

**LAKE RABUN ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

-Welcome - Dick Simms

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

-Pledge Of Allegiance

-Approval Of Minutes from Memorial Day - Approved

-LRA In Memoriam – Robert Knox Burns, Gayle Olive Ide, Stanley Robert Melvin

-Introduction Of New Members - Peter Watt. Last year we had about 50-60 new members; this year about 40-50. Here are recent new members:

Curtis Whelchel & Dee Mills	Chris & Blake Kopecky
Kitty Flewelling	Betsy Hopper
Ruthanne Schofield	Mike & Diana Champ Davis
Wade & Laura Lincoln	Jay Johnson
Andy & Lori Jones	Larry & Carol Gellerstedt
Kent Levenson	Dot Graham
Troy & Cheryl Wheeler	Brad & Kristen Parker
Richard & Sara Taylor	Mary Brown
Jim & Kay Douglass	Carlton & Lisa Taylor
Tom & Anna McManus	George & Audry Grant

- Recognition Of Retiring Trustees - Ruddy Deas

David Dupuy, Pat Hickey, Lisa Hoffman, Jay Morgan, Clay Snelling, Robert Tritt, Laura West

- Introduction Of New Trustees- Ruddy Deas

Keith Davidson, Peter Watt, Maurice Rosenbaum, Neal Creech, Mary Turner Troutman, Victoria Anderson (1yr term of Jill Bernhardt)

-Introduction Of New Secretary - Dick Simms

Pat Hickey

-Motion And Vote to Elect New Trustees And Secretary - Dick Simms - Approved

-Motion to Elect the CFO and transitioning Officer Slate – Dick Simms

President: Dick Newkirk

Vice President: Connie Thompson

CFO: Anita Pittman

Chairman of Trustees: Dick Simms

-Presentation Of Paddle to Outgoing Chairman - Dick Simms

Presented to Ruddy Deas. Thanks to Ruddy for his many years of service to LRA. Some examples include maintenance of Minnehaha Trail, blocking the potential commercial rezoning of a portion of Lakemont property, leading the boater safety efforts regarding wake boats, and now overall lake safety.

-Officer Reports:

- **Chairman** - Ruddy Deas

- The Wake Boat Safety effort is being recast as Lake Safety and is supported by Ruddy, Robert Pittman, Wallace Bruce, Thad Warren, Neil Creech and Maurice Rosenbaum. There are three main areas of focus:
 - Legislative: These efforts include such items as increasing the buffer zone and limiting the amount of weight on a wakeboard/surfer boat. Our committee and the Lake Burton group are working with our senators to raise awareness of safety and property damage issues. We are also part of a coalition of 15 other states who are lobbying around these issues.

- Education: Georgia Power and DNR worked with leadership from Lake Rabun and Lake Burton to develop the boater safety signs posted at Halls. We are working to place them elsewhere on the lake. DNR has increased patrolling and citations on the lakes and the ride-along program with the Sheriff's Office continues. LRA will be creating smaller versions of this sign for distribution in the spring.
- Georgia Power: We have met with a VP at Georgia Power to raise awareness and to determine what kind of authority they have to enforce measures to ensure safety and limit property damage on the lake. We have met twice and a third meeting is scheduled.

- President - Dick Simms

- General Announcements:
 - The lake drawdown will occur Oct 25-Dec 31, 2021
 - Georgia Power will be treating the narrows for Parrot Feather in the coming weeks
 - Sept 12, 2021 is the next lake clean-up day
 - LRA merchandise will continue to be sold at the Open Door at Ally's
 - We will begin recycling plastic bottles next year
 - LRA will produce a new LRA wall map for distribution at the spring meeting
 - Please pick up Directories
- In Appreciation: Many thanks to volunteers who operate "behind the scenes" to support LRA: John Williams (web site), Michelle Pearson & Peter Watt (membership), David Dyer (pavilion set up/clean up), Suzanne Newkirk (communications – eblasts), Forrest Kennedy (Smoke on the Mountain event, pavilion closest clean up, hosting Atlanta Rhythm & Groove at his boathouse)

- Vice-President - Dick Newkirk

- Summer recap: This year was certainly more active than last year. Three of the four dance events were held in person, with the recent COVID-19 surge leading to cancellation of the Labor Day Dance. Many thanks to the Kennedy's for hosting the band on their boathouse so members could enjoy music from their boat during the Labor Day weekend.
- Day-after Thanksgiving Dinner at Glen-Ella: TBD

- Secretary - Connie Thompson – no report

- CFO - Anita Pittman

- Fundraisers: YTD 2021 Total Net Proceeds of over \$50,000 raised through a combination of the Rabun Ramble (Sandy Strong -transitioning to Mary Shannon-Scott), Smoke on the Mountain Cook Off (Forrest Kennedy, Hannah Salwin) and Merchandise Sales at the Open Door at Alley's (Penny Marshall and Carolyn Brown)
- Operating Activities YTD 2021:
 - Membership Dues \$125,000 (a little over 500 members)
 - Program Expenditures \$ 50,000 (Includes Fireworks \$20,500)
 - Administrative Expenditures \$ 23,000 (Includes Clayton Tribune Subscriptions \$10,600, Directory Printing \$9,600)
- Operating Reserves: Current Balance \$ 88,000, Estimated at Year-End \$100,000

- Foundation Report - Steve Raeber

This spring the scholarship committee selected 15 Rabun students-13 RCHS -2 Rabun Gap. With additional funds from the Christina Freeman bequest the scholarships were increased, from \$2500 to \$3000 for this class. In all, checks for \$115,000, were mailed to colleges on behalf of 43 LRA students. Most attend college in GA.

Steve shared a story about a scholarship student who returned to Rabun County. Mandy Pileski was an LRA scholar 20 years ago. She returned to Rabun County a few years ago with a PHD in psychology. Mandy established a mental health practice and also established a non-profit foundation to assist some of those in need. This summer, Anna West, one of our 2017 scholars, who will graduate from UGA with a degree in psychology, was able to intern here with Mandy.

The Foundation is active in the community assisting charities and nonprofits. Larger grants have been made to FAITH, the Food Bank, Foxfire, Rabun Habitat, A Place of Hope North Georgia, Rabun EMS and a significant grant to the new Rabun Community Dental Clinic. There are LRA members who are board members or volunteers at most of these organizations.

-Whippoorwill Award - Bob Voyles

Helen McSwain is our 2021 Whippoorwill recipient! Without Helen's efforts the Centennial Book would not have been the same beautiful coffee table book that we have now. Helen's family has been on Lake Rabun since the 1930s and she knows everyone that has old pictures of the lake. She scheduled appointments and went to house after house to scan photos – carrying her own laptop and flatbed scanner. Helen taught herself to use Photoshop and improved the quality of many of the photos she had scanned so we could use them. She also learned to colorize them. Helen was a huge help as we were looking for the final pictures for the Centennial book. Since she retired from her OB-GYN practice, Helen has served on the Board of Trustees, coordinated the clean-up of Minnehaha Falls, been a member of the Lake Rabun photo team, and joined the kayaking group.

-Tour Of Homes 2022- Dirk Brown And Tim Burns

The Tour will be held on June 18. While some homes are secured, they are looking for several others in the basins around Halls.

- Smoke On The Mountain - Forrest Kennedy

The event raised \$34,176.

-Old/New Business

Kathy Hamby-Swink mentioned there will be a water quality study conducted in late October.

Meeting adjourned: 11:02 AM