

**Memorial Day General Membership Meeting**  
**May 27, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Invocation:** Given by Reverend Jeremy Lawson, Clayton First Methodist Church/Boat Church

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Labor Day Minutes:** Approved

**Recognition:** All those who served in all branches of military service

**Recognition of New Trustees:**

Anne Breedlove, Tim Kennedy, Henry Newkirk, Ken Nix, Jim Roberson, Kevin Salwen, and John Taylor

**LRA in Memoriam:** Kathleen Alley, Thomas Lanier, Dr. John Ezzard, Helen Dunwoody, Fran Boundarant, Mildred Lyons, Lee Robert Brownlow, Ken Cormany, and Brittany Barge.

**Recognition of New Members:**

The families of Allison, Bassett, Beckler, Bell, Bready, Brown, Bussard, Cashin, Dick, Don Diego/Laurens, East, Eisenlau, Fisher, Gillespie, Hardy, Irving, Lamas, Laws Maddengill, Moattar, Oden, Pless, Rosenbaum, Sands, Jr., Schroder, IV, Shiffler, Staples, Sullivan, Valente, Webber, and Williams.

**Officer Reports:**

**Chair – Laura Rhodes:** No report

**Vice Chair – John Williams:** No Report

**President – Sandy Strong:**

- Thanked Carol Raeber for her work on the Memorial Garden and installation of the new Memorial Plaque
- Thanked Helen McSwain and her helpers for the Minnehaha Falls workday. Helen presented the new sign that will be installed on the road at the falls, and stated an article on water falls safety is part of the package on the seats.
- Acknowledged the new Verizon cell tower and service in the narrows.
- Announced the Executive Committee approved the funding of a new and improved website and that we are looking for members with website design experience to help manage this project.
- The LRA Membership Committee has two members rolling off and Michelle Persons has volunteered to fill one position, so we need one more volunteer with good Excel skills.

- John Williams has assumed the role of website administrator and needs someone to help him and to train to be his eventual replacement.
- The LRA will conduct a membership survey after the summer and is seeking input on what should be included in the survey. Please send any survey ideas you have to David Tatum, Secretary, or any other member of the Executive Committee.
- The storage space is available for LRA Market donations.

**Vice President – Ruddy Deas:**

- There will be no June 9 Lake Rabun University; there will still be Bingo on June 9 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Golf Tournament will be July 3, at the Orchard
- There are two new food vendors for 2018: Open Door at Alley's for the two membership meetings, and Mountain Fresh Grocery, Highlands for the Labor Day Party.

**Secretary – David Tatum:** No report.

**CFO – Anita Pittman:**

- 2017 Overview
  - LRA gross revenues for 2017 were almost \$400,000 with about one-third from membership dues and the remainder from fundraising activities,
  - Almost \$175,000 was donated to the Lake Rabun Fund, The LWVFD Fund at North Georgia Community Foundation, and various Rabun County community organizations. This represents net fundraising income from the following activities: Market at Lake Rabun - \$135,000, Rabun Ramble - \$20,000, and Sales of Merchandise, Centennial Books/DVDs and other - \$20,000
  - Cumulative net funds raised from the sale of Centennial Books/DVDS is \$34,000 to date
  - Preparation of the 2017 tax return is in progress
- Year to Date 2018 Activity
  - About 490 members have paid dues for 2018, totaling \$123,000. This is comparable to 2017 at this time. There are 30-40 new members.
  - Expenses to date include deposit and payments for various member and community events, including the annual fireworks on July 1.
  - The current General Operating account cash balance is sufficient to cover anticipated program and operating expenses for 2018.
  - The 2018 Tour of Homes and Rabun Ramble are expected to generate net income similar to prior year amounts. Sales of the new LRA cookbook will add to the total funds available for donation to the LRA Fund for support of scholarships an other community outreach programs.
  - Current financial statements as of May 31, 2018 will be included with the meeting minutes posted on the LRA website.

