

LRA General Membership
Meeting Minutes
May 29th, 2011

Invocation

The Rev. Charlie Green, Minister of Clayton First United Methodist Church, said the opening prayer.

Pledge and Recognition of Military

The Pledge of Allegiance was said and everyone serving in any of the Military Branches was recognized. Boy Scout Troop 40 presented the colors.

Member Passings

Several members of the Lake Community who passed away in 2010 were recognized and honored with a moment of silence. Dick Newkirk, Alvin Barge, Mary Elizabeth Schroder, Ed Brown, Ann Kendrick Smith, Cort Stockton, Jessee Ruffin Sharpe, Richard Shivers, Billy McKinnon.

Motion to Approve the 2010 Labor Day Meeting minutes was unanimously approved

Foundation Report

Buz Stone recognized and introduced the newest Scholarship recipients for this year. They are Jay Smith, Tyler Dale, Cameron Lovell, Doug Sidey and Julianne Butler. A brief bio and list of accomplishments for each recipient were shared by Buz. Of special note was the \$1,000,000 giving mark that was reached this year by the Foundation. It is the largest giving Foundation in Rabun County. Two new scholarships were announced. A Technical College Scholarship for 2 students for 2 years. It was noted by Buz that many of the graduating High Schoolers are opting to enter Tech Schools and the Foundation wants to be support 2-year schools as well. The Foundation is also looking at adding new committee's to help support Buz and identify the many needs within the Rabun County community.

Introduction of New Trustees

Chairman Nan Troutman introduced the 7 new Trustees: Bob Clinckscapes, Michael Crowe, Lee Evans, Michael McGaughey, Connie Thompson, Belle Voyles, and David Watson.

Report from Ga Power on Lake Burton Clean-up Effort

Jeff Jackson of Georgia Power updated the LRA on the clean-up efforts ongoing at Lake Burton in the aftermath of the Tornado. Over 30 Lake Homes were wiped out, 100 others had significant damage, 39 Boat Houses were torn down and 135 lots had damage. Jeff reported that 90% of the clean-up effort is complete, and he thanked the Mt. Patrol, Sheriff's office, DNR, Fire Dept and volunteers for their help.

Report from Mt. Patrol

The Bramletts spoke about the large amount of time they have been devoting to policing the Burton Clean-up areas and helping clear debris and assist Ga Power. The Bramletts shared that they were looking at an electronic surveillance system (wand) that could electronically send pictures and / or reports via email back to the homeowner. They have also begun the process of becoming certified to carry firearms.

DNR Report

Chad Chambers shared that the State Budget cuts are still hurting the DNR's ability to hire and train enough people. One officer was lost (from the local office) due to relocating to Lake Lanier. The LRA is still helping fund off-duty deputies to patrol in the DNR Boat. Chad covered the date of the Boater Safety Class that he will teach (June 25th) and there is another potential date scheduled (July 23rd) should demand dictate a 2nd class. Chad mentioned he enjoys working on Lake Rabun because of the support given the DNR by our association.

Fire Dept Report

Warren Blye reported that the Fire Department needed a new Fire Boat and said the ISO ratings potentially could be affected. A new Fire Boat would cost \$250,000. New electronics were purchased by the LRA for the current Fire Boat.

Michael Crowe has initiated a "Fire Core" which is a group of LRA volunteers that can assist the Fire Dept in clean-up and preventive services.

Chattooga Conservancy Report

Jan Nash shared that the Conservancy's biggest Fundraising event, "Rhapsody in Rabun", will be a black tie event held September 12th in Clayton. The Conservancy focuses on "green initiatives" and recently purchased land by the Soquee River and made the property into a family-friendly park and hopes to do the same with other land opportunities as well.

Officers Report

Chairman Nan Troutman requested nominations for the Board of Trustees which will be named at the Labor Day meeting.

Vice Chair Ron Hinson also spoke of bringing potential Trustee's to the Board's attention and introduced Laura Rhodes and Kelly Cowan as this year's Co-Chairs of the Flea Market. This is the largest LRA Fundraiser of the year and funds go directly to the Foundation. Laura reported that raffle tickets sales have been brisk and they are expecting a complete sell-out for the event. The Wine Grab, Auction, and Raffle are all exciting components of the Event.

Vice President Joe Mims covered the list of Events for the summer: Lakemont University, Golf Tournament, Boat Parade, Rabun Ramble, Fireworks, Beach Music, Bringin' and Labor Day's events. Joe also announced that a Social Committee was formed to evaluate future events and share ideas on new and exciting forms of entertainment.

Secretary/ Treasurer Ridley Williams announced that the LRA was in good Fiscal condition with the Checking Account and CD. Most dues have been paid and the bulk of the bills to the LRA will be coming within the next couple of months.

Centennial Report

Bob Voyles is Chairing the Centennial Celebration Committee 2015 and has begun to toss about ideas with the committee members. A coffee table “history book” is one idea that is being discussed.

Hemlock Report

Bob Pledger reconfirmed the need to treat any infected Hemlocks asap. There are different folks “Facilitators” that members can call to come treat their trees, or members can be trained to treat the trees themselves. Contact Bob for more info.

Other Business

A gentleman complained about the noise from a party at the Pavilion dating back to April 14th. Lisa Longino said the Pavilion Committee would be updated about the situation. Stuart Witham complained the County never fixed the flooding that occurs at the bridge just south of the old Clay Cottage. Roses Longino conferred that the County has not done anything to help this situation.

Lisa Longino called for any new business. None was offered and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25am for Brunch downstairs in the Pavilion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ridley Williams
Secretary/Treasurer