

Florida Magazine Association Rescinds Charlie Awards from former editor of Ocala Magazine Heather Lee

After investigating the recent allegations that Ocala Magazine editor Heather Lee plagiarized numerous stories during her five years on staff, the Florida Magazine Association has rescinded 10 awards connected to Ms. Lee's writings.

The Florida Magazine Association vehemently opposes plagiarism and any other unethical journalistic practices. The association and board view such actions to be a violation of the sacred trust between journalists and the public.

The FMA continually strives to uphold the integrity and prestige of its Charlie Awards, which have highlighted excellence among Florida's 300-plus magazines for more than 50 years. Any questions about this decision may be directed to FMA Executive Director Leigh Ann Bradley or FMA President Liesl O'Dell at 866/885-1156.

The FMA board of directors offers it's thanks to Ocala Magazine publisher Linda Marks, who cooperated fully with the investigation and first offered to return the awards in question.

A seminar on plagiarism will be offered at FMA's annual convention in Orlando at the Portofino Bay Hotel, Aug. 6-7. The session will include information on plagiarism-detecting software, how to identify plagiarism and how to educate new and seasoned staff writers on the issue. For conference information please visit the FMA web site at www.floridamagazine.org