lee County Medical Society is to advocate for physicians and their relationships with patients; promote public health and uphold the professionalism of the practice of medicine.

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Cover is a collage of photos from the LCMS Foundation 5K Run/2K Walk on April 22nd. Members are encouraged to submit photos to be considered for the Bulletin cover. Must be large format/300dpi. Email photos to marketing@lcmsfl.org

DIRECTORY DEADLINE EXTENDED

Improve the quality of your patient referrals with an advertisement in the 2023 LCMS Physician Directory. Deadline extended to May 26th. Email marketing@lcmsfl.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUE, MAY 23rd

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Women Physicians Wine & Chocolate Event

United Way - Bell Tower Suite
 Sponsors: Florida Cancer Specialists,
 Everwell Financial & Linda Minck Law

SAT, JUNE 3rd

12:30pm - 2:30pm

Family Fun Time

Bowling at Headpinz
 14513 Global Pkwy., Fort Myers

THURS, JULY 6th

6:00pm

Annual Residency Reception

FineMark National Bank & Trust on College Pkwy.

FRI, AUG 11th

6:00pm

LCMS Cocktail Hour

TBA
 Sponsor: Everwell Financial

THURS, AUG 17th

6:00pm

LCMS Member Meeting

FineMark National Bank & Trust on College Pkwy.

FRI, AUG 25th

6:00pm

Family Fun Night

Popstroke
 Sponsor this event! Email marketing@lcmsfl.org

RVSP to LCMS events at www.lcmsfl.org

NEW MEMBERS AS OF MAY 16, 2023



Cesar R. Arjona Carrillo, MD
Family Medicine
Lee Physician Group
5225 Clayton Ct
Fort Myers, FL 33907
239-343-8240
www.leehealth.org



Roger A. Howell, DO
Emergency Medicine
Lee Physician Group
13685 Doctors Way Suite 140
Fort Myers, FL 33912
www.leehealth.org



Rachel A. Titus, MD
General Surgery/Wound Care
Lee Physician Group
13778 Plantation Dr
Fort Myers, FL 33912
239-343-0454
www.leehealth.org



Christina G. Biller, MD
Pediatric General Surgery
Golisano Children's Hospital
of SW Florida
9981 S Healthpark Dr
Fort Myers, FL 33908
239-343-5437
www.leehealth.org



Barbara C. Knight, MD
Pediatrics
Lee Physician Group
4751 S. Cleveland Ave
Fort Myers, FL
239-343-9888
www.leehealth.org



Andrew Van Sickler, MD
Vascular Surgery
Surgical Specialists of SW FL
6821 Palisades Park Court, Suite 1
Fort Myers, FL 33912
239-936-8555
www.surgspecswfl.com



George F. Harris, MD
Otolaryngology
Lee Physician Group
16230 Summerlin Rd, Suite 215
Fort Myers, FL 33908
www.leehealth.org



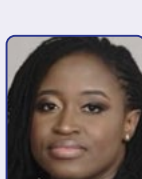
Carla J. Osigian, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology
SW FL Children's Charities
Eye Center of Golisano
Children's Hospital
11390 Summerlin Square Dr
Fort Myers, FL 33931
239-343-8880



Viraine S. Weerasooriya, MD
Pediatric Gastroenterology
Lee Physician Group
16230 Summerlin Road, #215
Fort Myers, FL 33908
239-343-7474
www.leehealth.org



Andre Hebra, MD
Pediatric General Surgery
Lee Physician Group
16230 Summerlin Road, #215
Fort Myers, FL 33908
239-343-7474
www.leehealth.org



Marieme Racine, DO
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Lee Physician Group
9800 S Healthpark Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
www.leehealth.org



Andreas H. Werle, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology
Lee Physician Group
16230 Summerlin Road, #215
Fort Myers, FL 33908
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www.leehealth.org



Brody W. Hingst, MD
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Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239-343-2000
www.leehealth.org



Franklin L. Rimell, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology
Lee Physician Group
16230 Summerlin Road, #215
Fort Myers, FL 33908
239-343-7474
www.leehealth.org



Yeh Hung Yiin, MD
Palliative Medicine
Lee Physician Group
8925 Colonial Center Dr., Bldg. A,
Ste. 1000
Fort Myers, FL 33905
239-343-9560
www.leehealth.org

MEMBER NEWS

REFER A MEMBER PROGRAM

**Refer a new physician member and
get a Ben Franklin bonus!**

Lee County Medical Society will credit any active physician member* \$100 toward their renewal membership when they refer a new physician to join the Society.

