**Republican Club of Southwest Florida**

January 05, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Worthington Country Club, 13550 Worthington Way, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

**Officers Present:** President Bill Ribble, Vice-President Fred Forbes, Secretary Larry Fiesel, Directors Joanne Ribble, Carolyn Forbes

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

**Invocation**: Secretary Larry Fiesel

**Pledge of Allegiance**: Vice-President Fred Forbes

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

**Recognition of Elected Officials**: Bonita Council Member, District 1, Amy Quaremba, Bonita Council Member, District 6, Fred Forbes, Estero Council Member, District 1, Joanne Ribble, Estero Council Member, District 2, Larry Fiesel, Estero Council Member, District 6, Jim Ward.

**Approval of November 04, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve Fred Forbes, Seconded by Larry Fiesel , Motion was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** President Bill Ribble in place of Treasurer Michael Danieli

January Income (2021 Carryover) $ 2,946.98 January Estimated Expenses

Membership Dues 300.00 IRS/Audit Filings $ 500.00

Membership Donations 400.00 UNIDAD Web Page 500.00

WCC Room Rental 50.00

Sub Total $ 3,648.98 $ 1,050.00

Balance $ 2,596.98

**Motion for Approval of the Treasurer's Report**: Motion for approval made by Fred Forbes, Seconded by Phyllis Bonfield. Motion was unanimously approved.

**Old Business:** President Bill Ribble presented a tribute to Charles Dauray, a gentleman who helped conserve Estero history and Southwest Florida's environment who passed away December 08, 2021. Was appointed to the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District in 2007, where he became vice-chair, working for the restoration of the Kissimmee River and advocated for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Charles headed the College of Life Foundation, a member of the Lee County Republican Executive Committee, Southwest Florida Symphony, Collier County Historical Society, Southwest Florida Archeological Society and Habitat for Humanity. He also served many years on the Estero Historical Society, to which he donated several historic buildings which now have been moved to the Estero Community Park.

**Guest Candidates Introduction:**

Jada Langford-Fleming, Lee County School Board, District 6 at Large: Mother of three, school teacher for 20-years, a high school volleyball coach, served on committees inside the school board, originally from LaBelle, FL. One of the reasons to run for School Board is unhappy teachers with low morale and against CRT teaching within the school system.

Denise Nystrom, Lee County School Board, District 6 at Large: Mother of three and Grandmother of eight, was a Special Education Teacher and Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of Human Resources. She supports the Parents Rights Bill and organized a review of the English textbooks and submitted a report to the Board of Education, the Superintendent and the Chief of Curriculum indicating the textbooks they are using do not follow Florida State Laws about teaching civics and factual history.

**Order of Business & Introduction of Guest Speaker:**

Amira Fox, State Attorney for the 20th Judicial Circuit of Florida which covers Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. Amira was elected in November 2018, becoming the third State Attorney, and the first female State Attorney, in the history of the Circuit. Her reelection campaign slogan is 'Check the Box for Fox'.

There are five prosecutor offices, one in each county, and she oversees the day-to-day prosecution of every arrest within the five counties, an area that encompasses a total of 54,000 square miles. For nine years in a row the 20th Judicial Circuit has the lowest crime rate in the state.

There are 120 prosecutors with Misdemeanor Division in Lee County having between 500-600 cases. They are short staffed and in need of funding to support the prosecutors. Amira has petitioned the state legislature for a $10,000 raise per each prosecutor in order to maintain staffing. Under Amira's jurisdiction are Economic Crimes Unit, Post Conviction Unit, Felony Unit, Homicides Unit and Special Victims Unit (rape, child abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual battery).

She established two new initiatives:

* Cold Case Homicide Unit - Arrested 16 people since 2019 on 20-30 year old cases, 20 cases on waiting list to investigate
* Drug Court for Users, not Sellers, formed a Narcotics Enforcement Taskforce (NET Force)

Fentanyl is a killer drug, changed the face of the drug world. In the 20th Circuit past operations made 23 arrests in Lee County and 23 arrests in Collier County, seized $1M of drugs and $1M in unlawfully gained currency. Manufactured fentanyl is entering into our country directly from Mexico and indirectly from China.

Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties are very 'Law and Order', very progressive.

Amira Fox is up for reelection in November, 2022.

**New Business**: None

**Announcements**:

Members have inquired about helping. There will be plenty of opportunities to do door knocking and mailings. July 14 Absentee Ballots go out, August 23 is the Primary Election and November 08 is the General Election, so there will be a need to help get our chosen candidates, including Amira Fox elected.

The next monthly meeting will be February 03, 2022 at the Worthington Country Club. Featured, Lee County Sheriff, Carmine Manceno.

**Motion to Adjourn**: A motion to adjourn was made by Vice-President Fred Forbes, seconded by Secretary Larry Fiesel. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.