Please contact Anita if you have any questions regarding LRA financial matters.

**Home Tour – Betty King and Dee McElroy:**

- The home tour will be Saturday, June 16 with five homes.
- Betty and Dee thanked all the homeowners, sponsors and volunteers (the Navy needs a few more volunteers).

**Cookbook – Mary Boland:**

- Mary thanked the “100’s” of volunteers that participated in the collecting and testing of the recipes.
- Mary thanked her editing team of Anita Pittman and Anne Pledger.
- Mary acknowledged and thanked the photography students from North Georgia Technical College.
- The pre-sale books will be available at the Tour of Homes volunteer party and at the Pavilion on June 16.

**Rabun Ramble – Sandy Strong:**

- The Ramble will be Saturday, June 30 beginning at 7:30 a.m.
- This year we will have a Rabun County EMS ambulance on site and there will be eight volunteers with walkie talkies provided by Michael Crowe situated around the race course.
- We expect to have approximately 750 runners.

**Wooden Boat Parade – Alan Price:** The Wooden Boat Parade will be Sunday morning July 1 with the Pass and Review site at the Boat Church boat house. It will begin at the dam.

**Fire Boat – Bob Pledger:**

- Bob reported that we have completed a project that began Labor Day, 2106 with the fund raising effort and were able to place our order December, 2017 with the boat being delivered late April, 2018.
- Bob acknowledged and thanked for the support from Georgia Power, the Rabun County Commission, especially Commissioner Bob Fink, Rabun County Fire Services, Assistant Chief Upchurch, the LWFD volunteers, and all who contributed money for the fire boat.
- The fireboat will be on display after the meeting, and there will be a christening.

**Lake Safety – Michael Crowe:**

- There will be a boater safety class Saturday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m. Anyone born 1998 and after have to complete the boater safety class to be able to drive a boat or PWC.
- Michael discussed the SPLASH Program which is a program to provide life jackets to borrow and return at boat ramp around the State. We will have a location at Hall’s and Rabun Grocery. So, please donate any extra slightly used life jackets you may have.
- There will be a CPR/AED class Saturday, June 23 at the Pavilion taught by Rabun County EMS.

**Centennial Book/DVD Update – Sandy Strong:** We will sell the books and DVDs through the summer and then we will donate the remaining inventory. The price for a book and DVD is \$25.

**Foundation Update and Scholarship Students – Steve Raeber:**

- Over the last 31 years the Foundation has provided approximately \$1.5 million in scholarships and community grants, with \$42,000 in grants to Rabun County charitable and educational organizations during 2017.
- In the fall of 2018 we will have 42 scholarship students receiving \$84,000, with each student receiving \$8,000 over four years.
- The student scholarship selection process includes two steps: 1. The selection of 15-20 finalists from all the applicants were chosen by Buzz Stone and Pat Clay. 2. From that pool Ann Pledger and Clay Battle with school representatives of teachers and guidance counselors chose the 13 2018 recipients.
- Ann Pledger introduced to the 2018 scholarship students and their families.
- Steve recognized Nan Troutman for her leadership of the Connections program.
- Steve thanked the named scholarship donors and announced there are three new named scholarships, including the Lee Brownlow Memorial scholarship given by Marie and Bruce Brownlow.

**Buz Stone Lake Rabun Cares Award - Steve Raeber:**

The nominee must be an LRA member and exhibited a spirit of civic contribution. The award includes a \$2,500 grant for a Rabun County organization. The 2018 award winner is Leckie Stack and the grant goes to the Foxfire Foundation.

**Sandy Strong-** Sandy mentioned the Garden and Gun article about Lake Rabun and that LRA Directory updates are available at the meeting. There also is a flower arranging workshop following the meeting downstairs in the Pavilion.

**Old Business – None**

**New Business- None**

**Meeting adjourned – 11:05 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted;

David E. Tatum  
Secretary