

Republican Club of Southwest Florida

January 04, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Lions Club of Bonita Springs, FL

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

Invocation: Secretary Larry Fiesel

Pledge of Allegiance: Secretary Larry Fiesel

Officers Present: President Bill Ribble, Secretary Larry Fiesel, Treasurer Jim Sido, Director Joanne Ribble

Recognition of Elected Officials: Lee County Commission Ray Sandelli, Bonita Springs Council Member Nigel Fullick, Estero Vice Mayor Joanne Ribble, Estero Council Members Larry Fiesel, Rafael Lopez, and George Zalucki.

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

Approval of December 07, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Fran Mainella, Seconded by Nathan Fred Shaw. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: December 2023

Income:

December 04, 2023	Square	Membership - Grant Ficher (\$100)	96.80
December 07, 2023	Dues	Nathan Shaw (\$50) Roger & Sharon Beck (\$50)	100.00
December 08, 2023	Square	Membership - Susan Allen (\$25)	23.97
December 11, 2023	Dues	Brian Wright	100.00

Total **320.77**

Disbursements:

December 07, 2023	Debit	Recurring Wix.com	12.00
December 11, 2023	#146	Lions Club of Bonita Springs	175.00
December 20, 2023	Debit	Miklas Social	385.00

Total **572.00**

Summary:

Beginning Balance	1,933.63
Income	320.77
Disbursements	572.00
Ending Balance	1,682.40
Business Savings	467.49

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve by George Zalucki, Seconded by Ed Weil. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Jim Sido will be filing next month IRS Form 8872, a Political Organizations report of contributions and expenditures.

Order of Business & Introduction of Guest Speaker: Local Businessman, Historian and Tour Manager for Stephan Ambrose Historical Tours, Brian Wright

The Republican Club of Southwest Florida presents:

A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH 2024
5:30 PM

The Lions Club, Lions Center
10370 Pennsylvania Ave,
Bonita Springs, FL



Dive deeper into the history of WWI, WWII, and the Civil War with this fun, interactive Meet and Greet featuring, Brian Wright, Tour Manager of Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours.

Brian Wright, Tour Manager



ENGEL & VÖLKERS



Dive deeper into the history of WWI, WWII, and the Civil War with this fun, interactive Meet and Greet featuring, Brian Wright, Tour Manager of Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours.

Brian was a guest on many tours with Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours before becoming one of the Tour Managers in 2011. His father was a WWII and D-Day Veteran due to his service as a Side Gunner & Crew Chief on a B-17 of the 8th Army Air Force. Ask him how his Dad ended up serving on a B-17. It's

a funny story! Like many veterans, Brian's father Coleman did not share his experiences with his young son and this started Brian's lifelong hobby of studying military history. Brian and his father (once Brian was grown with a family of his own) did take a tour together for two weeks and then explored every place his father had served on their own for another two weeks in 2009. Brian has one son who was the namesake of his grandfather, that played football and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2017. His son "Cole" is married to Alycia whom he met while they were at the U.S. Naval Academy and they have a daughter Breland. Brian's daughter Haley is engaged to Eddie and works in the Orthopedic Surgery Unit for Emory University Hospital. Brian still owns a company in Ft. Myers, Florida which he also calls home. Due to his tenured and fantastic staff it allows him all the time away needed to explore his hobby of military history.

With experienced gained in over 40 military history tours covering WW I, WW II and the Civil War, Brian prides himself on being very "guest focused" and strives to make each person on his tours have the best possible experience.

- Was asked to be a Tour Guide 13-years ago and for the first 8-years he did 1-tour per year and for the last couple of years has done 7-tours per year
- Brian basically does WWII European Theater although he has done the Pacific Theater and the Civil War
- Germany did not bomb England's Political Center because they did consider England their natural enemy during WWII
- Germany did bomb England's Industrial Center
- The best know WWII movie is *The Longest Day* although there are a lot of inaccuracies in the movie
- Imperial War Museum in London was former insane asylum

The following is a Tour Group of the 79th Anniversary of D-Day of the WWII locations the tour visited:

Bletchley Park: Is an English country house that became the principal center of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War. During WWII, the estate housed the Government Code and Cypher School which regularly penetrated the secret communications of the Axis Powers. According to the official historian of British Intelligence, the intelligence produced at Bletchley shortened the war by two to four years. *'Information Game'* is a recent movie about Bletchley Park.

Southwick House: Command Post of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force in the months leading up to D-Day in 1944. Movie *'Ike'* depicted Southwick House.

Ste-Mere-Eglis: The town played a significant part in the World War II Normandy landings because of its position in the middle of route N13, which the Germans would have used to counterattack Allied landings on Utah and Omaha Beaches. Movie *'The Longest Day'* depicted this very well.

La Fiere Bridge: Where the 82nd Airborne successfully delayed a German Panzer counter-attack against the Allied Landing Forces

Brecourt Manor: Easy Company 506th Parachute Regiment, 101st Airborne Division silenced German artillery firing on American troupes landing at Utah Beach. Depicted in the HBO Series *'Band of Brothers'*.

Utah Beach: Was the code name for one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion of German-occupied France in the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944, D-Day. The westernmost of the five code-named

landing beaches in Normandy. The amphibious assault by the US 4th Infantry Division and 70th Tank Battalion was supported by airborne landings of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division.

Pointe-Du-Hoc: During preparation for the Operation Overload it was determined by Lt. Cl. James Earl Rudder that Pointe-Du-Hoc should be attacked by ground forces, to prevent the Germans using the Casemates. Rudder's Rangers scaled the cliffs to neutralize the German heavy guns defending Utah and Omaha Beaches on D-Day.

'These are the Boys of Pointe-Du-Hoc' D-Day speech on June 6, 1984, the 40th anniversary of D-Day, President Ronald Reagan delivered a speech to an audience of D-Day veterans and world leaders commemorating the lost and living heroes.

Omaha Beach: Where the Americans landed and forced German resistance and incurred the greatest losses by the 1st and 29th Divisions. Depicted in the movie '*Saving Private Ryan*'.

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-Sur-Me, Normandy, France, honors American troops who died in Europe during World War II. A memorial in the cemetery includes maps and details of the Normandy landings and military operations that followed.

Pegasus Bridge: Where the first shots were fired on D-Day. Here the British Sixth Airborne with glider landings carried out a surprise attack with great success in overtaking the bridge.

Arnhem-Operation Market Garden was an Allied military operation during the Second World War fought in the German-occupied Netherlands in September 1944. Its objective was creating an Allied invasion route into northern Germany.

New Business: Introduction of candidates

Denise Carlin, Superintendent, Lee County Schools

Next Meeting: February 01, 2024.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Nathan Fred Shaw, seconded by Ed Weil, meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.