

LAKE RABUN ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021
10:00 AM

Welcome: Dick Simms

Invocation: Rev. Zack Martin, Clayton First United Methodist Church

Pledge Of Allegiance

Approval Of Minutes Labor Day 2019: Approved

LRA In Memoriam: Dorothy Ann King, Doc Ayers, Mary George Poss, Josh Addis, George Johnson, H. Frank Smith, Mary Ella McLendon McManus, Martha Kiser Wayt, Andrew Hepburn, Christine Freeman, McKee Nunally

Recognition Of Veterans: All those who served in all branches of the military

Officer Reports:

Chairman: Ruddy Deas

- **Recognition Of Retiring Trustees and Officers:**
 - Retiring Trustees for 2020 (we had no meeting to present their paddles): Cherry Kinnennen, Betty King, Judson Laws, Judy Cathey, Gordon Von Mol, and Hollis McCrakin
 - Retiring Officers for 2020 (no meeting also): Sandy Strong-Chairman of the Board of Trustees and David Tatum-President
- **Recognition Of New Trustees:** Marchie Hepner, Rob King, Hannah Salwen, Ryan Simmons, Oakley Sutherland and Jerry Wethington-
- **Nominations Open for Upcoming Trustee Positions:** There are six Trustee Positions that need to be filled in September 2021.

Vice President: Dick Newkirk

- **Summer Events:** Dick Newkirk reported that all summer events, including the ones with live bands, will be held as scheduled and noted on the web site and in the 2021 spring newsletter. The only exception is the Boater Safety Class, which will not be held this summer.
- **Increasing Communication:** LRA is trying to increase the involvement of our younger members and members of the family who are not principal owners of the residence. Please add their emails under your profile so a broader audience can receive electronic LRA communications.
- **Rabun Ramble:** We are looking for 2-3 volunteers to help Sandy Strong transition the leadership of the Rabun Ramble.

Secretary: Connie Thompson - No report.

CFO: Anita Pittman

- **2020 Overview**
 - Last year was unusual for everyone, but overall, it was a very positive year financially for LRA.
 - There were a few events, the fireworks, the golf tournament, and the wooden boat parade.
 - The executive committee worked with all contracted vendors to reschedule events and apply all deposits to 2021.
 - In 2020, Merchandise sales occurred solely at Open Door at Alley's and were only slightly less than prior year sales. Thank you to Penny Marshall and to Carolyn Brown. The LRA Store will continue to be located at Open Door.

- We had a number of sponsors for the Tour of Homes that was scheduled for 2020, which was subsequently cancelled. These sponsors either redirected their sponsorship toward the Foundation or applied their sponsorship to the next Tour of Homes.
- LRA contributed \$12,500 to the Foundation to expand outreach into the community to those who were in need during the pandemic period.
- **2021 Overview**
 - LRA has expenses for the new directories and we continue to provide subscriptions to the Clayton Tribune. You can subscribe via your member profile on the LRA website.
 - LRA provided special donations to the DNR to help expand space for a new/larger boat and to the Clayton First United Methodist Church to help with boathouse renovations and improvements.
- **Financial Statements**
 - Unaudited Financial Statements as of December 31, 2020 & May 31, 2021, will be posted on the LRA website along with the meeting minutes.

2021 Buz Stone “Lake Rabun Cares” Award: Steve Raeber

- This award was created in 2012 to recognize Buz for 25 years of leadership and stewardship of the Lake Rabun Foundation. The award is presented each year to a member or members “who reflect the spirit of Buz Stone and the goodwill of the Lake Rabun Association in serving the welfare of Rabun County”. The award carries with it a grant from the Lake Rabun Foundation for \$2500 to a Rabun charity selected by the recipient. This year’s recipients are AI & Clay Battle. Their grant will go to both FAITH and CASA.

LRA Foundation Update and Scholarship Students: Steve Raeber

- In 2020, the Foundation provided record levels of community assistance (\$73,000) during the pandemic. Over a third of that went to Rabun Family Connections. This helped families with essentials: rent, utilities, food, and medicine. The Foundation also provide a record amount of scholarship aide (\$110,000).
- At a Foundation Board meeting in February, it was reported that \$1,992,000 in total scholarships and grants from the Foundation were given over the past 34 years. Rick Asbill proposed a \$10,000 grant to FAITH, which was approved, and pushed the Foundation over the \$2,000,000 mark in total outlays in Rabun County. The original effort was a \$1,000 Scholarship in 1987.
- The Foundation received 2 very generous bequests from the estate of Christina Freeman; one of the original members of the 1915 Planned Giving Society. The Foundation will establish a new scholarship in her honor.
- Also, with this additional funding, the Foundation will increase the amount of the scholarships, beginning with this 2021 class from \$2500 to \$3000 each year for 4 years.
- The Foundation announced the establishment of The Josh Addis Memorial Scholarship. Josh took great pride in having been an LRA Scholarship recipient. Many LRA members contributed to the Foundation in memory of Josh. These contributions, combined with a very generous gift from Gwen North at the Lake Rabun Hotel, created the funding for this scholarship.
- Recognition of previously named scholarships:
 - The Christina Freeman Memorial Scholarship
 - The James W. Pless Legacy Scholarship
 - The Christina Freeman endowed scholarship in memory of Herta Schartle
 - The Henry & Judy Cathey Endowed Scholarship
 - The Dede & Joe Hamilton Endowed Scholarship
 - The Jack & Rosemary Smither Endowed Scholarship
 - Lee Brownlow Memorial Scholarship
 - Jane Bishop Coleman Memorial Scholarship
 - McKee Nunnally Memorial Scholarship
 - Mary Elizabeth Schroeder Memorial Scholarship
 - Other named scholarships have been established by Keith & Terri Davidson, Ron & Lisa Hinson, Tommy & Collin Lines, Greg & Laura Rhodes, Mary Shannon & Dwight Scott, and Jerry & Amy Wethington.
- **New Scholarship Recipients:** Memorial Day is when we traditionally introduce our new scholarship recipients and their parents, but they were not able to be with us. Anne Pledger, assisted by Tim Wilson, one of the scholarship recipients, is preparing a video and bio of each student. More information will be sent as an eblast.