The applicant must identify the referring physician when applying for membership through the Society's website in order for the credit to be issued.

PRORATED MEMBERSHIP

Effective May 19, 2023, LCMS membership dues will be prorated for the year to encourage physicians* to join at any time during the year.

*Excludes resident, retired and associate members

IN MEMORIAM

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of this Lee County Medical Society life-time member:

David Rivers Butcher, MD on April 10, 2023

NEW ADDRESS

Update your records to reflect the new address for:

Anthony Anfuso, MD

Precision Healthcare Specialists
13691 Metro Pkwy., #300 • Fort Myers, FL 33912
p: 239-291-6970 • f: 239-522-4288
www.phspecialists.com

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FREE for members (limit 50 words). \$25/nonmembers.

HOW WILL AI CHANGE MEDICINE IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Ryan Lundquist, MD

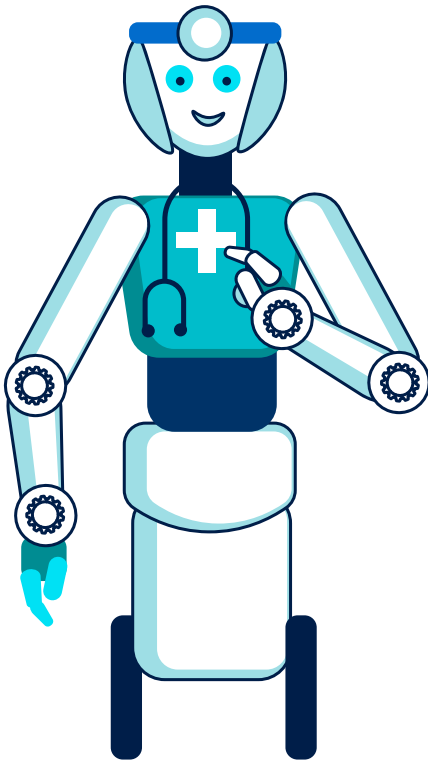
One can find news articles about how artificial intelligence (AI) will never completely replace physicians, and others that claim physicians will become obsolete.



Who is correct? Maybe we should ask AI? So I posed that question to ChatGTP, one of the leading AI programs. Here is its response:

“In the next 5 years, artificial intelligence (AI) will revolutionize medicine by improving diagnosis accuracy, predicting patient outcomes, and streamlining administrative tasks.

AI-powered tools will assist doctors in analyzing large amounts of medical data, including patient histories and lab results, to identify patterns and make more accurate diagnoses. AI algorithms will also help predict the likelihood of patient readmission and enable doctors to provide personalized treatment plans. Moreover, AI will automate administrative tasks, freeing up time for healthcare professionals to focus on patient care. Overall, AI will enhance medical decision-making, improve patient outcomes, and reduce healthcare costs.”



According to ChatGTP, AI could have a significant positive impact on our work lives by improving our efficiency. However, significant gains in efficiency may only provide temporary improvement before increasing workloads and decreasing reimbursement follow. The increasing presence of a private equity model in medicine could also put more pressure on that transition.

My next question to ChatGTP was if it would ever replace doctors completely. This is its response:

“While artificial intelligence (AI) will undoubtedly change the way healthcare is delivered, it is unlikely to fully replace doctors. AI can analyze vast amounts of data and assist with medical decision-making, but it cannot replace the human touch and empathy that comes with patient care. Doctors use their experience, knowledge, and intuition to make complex decisions that take into account the unique needs and circumstances of each patient. AI can support doctors in this process, but it cannot fully replace the expertise and judgment of a trained medical professional. Additionally, there are certain tasks, such as performing surgical procedures, that require human skills and dexterity that cannot be replicated by machines.”

