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Barbara Locke honored for 44 years of service



In this photo are (from left) Commissioner John Meeks, Commissioner Rock Meeks, FDOH Tri-County Administrator Barbara Locke, Commissioner Mike Joyner, Commissioner Lilly Rooks and Commission Chairman Matt Brooks. Locke is holding the framed Certificate of Appreciation signed by each County Commission member.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 8, 2020 at 9:10 p.m.

LEVY COUNTY – Barbara Locke, R.N, M.P.H., was honored as the outgoing director of the Levy County unit of the Florida Department of Health during a modest ceremony Tuesday morning in Bronson.

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In another group photo some of the members of the Florida Department of Health who work with Locke are seen here. Pictured (from left) are Dr. Fred Eichorn of the Levy County Medical Reserve Corps, Wesley Asbell of the Environmental Health Section of the three counties units of the FDOH, retiring administrator Barbara Locke (holding the certificate), Natalie McKellips, the Health Officer for Dixie, Levy and Gilchrist counties, Charlene Hodge Sheffield, and Mark Johnson.



Barbara Locke (left) and Natalie McKellips stand next to a Christmas tree in the Levy County Annex soon after Locke was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her 44 years of service to the residents and visitors of this part of Florida.

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The Levy County Board of County Commissioners presented her with a plaque for her 44 years of service to public health in this part of Florida.

The Dixie County Board of County Commissioners and the Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners are anticipated to follow suit soon.

Locke told the Levy County Commission that her success in programs for public health in Levy County are the result of teamwork, as she said a couple of times that she did not do this alone.

County Commissioner John Meeks mentioned he recently turned 44 years old, and it was surmised that Locke was in the Health Department when he received certain vaccinations there in Bronson years ago.

The breadth of public health issues and needs addressed by the Florida Department of Health, especially in rural counties such as Levy County, Dixie County and Gilchrist County is extensive and significant. These medical professionals save lives and improve the quality of life for everyone in the community.



Joining Levy County Commission Chairman Matt Brooks in the presentation Tuesday morning were commissioners John Meeks, Rock Meeks, Mike Joyner and Lilly Rooks. Commissioner Joyner hugs Locke, as seen here. Many people in Levy County ignore -- to some degree -- the Florida Department of Health's advice for COVID-19 in regard to wearing a mask and the like.