- This year we had budgeted for 12 scholarships. We awarded 15: 13 at RCHS and 2 from Rabun Gap. This means we could have as many as 45 scholarship students this fall.
- Anne Pledger, head of the Scholarship program, and Laura Rhodes, who organizes the Connections program, were involved in the interviews along with LRA members Lisa Hoffman and Ron Hinson. The 15 new scholarships will provide \$12,000 to each student over 4 years.
- **Recognition:** Steve expressed gratitude for the assistance of so many involved in the Foundation: Ron Hinson, Rick Asbill, Dick and Suzanne Newkirk, Anita Pittman, John Williams, and Anne Pledger.

Membership Update, New Members: Michele Persons

Please welcome our new members:

Charles & Mary Allen	Tim & Sharon Harper
Archie & Stephanie Baker	Philip & Jane Hight
Steve Barnard & Margaret Lamb	Grant & Rhonda Hogan
Brenda Badger	David & Jeni Knight
David & Lisa Barr	Carl & Lee Llewellyn
Jeremy Diem & Michelle Bernhart	Jay & Laura Morgan
Andrew Blaisdell	Scott & Sandy Moretz
Sam & Margaret Bond	Tyler Nichols (Watersports Central)
Kevin & Mabre Bottoms	Brian & Laura O'Neill
John Calhoun	Joe & Julie Pecenka
Shea & Trish Campbell	Jeff & Ann Rice
Brenda Cox	Kim Roberson
Leighton & Cynthia Cromer	Bob & Amy Rose
Gary & Sharon Davis	Angie & Betty Schmeck/Carroll
Frances Doling	Gary & Beverly Springer
Lee Epting	Jeb & Alley Staples
Torsten & Sarah Ernst	Clark & Sharon Tate
Randy & Allison Gardner	James & Beth Taylor
Mark & Joanna Ghegan	Bruce Whitlow
Will & Laura Gurley	Chris Wilkenloh
Judd & Valerie Harper	Andrew & Lori Woosley

Rabun Ramble: Sandy Strong

- The 15th Ramble will be held on July 3, 2021.

Smoke On The Mountain Fundraiser: Hannah Salwen and Forrest Kennedy

This BBQ Cookoff will be held on August 14, 2021, at Terra Incognita Vineyard. Sponsors, volunteers to help with a silent auction, and cooks for the competition are needed.

2022 LRA Tour Of Homes: Dirk Brown & Tim Burns

- Dirk and Tim look forward to putting together a great home tour in 2022. Expect additional communications soon.

Wake Boat Study: Ruddy Deas

- The concern about higher-than-normal waves with more intensity, longer elongation, and more in number that have caused damage to shoreline, structures, seawalls, and also has some potential to create personal injury was uncovered during the 2018 survey of the General Membership. Sixty-eight percent of the members expressed concerns.
- Since then, LRA has sponsored an independent engineering study and conducted a second survey of LRA membership. These documents are posted on the LRA website.
- In the second LRA membership survey there were over 486 respondents. Three of the questions asked were:
 - Has your boating experience been negatively affected by high waves? 87% said yes.
 - Do you see the potential for a personal injury? 75% said yes.
 - Is there potential for personal property damage and or shoreline erosion? 76% said yes.

- The Lake Burton Civic Association (LBCA) sent out a similar survey as one mentioned above to their membership. They received similar responses.
- Georgia Power, DNR, LRA and LBCA met on April 30, 2021, to discuss the issue. The combined team will develop a set of educational points for distribution.
- LRA and the Rabun County Sheriff's office are working together to supplement the enforcement of current safety rules on the lake.
- We have the name of a contact with DNR who will personally respond to documented dangerous or destructive behavior on the lake. At a minimum, the registration number of the boat is needed. Contact Ruddy or any other board member.
- Speak with members of your household who operate watercraft so they will be more educated, responsible, concerned, and courteous.

Boater Safety: Michael Crowe

- Donate gently used life jackets or new ones to support safety efforts. Drop them off at Hall's, call Michael, one of the members of the boater safety committee, or board members.
- CPR and AED class will be Saturday, June 12 at 9AM.
- The Boater Safety Class will not be held this year.
- Pontoons will lead the boats out after the fireworks. The Fireboat will bring up the back. DNR will be looking for violators.
- Check all boats for required safety equipment and make sure children 12 and under are wearing a coastguard approved personal flotation device.

Old Business :Dick Simms

- Amendment To the Bylaws, Effective Sept. 14, 2020: Dick Simms
 - Vote To Ratify the Electronic Vote of The Lake Rabun Association Officers and Membership – Approved.

New Business - None

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Thompson
Secretary