Are we to trust AI that everything will be great, and our lives will only improve with the growing infiltration of AI? Or, does AI want us to believe everything will be better?

Although AI is undoubtedly becoming more intelligent, it is still, in part, dependent on the programmers who created it. How are we to insure there will be no bias? Unfortunately, that might be impossible. If you were a company developing this technology, you would want it to succeed, and therefore you would have motive to convince everyone how it will improve their lives.

So will AI improve our lives in the future by eliminating unwanted tasks? Probably. But, it may also have unwanted consequences that we may not foresee. In any event, time will tell and the future will be interesting.

FMA'S POLICY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

As a result of the emerging potential of AI systems in the medical field — and the questions and potential concerns that these systems raise — the FMA Medical Student Section introduced Resolution 22-306 *Artificial Intelligence* at the 2022 FMA Annual Meeting. This policy was referred to the Board of Governors, which assigned the resolution to the FMA Council on Medical Economics and Practice Innovation. Following that, the Board adopted this resolution as FMA policy. [READ IT HERE.](#)

BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS STRATEGY: HELP FROM THE HORIZON COUNCIL

THE RAMIREZ REPORT: Julie Ramirez, CAE, LCMS Executive Director



Earlier this year I was nominated as a board member of The Horizon Council. The Horizon Council was established in 1991 as a public-private alliance that will advise the Lee County Board of Commissioners on economic development issues.

The Council has up to 80 members representing different business sectors within Lee County, Florida. It is a privilege for me, as your Executive Director, to represent the physicians of our community.

As part of The Horizon Council, I joined the business issues committee to pursue more knowledge and education on how to help physician offices during disasters that likely will affect their businesses (i.e., hurricanes, pandemics, etc.). This committee's goal is to develop a "business preparedness strategy" that any local business owner can employ during the next disaster.

**As many of you know too well,
having a disaster plan is the
first step in survival.**

In order to best represent your voice in the process, I invite you to **send me an email message** that includes the critical lessons you learned from your team's experience during a recent past disaster.

My role on this committee provides you with an opportunity to share your best practices before, during, and after an event. We want to know:

- What special measures did you take before the event?
- Did these measures meet your expectations?
- What problem(s) arose that wasn't in the plan?
- How did you remedy it?
- What changes are you making to your disaster plan moving forward?
- What would you recommend other businesses, or the county, do differently during the next disaster?
- What new best practices are helping your recovery?

---[Email me at jramirez@lcmsfl.org](mailto:jramirez@lcmsfl.org)

NEW ONE-TIME DEA REGISTRATION RENEWAL REQUIREMENT

If your DEA registration renewal is on or after June 27, 2023, you will need to satisfy a one-time requirement that shows you completed eight (8) total controlled substance CME in order to maintain your license to prescribe Schedules II, III, IV, and V drugs.

NOTE: Any substance abuse CME you obtained from a recognized training provider in the last two years count toward this total, including the substance abuse course that was offered by LCMS in January. Be sure to obtain and save your certificates of completion as they may be used to verify your compliance by DEA.

This new requirement, outlined in the Medication Access and Training Expansion Act (MATE), applies to all initial and renewing applicants.

Find an organization that provides free online training classes to satisfy this requirement [HERE](#).

DOH & LCMS TEAM UP TO ACTIVATE 6-COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

BY: Megan Widman, MPH, CHES
Public Health Preparedness and Response, Florida Department of Health in Lee County

The need for the **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** became apparent after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when thousands of medical and public health professionals, eager to volunteer in support of emergency relief activities, found that there was no organized approach to channel their efforts. As a result, the MRC was established to provide a way to recruit, train, and activate medical and health professionals to respond to community health needs, including disasters and other public health emergencies. MRC units engage both medically trained volunteers and those without healthcare backgrounds to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities, and build community resiliency.

in Sanibel post-Hurricane Ian to provide healthcare services like giving stitches and vaccinations. Strengthening a community's "everyday" public health and medical infrastructure, and its emergency preparedness and response capacity, leads to stronger community resiliency.

