

Republican Club of Southwest Florida

January 05, 2023 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: Vice-President Fred Forbes

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

Recognition of Elected Officials: Lee County Commissioner, District 3, Ray Sandelli, Bonita Council, District 3, Laura Carr, Bonita Council Member, District 5, Nigel Fullick, 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 3, Jon McLain, Estero Council Member, District 6, Jim Ward, Lee Health Board, District 3, David Klein

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

Approval of November 03, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Fran Mainella, Seconded by Nancy Sido. Motion was unanimously approved.

President Bill Ribble discussed that a meeting of the Executive Committee was held on December 03, 2022 to discuss Bylaw changes to Article VII - Club Dues. Suggested changes in Section I, eliminate \$15 Individual Memberships and \$25 Family Memberships and replace with three (3) levels: Strategic Level at \$100; Supporting Level at \$50; Basic Level at \$25.

Approval of December 03, 2022 Executive Minutes: Motion to approve by Fran Mainella, Seconded by Fred Forbes. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: January 05, 2023

Disbursements: December 2022

12/01/2022	125	Bernard Long (Christmas Dinner Check)	100.00
12/02/2022	128	Dennis & Sandy Christensen (Return)	100.00
12/06/2022	130	Diana Williams (Christmas Dinner Check)	100.00
12/13/2022	129	Bill & Connie Ewing (Return)	100.00
12/20/2022	Epay #9009	Cynthia Torres	642.75
12/27/2022	131	George Zalucki (Return Overpay)	100.00

Income: December 2022

12/06/2022	Cash	Miscellaneous	Dues	25.00
12/27/2022		Online Transfer from Savings		300.00

Summary:

Beginning balance	\$1,261.60
Income	\$ 325.00
Disbursements	\$1,142.75
Ending Balance	\$ 443.85
Business Savings Account	\$ 967.44

Christmas Dinner Fund - 28, returned - 11, Net 17x50 converted to new membership program - \$850

Jim Sido, Treasurer

Republican Club of Southwest Florida

Approval of January 05, 2023 Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve by Jim Ward, Seconded by Fran Mainella. Motion was unanimously approved.

President Bill Ribble introduced the Treasurer of the Lee County Republican Executive Committee, John David McGehe, who informed The Club of a raffle the LCREC is having. The prize is an AR-15 rifle, they will sell 250 tickets at \$20 each. Checks should be mailed to LCREC, PO Box 60481, Ft Myers, FL 30906

Guest Introductions:

- Lori Fayhee**, candidate for Village of Estero, District 4
- George Zalucki**, candidate for Village of Estero, District 7
- Rafael Lopez**, candidate for Village of Estero Council, District 5
- Jon McLain**, candidate for Village of Estero Council, District 3

Order of Business & Introduction of Guest Speaker: Ray Sandelli, Lee County Commissioner, District 3

In August 2019 Ray was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to the Lee Board of Commissioners, District 3, a seat vacated by the late Larry Kiker. In addition to his role as a Commissioner he also sits on the boards of the Port Authority, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Horizon Council.

After graduation from Monmouth University in New Jersey, Ray then served eight years of military service as a naval officer and aviator. While deployed aboard the USS Independence, he completed two operational tours to the Mediterranean Sea during the 1973 Middle East War and the 1974 Cyprus conflict. Ray then reported to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida as an Advanced Training Command Instructor. His final tour was as a member of the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, better known as the Blue Angles. Following military service Ray joined CBRE, a commercial real estate services firm. He semi-retired to Southwest Florida in 2012. In November 2020, Ray was elected to serve on the Lee Board of County Commissioner representing District 3, which is comprised of unincorporated

Lee County, the Village of Estero, Town of Ft Myers Beach and the City of Bonita Springs. Ray has been married to his wife Jan for 38 years and are the proud parents of three grown children. wife Jan for 38 years and are the proud parents of three grown children.

Ray was a member of the Canvassing Committee made up of Tommy Doyle and one Lee County Judge

- The team was dedicated to accountability, had to go to a class in Orlando to interpret handwriting
- 50.3% of ballots are mail in
- Signatures are verified by the team, if a discrepancy is found it goes to the canvassing team to matchup
- 12 voting locations for early voting
- 53% of registered voters actually vote in mid-term election
- Ballot interpretation is part of the process and very difficult to make determinations, a very cumbersome process

Then Ian came:

- Did County Commissioners give enough pre-storm notification
- Stunned at the devastation of Ft Myers Beach, within 48-hours flew over in the Sheriff's helicopter and later toured the island with Mayor Dan Allers who lost his home, cars and business
- Sheriff and team had to properly identify the bodies that were found and determine the cause of death
- EMTs and First Responders were incredible
- Lost four bridges in the hurricane - needed to get people connected after the storm
- County needed to collect storm related debris but could not enter onto private property without proper authorization
- Needed to build back essential services, get power restored, water and communications
- Ft Myers Beach had a change in leadership and city manager in the mid-term election that followed the storm
- Need to determine what the new Ft Myers Beach will look and feel like going forward
- Long term recovery
- Beach property has increased in value
- Significant challenges remain

Airport (RSW)

- Traffic was down during holidays due to airline issues
- More carriers are interested
- Airport expansion and remodel is vital and important

New Business: There was no new business.

Announcements:

Next meeting will be February 02, 2023 at the Lions Club, Bonita Springs, FL featuring Tommy Doyle, Lee County Supervisor of Elections. The April meeting will be on the 13th due a conflict of dates.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting by Fred Forbes, meeting adjourned at 7:06

