

# Republican Club of Southwest Florida

March 07, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Lions Club of Bonita Springs, FL

**Meeting Called to Order:** Vice-President Fred Forbes called the meeting to order at 6:01

**Invocation:** Secretary Larry Fiesel

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Secretary Larry Fiesel

**Officers Present** Vice-President Fred Forbes, Secretary Larry Fiesel, Treasurer Jim Sido, Director Joanne Ribble

**Recognition of Elected Officials:** Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes, Bonita Spring Councilmember Nigel Fullick, Estero Vice Mayor Joanne Ribble, Estero Council Members George Zalucki, Rafael Lopez, Larry Fiesel, Lori Fayhee

**Recognition of Sponsor:** Engel & Volkers - Jim and Ellen Hollars

**Approval of February 01, 2024, Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve by Brandon Miller, Seconded by George Zalucki. Motion was unanimously approved.

## Treasurer's Report: January 2024

### Income

February 06, 2024	Square	Dues-Forbes 100, Klein 100, Leonard 30 Sasser 25	255.00
February 07, 2024	Dues	Square membership-Rob Paul	23.97
February 12, 2024	Dues	Amy Quaremba	100.00
February 14, 2024	In-Kind	PO Box Rental-Bill Ribble-\$85	

**Total** **378.97**

### Disbursements

February 05, 2024	#147	Lions Club of Bonita Springs	175.00
February 07, 2024	Debit	Recurring Wix.com	12.00
February 09, 2024	Debit	SunBiz St of Florida Registration	70.00
February 20, 2024	Debit	Miklas Social	385.00

**Total** **642.00**

**Beginning Balance** **1,692.22**

**Income** **378.97**

**Disbursements** **642.00**

**Ending Balance** **1,429.19**

**Business Savings Account** **467.49**

**Approval of January 2024 Treasurers Report:** Motion to approve by Ed Weil, Seconded by Brandon Miller. Motion was unanimously approved.

**Order of Business & Introduction of Guest Speaker: Lee County Clerk of the Courts and Comptroller, Kevin Karnes**



## **Clerk Kevin C. Karnes**

Clerk Kevin Karnes was appointed Clerk of the Court & Comptroller by Gov. DeSantis in March 2022 and was elected to the position in August 2022 by Lee County voters.

Karnes holds a master's degree in Legal Studies from American Public University and a bachelor's degree from Florida Gulf Coast University. He is a long-time veteran of the Clerk's office and has held a variety of leadership positions leading complex budgets, managing projects and implementing legislative changes.

As Clerk of the Circuit Court, Karnes is responsible for nearly 1,000 duties designated by the Florida Constitution and Statutes. The Clerk of the Circuit Court's primary function is to safeguard the integrity of all court records. In addition to serving as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Clerk is the County Recorder and Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, and the Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Auditor for Lee County. Karnes is responsible for managing and investing nearly \$2 billion of Lee County's tax dollars annually. The office also

audits and pays more than \$1 billion in county bills and collects an average of \$50 million dollars in tourist tax annually.

Karnes is an advocate for protecting homeowners' property from fraud. In June 2023, Karnes announced that Lee County had been chosen to lead the state with a Property Fraud Prevention Pilot Program. This initiative is a result of Karnes' efforts to fight property fraud in Southwest Florida.

Karnes proudly serves on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades. He also previously served as a Guardian Ad Litem and currently serves as a member on a Florida Bar Grievance Committee.

Karnes' goals are to prioritize initiatives related to property fraud prevention, cyber security preparedness, increasing online services, and demanding government transparency and accountability.

Contact Clerk Karnes at [KKarnes@LeeClerk.org](mailto:KKarnes@LeeClerk.org).

- County wide Constitutional Officers independently elected by county citizens every four years: Clerk and Comptroller Kevin Karnes, Property Appraiser Matt Caldwell, Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Supervisor of Elections Tommy Doyle, Tax Collector Noelle Branning
- The Clerk is designated with more than 1,000 statutory duties supporting the state court system and county government agencies. The Clerk also protects the Official Record and serves as the county treasurer
- Constitutional & Statutory Duties of Clerk: Maintain the court records of Lee County; As Comptroller, the Clerk is responsible for oversight of all expenditures of the Board of County Commissioners; the Clerk records, processes and maintains all Official Records of Lee County dating back to 1887; the Clerk's certified Inspector General performs internal audits and conducts fraud, waste and abuse investigation of the operations and financial records of Lee County government agencies, departments, employees and others under the authority fo the Board of County Commissioners, Port Authority and clerk.
- Clerk of the Courts has 370 employees

**New Business:** There was no new business

**Introduction of candidates:**

**Amanda Cochran**, Candidate for Lee County Commissioner, District 5

**Tara Jenner**, Republican for State Committee Woman

**Fred Forbes**, in behalf of Carolyn Forbes, Candidate for Bonita Springs City Council

**Next Meeting:** April 04, 2024, Cecil Pendergrass, Lee County Commissioner

**Meeting Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.