The Florida MRC Network is comprised of 33 MRC units covering all 67 Florida counties. **The local chapter, Southwest Florida MRC, includes six counties: Lee, Charlotte, DeSoto, Highlands, Hendry, and Glades.** The MRC makes up some of the most robust volunteer protections in the US, while developing a network of community-based teams of volunteers who are interested in strengthening public health. To learn more and apply for volunteer opportunities through this organization, follow the QR code:



Common activities MRC members volunteer for are emergency preparedness and response trainings, disaster sheltering, emergency medical support, vaccination clinics, and health education. Recently, the MRC in conjunction with the Lee County Medical Society, responded to healthcare needs





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- North and South
- Superior location for all medical and professional businesses
- Please do not disturb Tenant

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RACE RESULTS

- FEMALE 1-10: A. Azam
 - FEMALE 25-29: Frida Perillo
 - FEMALE 30-34: Alyssa Blight
 - FEMALE 35-39: Jennifer Reid
 - FEMALE 40-44: Holly Barnhart
 - FEMALE 45-49: Samina Azam
 - FEMALE 50-54: Diana Garcia
 - FEMALE 60-64: Kelly Dworak
 - FEMALE 70-74: Faye Miller
 - MALE 11-14: Michael Creus, Jr.
 - MALE 15-19: Brody Hilt*
 - MALE 30-34: Edward Stratton
 - MALE 35-39: Scott Caesar
 - MALE 40-44: Ryan Lundquist
 - MALE 45-49: Gerard Kachor
 - MALE 55-59: John Cadorin
 - MALE 60-64: David Dworak
 - MALE 65-69: Eric Freedman
- * overall lowest race time 19.09.09

We are pleased to announce that your participation and support of the **2023 LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION FUN RUN** provided an additional **\$6,200** to the **PHYSICIAN WELLNESS PROGRAM (PWP)**!



RACE SPONSORS



View all photos from the event at LCMSFL.org/fun-run

CLICK THIS PAGE OR GO TO LCMSFL.ORG/ANNUAL-MEDICAL-SERVICE-AWARDS

11th Annual Medical Service Awards

September 29, 2023

RAM

REGISTER TO ATTEND!
\$100/per person

BOOK A TABLE
Celebrate with your entire team. Table of 10, \$1,500

SAM

A Community Celebration



**NOMINATIONS
ARE OPEN** 

THE BUSINESS SIDE OF MEDICINE 2023 ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES

Information provided by Ben Mirza and Mirza Healthcare Law Partners. Virtual seminars are held on the third Thursday at 6:30pm

June 20th

What Every Healthcare Employer & Employee Needs to Know about Employment Law

[REGISTER](#)

No seminar in July

August 15th

"So, I Signed a Non-Compete, Now What?"

[REGISTER](#)

September 19th

How to Minimize the Risk of Malpractice Lawsuits

[REGISTER](#)

October 17th

How Experienced Physicians Protect their Assets

[REGISTER](#)

November 21st

How to Handle Collection Challenges of Working With Health Plans

[REGISTER](#)

December 12th

Medical Marijuana Law for Physician Practices

[REGISTER](#)

Access the links to register for these seminars in the digital version of this newsletter at [lcmsfl.org/publications](https://www.lcmsfl.org/publications)

AMSA NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

Do you know a Lee County medical provider that deserves recognition for their contributions to the health of our community? Nominations are **OPEN** for the 11th Annual Medical Service Awards by Lee County Medical Society Foundation. Add the name of a physician or medical provider that went above and beyond in one of these areas:

Non-Physician Award of Appreciation

Distinguished Layperson's Service Award

Scientific Achievement Award

Award for Citizenship & Community Service

Award for Health Education

Award for Leadership & Professionalism

Rising Physician Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

Learn more about each category and submit your nominations [HERE](#).

FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION OUTCOMES

BUDGET WINS:

- Physician Medicaid to Medicare Rate Increase for Pediatric Services - **\$76 Million**
- Slots for Doctors - Graduate Medical Education - **\$30 Million**
- Medical Student Loan Forgiveness - FRAME Program **\$16 Million** for Fiscal Year 2023-2024
- FRAME - **\$10 Million** Additional Funds for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- Stop the Bleed - **\$1.25 Million**

LEGISLATION THAT WAS DEFEATED:

- Autonomous Practice by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (HB 1067 by Rep. Giallombardo and SB 1058 by Rep. Rodriguez)
- Physician Assistants' Prescriptive Authority (HB 481 by Rep. Melo)
- Foreign-licensed Physicians (SB 956 by Sen. Rodriguez and HB 1145 by Rep. Snyder)
- Interstate-Mobility and Universal-Recognition Occupational Licensing Act (SB 1364 by Sen. Collins and HB 1333 by Rep. Koster)

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED:

- Health Care Practitioner Titles and Designations (SB 230 by Sen. Harrell and HB 583 by Rep. Massullo)
- Telehealth - Audio-only (HB 267 by Rep. Fabricio and SB 298 by Sen. Boyd)
- Health Care Provider Accountability - Office Surgery and Brazilian Butt Lifts (HB 1471 by Rep. Busatta-Cabrera and SB 1596 by Sen. Garcia)
- Referral of Patients of Health Care Providers (SB 768 by Sen. Martin and HB 601 by Rep. Steele)
- Protections of Medical Conscience and Free Speech (SB 1580 by Sen. Trumbull and HB 1403 by Rep. Rudman)
- Assault or Battery on Hospital Personnel (HB 825 by Rep. Berfield and SB 568 by Sen. Rodriguez)
- Abortion (SB 300 by Sen. Persons-Mulicka and HB 7 by Rep. Grall)
- Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform Bill (SB 1550 by Sen. Brodeur and HB 1509 by Rep. Chaney)
- Civil Remedies - Tort Package (HB 837 by Rep. Fabricio and SB 236 by Sen. Hutson)
- Telehealth Physician Certifications for the Medical Use of Marijuana (HB 387 by Rep. Roach and SB 344 by Sen. Brodeur)
- Protection from Discrimination Based on Health Care Choices (SB 252 by Sen. Burton and HB 1013 by Rep. Griffiths)
- Controlled Substance Testing - Fentanyl Test Strips (SB 164 by Sen. Polsky and HB 165 by Rep. Hunschofsky)
- Treatments for Sex Reassignment (SB 254 by Sen. Yarborough and HB 1421 by Rep. Fine)

Reprinted from the 2023 FMA Legislative Report.

LESSONS IN PREVENTING BUTTON BATTERY INJURIES

by: Patti L. Ellis, RN, CPHRM, Patient Safety Risk Manager II, The Doctors Company

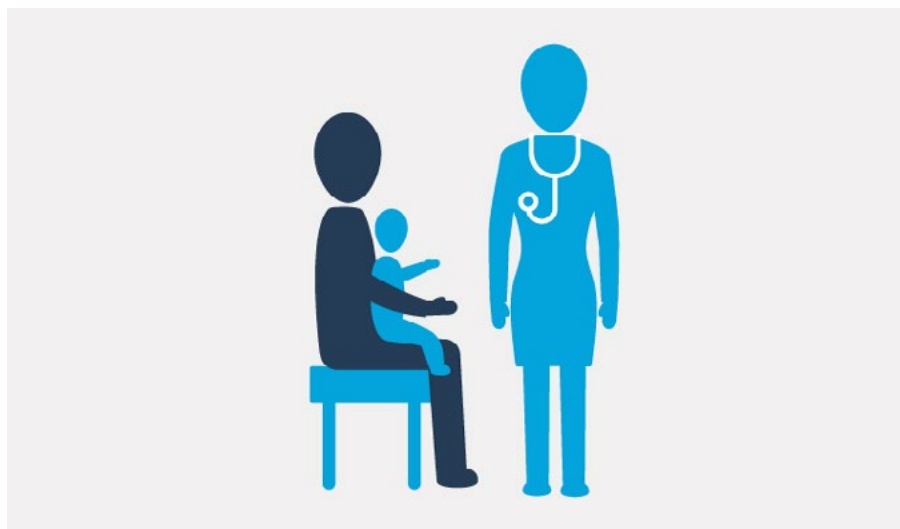
According to a study published in *Pediatrics*, it is estimated that between 2010 and 2019, more than 70,000 emergency department (ED) visits in the United States were battery related among children under 18 years old.

