

## **FSPA and APSP redefine relationship**

In 2000, the Florida association became an Affiliate of the National Spa & Pool Institute, now known as the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP), in order to provide better member service and retain more of members' dues within Florida. This was successful, allowing the Florida association to strengthen its member benefits and government relations presence throughout the state and in Tallahassee. Earlier this year, the APSP terminated our Affiliation Agreement, asking to develop a new agreement rather than renegotiate the existing affiliation.

Both organizations have verbally agreed to a new "Cooperative Agreement" rather than an Affiliation Agreement. The new agreement allows each organization to operate independent of one another; meaning your dues to FSPA will no longer include membership in APSP. Your entire dues payment will remain in Florida. Should you pay dues to APSP, it will not include membership in FSPA. This proposed Cooperative Agreement is on the agenda to be discussed by the FSPA Board of Directors on June 28 (after this newsletter has been produced) and APSP Board of Directors in July. The result will be shared with FSPA members quickly after the meeting via facsimile and e-mail. This is a significant change for our organization, but one that will benefit you as a member of FSPA.

You can be confident that both organizations will work on behalf of the swimming pool industry and provide excellent programs for members. FSPA is committed to serving the Florida swimming pool professional and will continue the exceptional programs, services and representation with legislative and regulatory groups. In this issue of *Florida Pool Pro<sup>sm</sup>* you will find additional information about the membership benefit programs offered by FSPA. Staff and volunteers are continuing to develop new programs to help your business – just last year health and benefit programs for employees became available to members. Requests and suggestions from members made this a reality. Please share your ideas and needs so FSPA can continue to add benefits that make a difference in your business.

You may have many questions and comments about the new relationship with APSP or suggestions for FSPA's member benefit programs. Please feel free to call me at the state office in Sarasota toll free (866) 930-3772 or call volunteer leaders in the organization. FSPA is a member driven organization and your feedback is important.