

Republican Club of Southwest Florida

September 07, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Lions Club of Bonita Springs, FL.

Meeting Called to Order: President Bill Ribble called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Invocation: Vice-President Fred Forbes

Pledge of Allegiance: Vice-President Fred Forbes

Officers President: President Bill Ribble, Vice-President Fred Forbes, Director Carolyn Forbes

Recognition of Elected Officials: State Representative, Jenna Persons-Mulicka, Lee County Commissioner, Ray Sandelli, Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor, Fred Forbes, Bonita Springs Councilwoman, Laura Carr, Lee Health Board Member, David Kline.

The Village of Estero had their budget meeting this evening and so their excused absence from this meeting.

Recognition of Sponsor: Engel & Volkers – Jim and Ellen Hollars

Special Guest Republican Club President: Lori Kezer, President Patriots Club of Cape Coral

Approval of June 02, 2023, Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Fran Mainella, Seconded by Nathan Shaw.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: August 2023:

Income:

July 31, 2023	SQ in July	Robert Paul Membership 1339613055	23.97
August 07, 2023		Cash JD McGee	50.00
August 07, 2023	2502 & 1036	Checks A&J Persons \$50, Robt Paul \$25	75.00
August 31, 2023	1181	Aura Arbee Membership	25.00

Total **150.00**

Disbursements:

August 07, 2023	141	Haney's Catering	639.00
August 07, 2023	Debit	Recurring Wix.com	12.00
August 10, 2023	140	Lions Club of Bonita Springs	150.00
August 24, 2023	Debit	Miklas Social	385.00

Total **1,186.00**

Summary:

Beginning Balance	4,154.29
Income	150.00
Disbursements	1,186.00

Ending Balance	3,118.29
Business Savings Account	467.49

Motion to approve by Bernie Long, Seconded by Brandon Miller.

Order of Business and Introduction of Guest Speaker: Amira Fox, State Attorney for the 20th Judicial Circuit of Florida.



AMIRA FOX is the State Attorney for the 20th Judicial Circuit of Florida covering Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. She graduated from American University in Washington D.C. in 1987 with degrees in International Studies and Economics and received her law degree from The George Washington University in 1990. Ms. Fox began her career as an Assistant State Attorney with the 20th Judicial Circuit in 1990. She worked in the misdemeanor, juvenile and felony divisions of the State Attorney’s Office before becoming head of the Hendry and Glades office in 1998. In 1999, she became the first female head of the Collier County office. She entered private practice in 2002, and formed her own practice in 2004, where she specialized in criminal defense and family law and was a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent-rated lawyer. She rejoined the State Attorney’s Office in 2012 as Chief of the Homicide and Economic Crime Units and in 2015 she became Chief Assistant State Attorney overseeing the day to day legal and administrative functions of the office, including the operation of grand juries throughout the circuit. In November 2018, Ms. Fox was elected State Attorney, becoming the third State Attorney, and the first female State Attorney, in the history of the Circuit. She was re-elected, unopposed, in 2022 for a term continuing through January 2027. She has prosecuted hundreds of cases including numerous first-degree murder death penalty cases. Ms. Fox serves as the Vice President of the Florida Prosecuting Attorney’s Association. She also serves on the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, the Supreme Court of Florida Criminal Court Steering Committee, and was appointed to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission by Governor Ron DeSantis in February, 2023. She is the recipient of the GEM award for excellence in public service, a Leader in the Law award by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, and the Woman of the Year award from the Lee Republican Women Cape Coral. State Attorney Fox is a member of the Fort Myers Rotary Club, serves on the board of the Shelter for Abused Women and Children, the board of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, the board of the PACE Center for Girls and has been a Captain and Event Lead for Relay for Life. Amira’s husband Mike served with the Collier County Sheriff’s Office for 30 years and they have four children.

- Thanks goes to State Legislator Jenna Persons-Mulicka for helping to fund the five offices in the five-county circuit.

- High Intensity Drug Task Force in place with new funding
- Human Trafficking Task Force now in place to arrest for Sex and Labor Traffickers
- Intercept Task Force Addresses Sex Crimes
- Operation Light Shine Task Force Addresses Labor Traffickers
- Cold Case Unit in place for four years. Twenty prosecutions to date
- New DNA Technology
- FDLE Support
- Local Non-Profit Support
- Questions from Attending Membership

New Business: None

Announcements: August 26th Carolyn and Fred Forbes hosted a “Letter Addressing Campaign” at the Hunter’s Ridge Club House. Members Phyllis Bonfield, Mary Ellen Rain, Jim Sido, Nancy Walls, Joanne and Bill Ribble joined the Forbes in the addressing of letters and donation of the stamps for the 340 letters addressed.

Campaign Candidate Introductions:

David Mulicka, Candidate for The Lee County Commission District 3 seat introduced himself to the attendees.

Bill Ribble, Candidate for The Lee County School Board District 3 Seat introduced himself to the attendees.

Next Meeting: October 5th- Lee County Property Appraiser and Republican Committeeman, Matt Caldwell

Meeting Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.