The majority of ingestions, exposures, and insertions go unwitnessed by the parent or caregiver. Clinicians may be misled by the patient's initial presentation because symptoms are often nonspecific.

The child may have delayed symptoms that can result in delayed treatment and lead to serious injury.

Case Example

A mother took her child to urgent care with complaints of nasal trauma and swelling. Although x-rays were negative for fracture, they revealed a foreign body in the child's left nostril. The radiologist noted on the report that he informed the mother of this finding.



The urgent care staff instructed her to take the child to the pediatrician. The child was seen by an advanced practice clinician (APC), but the records from urgent care were not made available and there were no documented attempts by the APC to obtain the records.

On exam, the child was noted to have nasal swelling, bruising around the left eye and bridge of nose, and dried blood around the left nostril and upper lip. Follow-up facial/skull/orbital x-rays were ordered, and the mother was told to return for follow-up in three days. The mother did not complete the x-rays and was a no-show for the return appointment.

She returned with the child to the pediatrician's office due to intermittent nosebleeds. The pediatrician diagnosed nosebleeds due to dry weather and nose picking.

The mother returned one month later and was seen by a different pediatrician. The child presented with malodor from the nose with purulent green discharge from both nostrils. The child was referred to an otolaryngologist (ENT).

Later, the child presented to the ED with a large nosebleed. He was examined by an ENT, who confirmed a foreign body in the nose and surgically removed it. The child was found to have a large anterior nasal septal perforation as the button battery had decomposed and leaked acid that had eroded through the nasal septum into the bone.

The family filed a lawsuit against the urgent care facility, radiologist, APC, and pediatricians, alleging delayed diagnosis and treatment that resulted in severe injury.

Contributing factors in this case include the following:

- Failure by urgent care staff to communicate x-ray results.
- Failure by the APC to obtain medical records from urgent care.
- Failure by the second pediatrician to document that the mother did not obtain the x-rays recommended.
- Failure by the mother to provide an accurate history, relay accurate x-ray results, obtain follow-up x-rays, and bring the patient to appointments.

Patient Safety Strategies

To minimize misdiagnosis and delays in care and treatment, maintain a high index of suspicion for foreign body ingestion, aspiration, or insertion in the mouth, nose, or ears. It is important to obtain an accurate history, perform a thorough diagnostic workup, and review prior patient records. Thorough documentation serves as a powerful defense in claims alleging misdiagnosis or delayed treatment.

Prevention is key and should include raising community awareness. During well-child visits, take the opportunity to educate parents and caregivers. Post the telephone number of the **National Battery Ingestion Hotline—(800) 498-8666**—in each exam room and make it readily available to clinicians. Safe Kids Worldwide offers a button battery tip card to download or post on your website. The CPSC offers posters on button battery safety.

Lee County Medical Society Foundation

GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 30, 2023
8:30 AM Tee Off

REGISTER TO PLAY!

\$175/golfer | \$650/foursome

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Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

GRANT APPROVED!

As part of our annual grant application process to obtain funding that provides members with cutting edge services and support, your leadership applied and has been approved for a **Resiliency Grant** from the Lee County Economic Development Office in the amount of \$20,000.

Funds from this grant will be exclusively used to expand and improve our marketing campaigns which will include expanding our partner outreach efforts, adding member events, implementing more member referral services, and broadening our media and public relations.