

## **LRA General Membership Meeting**

Sunday, May 26, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Lake Rabun Pavilion

Ridley Williams, presiding, opened the meeting and Welcomed Members and guests.

Invocation was provided by Reverend Charlie Green of the Clayton First United Methodist Church.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ridley Williams.

**Minutes** of the Labor Day Weekend Annual Membership Meeting held September 2, 2012 were approved including a corrective amendment. The amended statement within the LRA Foundation report by Buz Stone should reads as follows: This year ~~\$71,000.00~~ \$48,000.00 was awarded in scholarships and ~~\$19,000.00~~ \$27,000.00 was donated to community charities.

### Recognition of new **2013 Trustees:**

- Lyn Asbill
- Becky Blalock
- Jennifer Champion
- Beverly Logan
- Barbara Roper
- Ann Veal
- Ed Van Winkle

### Recognition of **deceased members:**

- A list of our **LRA deceased members** during the past year was read. A moment of silence was observed in memory of these neighbors. The list includes:
  - Bill Collins
  - Florie Funk
  - Frank Halter
  - Tom Staed
  - Gerald Troutman
  - Ann Wrigley

LRA has 30 **new members** to date in 2013. Ridley has or will call new members to encourage them to get involved and participate.

### **LRA Foundation Report – Steve Raeber**

- Announced **Ron Hinson** as the Associate Executive Director of the LRA Foundation.

- **Financial report for 2012**, attached, included total donations of \$104,082.22.
- **Distributions** included \$51,000.00 for scholarships, \$27,510.00 for community outreach and \$10,000.00 for the L-W VFD.
- Solicited and encouraged continuing support of the Foundation **annual fund and planned giving programs** as well as announcing that Lisa Longino can be contacted as a resource for people interested in estate planning in support of the Foundation.
- Foundation now has four (4) active **committees**:
  - Development – Lisa Longino
  - L-W VFD – Mike Swink
  - Scholarship – Anne Pledger
  - Community Outreach – Diane Harrison
- Effective in 2013, Foundation is providing a total of **8 scholarships annually**. Six four year scholarships of \$2000 per year for students attending accredited institutions and two of \$1000 per year for two years for students attending technical schools are being awarded this year.
- **Scholarship selection** process was described with Buz Stone and Pat Clay reviewing as many as 100 applications and narrowing that down to 15 to 20 students for interviews. Anne Pledger, Nan Troutman and Marilyn McNeely conducted the interviews this year. Selection is based upon both need and accomplishment.
- Anne Pledger and Nan Troutman, coordinator of the LRA Connections program matching scholarship students with LRA members with similar interests and/or professions matching the educational direction of the students, discussed the **Scholarship selection process this year**, the rising cost of higher education, a comparison of other state and local scholarship programs and what they cover and the distinction between the LRA program which covers 4 years vs. other local programs which only cover one year.
- Anne Pledger introduced the **2013 scholarship program selectees**.

Student	Graduated from	Going to	Major	LRA Connection
Haily Hunter	RCHS	Piedmont College	Psych. & Math	Kathryn Hardy
Sarah Welch	RCHS	N Georgia Univ	Pre-med	Melissa Clinkscales
John Stafford	RCHS	GA Tech	Mechanical Engrg	Ron & Lisa Hinson
Jonathan Frye	RCHS	Mercer Univ	Software Engrg	Veanne Smith
Katie Lunsford	RCHS	UGA	Pre-med	Dr. Jim Roberson
Robert Dills	RCHS	N GA Tech	Environ. Tech & Wildlife Mgt	Michael Crowe
Emily Goodhart	RGNS	UGA	Eng. Lit & Journalism	Debbie Mann
Shannon Dunlap	RCHS	N GA Tech	Accounting & Cosmetics	Elizabeth Bitter

- Presentation of the new **Lake Rabun Cares Award** which symbolizes the commitment and service exhibited by Buz Stone during his tenure as the 25 year Executive Director of the LRA Foundation to David and Barbara Cantrell. They are active in many community endeavors including Habitat for Humanity and the Rabun Christian Food Ministries which they founded.

### **Flea Market Report – Laura Rhodes and Kelly Cowan**

- Overview of all **Flea Market activities** starting with set up on Friday, June 14, thru the Live Auction and Dinner Saturday night and final pickup and settlement on Sunday morning.
- Reminder to get **barn wood projects** to Pavilion no later than Friday. Samples displayed.
- **Credit cards** will be accepted for on-site transactions in select venues during the Flea Market.

### **Hemlock Program Report – Buz Stone**

- Membership was polled as a reminder and to determine level of awareness regarding **hemlock infestation**. Positive response rate was very good.
  - How many know what a hemlock looks like?
  - Do you know what is happening to our hemlocks?
  - Have you checked your hemlocks?
  - Have you treated your hemlocks?
- Members were encouraged to be proactive.

### **Centennial Celebration Report – Bob Voyles**

- Barbara Roper is coordinating the **Living History initiative** and is conducting video interviews. She has requested help in identifying additional names to interview.
- The **book project** is underway with an outline of the potential sections. Kathy Hamdy-Swink has been enlisted to take high resolution photos for the book.
- Another request was made for old lake photos. Helen McSwain is available to receive and **scan old photographs** used to document the history of Lake Rabun and its families.
- Many of the stories to be used in the book will likely come from the video vignettes.
- **Volunteer photographers**, ie, members, families, etc, were solicited to provide photos, collections, etc. and place those on a Centennial web site to be developed.

### **Rabun County Development Authority – Tim Darrah, Chairman**

- Thanked LRA for all the Association does for our community.
- Recognized LRA members who have been current or past members of the DARC who are: George Allen, Steve Wright, Robert Pittman and Leckie Stack.
- Introduced Ray Coulombe, Executive Director of DARC.
- Discussed the DARC mission of bringing jobs to Rabun County.
- Highlighted benefits of the Rabun County Business Park and the fact that footage is available.

### **Presidents Report – Ridley Williams**

- Participated in a preseason **Boater Safety meeting** with GA DNR, Georgia Power and the Rabun County Sheriff. Changes in the Georgia boating laws include a decrease in the alcohol level down to 0.08 for BUI offenses and kids under age of 13 are required to wear life vests when in boats and/or on PWC's.
- **John King was recognized** for his approximate 15 years of service in managing the old LRA website. Ridley is having Buz Stone build a replica model of a boathouse for presentation to John in recognition of his service.
- Recognized Tim & Veanne Smith of SolTech Inc. who developed our **new LRA website**. The services of SolTech are being provided to LRA on a gratis basis to LRA.
- Jenny McClure is following in her father's footsteps and is in the process of updating the **Lake Rabun map**. It will be Google map based and will be available to members on the LRA website. It will show all known properties, members or not, as well as standpipe locations.
- Announced that Cheryl Parker of Georgia Power has requested that all lake residents obtain and mount the **circular LRA disks** on their boathouses. Add your lake lot # to the front of the disk. A supply of disks is available.
- Announced that Chris & Jennifer Adams will be coordinating the **Bingo program** this summer.
- **Lakemont University** programs will be provided by Buz Stone this summer. He will be talking about the critters around Lake Rabun and then Barry Stiles, curator at Foxfire, will present the second program of the summer.

#### **Vice President's Report – Dan Dunwody**

- **Thanked** Ridley Williams for his leadership and guidance and Bob Pledger for moving LRA ahead in regard to financial structure and use of QuickBooks.
- Overviewed the **LRA 2013 event calendar**. Calendar attached.
- Introduced Kelly Grimsley who is coordinating the first **LRA Drama Camp** this summer for kids ages 5 thru 13. Kelly introduced India Jane Grimsley and Roxie Stricker who will be the camp counselors. The camp is Monday thru Friday, June 17-21, and the Solstice Drama Camp performance is scheduled for Saturday, June 22.

#### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Bob Pledger**

- **Fiscal year end 9/30/12 Form 990 tax return completed**.
- **Stub period**, i.e., 10/1/12 – 12/31/12, Form 990 tax return is required to bridge the fiscal year end change to 12/31. Filed extension request to provide time to restructure financials. Will be completed before Labor Day Weekend meetings.
- **Financial report for 9/30/12** discussed and attached.
- **Interim 4/30/2013 financial report** discussed and attached.
- LRA financials have been fully converted to **QuickBook's financial structure** to facilitate support for our non-profit organization. Class categories have been set up to facilitate management reporting and tax reporting.

- **DSL at Pavilion currently requires password access.** Initial accessibility is to be restricted, particularly on event weekends when on-site credit card transactions may be accepted. Al Battle coordinated install and will manage passwords and periodic changes.
- A **new credit card processor relationship** has been established with PayPal which can handle website and on-site initiated credit card transactions. Web site transactions are working well. On-site pilot testing using iPads & PayPal card readers to support sales of LRA merchandise is being tested at today's Memorial Day Weekend Annual Membership Meeting. Clay and Al Battle have been instrumental in developing on-site credit card transaction capability and training volunteers how to use.
- **Guidelines** for financial transaction recording and reporting for fundraising events were completed & distributed.

### **Chair & Vice Chair Reports – Joe Mims (for Lisa Longino)**

- Nominations for Trustees were requested.

Ridley Williams announced that new **membership directories** are available and should be picked up. He thanked Warner Veal, Felicia Lease and Clay battle for their work in producing the new directories.

Sheriff Frank Andrews was recognized and thanked our Membership for helping to re-elect him. He announced that the **Rabun County Sheriff's Department** would have a new and improved web site up within the next couple of weeks. He also introduced Darrin Smith who is responsible for Homeland Security. Smith announced that they are now participating in the Nixle program which provides the capability to send out emergency alert notifications for your zip code via SMS messages. To sign up go text your zip code to 888777 or see nixle.com web site.

### **New Business**

- Rena Stricker asked that people be very careful about construction and its debris in the lake and to pick up the materials as well as sticks and limbs which could be a safety hazard. She also asked that members control their pets and pick up after them when they defecate in public areas, particularly in the the Memorial Garden area at the marina.
- A reminder that our lake clean-up is scheduled for June as is a boater safety class.
- Ham Stockton reminded our Membership that Lake Rabun was a place to relax which apparently many have forgotten. He recommends that we consider taking a nap and slowing down to relax.

No other business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Bob Pledger, Secretary/Treasurer