

LGA Minutes for the December 7, 2016 - Monthly Meeting - FINAL (12/14/16)

Meeting called to order by President Bill Heflin at approximately 9:30 a.m and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and requested a moment of silence. In attendance were Directors Mazine Lowe, Al Potter, John Cataldo, Carol Warfel, Don Carson, Brian Goldsworthy, Executive Director Moira Underwood and one member of the press. Member and guest attendance was light for this meeting. After introductions, Bill asked for a motion to approve the agenda which was made, seconded and passed.

President Bill Heflin was the featured speaker who used this opportunity to summarize 2016 highlights and what to expect during 2017. As to 2016, Bill spoke of the two primary challenges in 2016; namely flood conditions early in 2016 and Quassi Run of the River (QRR). Bill noted at the February meeting there were over 250 in attendance to listen and be heard about the high water conditions. Resident involvement resulted in 1,000 emails and letters sent to key decision makers. Bill commented the outcome "...was a huge win for everyone who lives on the lake".

Bill spoke of the accomplishments of the Government Relations Committee led by Don Carson. Meet the candidate forums were held, speakers were invited to talk about the Halifax County Supplemental tax issue, the five County Forum of government leaders was a success, and we all benefitted when an LGA member helped to redesign the new EMS building, thereby saving Warren County taxpayers \$3 million. Ongoing, LGA members take the time to sit in on all county Commissioner/Supervisor meetings and report back to the membership by email. This way full time and part time lake residents are in the know.

The Environmental Committee, chaired by Wally Sayko, sponsored the annual aquatic plant survey. In previous newsletters we highlighted the involvement of both members and non members who took the time to explore every nook and cranny along the 450 mile shoreline. In addition, thanks to a small but dedicated group of students, LGA members and several other agencies, the plant restoration project continues to re-plant key areas of the shoreline with aquatic plants.

Bill reported on the accomplishments of the Safety Committee, led by Jack Saunders. This committee continues to promote programs to enhance safety and security awareness around the lake. Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detectors were offered at a reduced cost thanks to Ace Hardware in Elams and Lawrenceville. As a result, 165 detectors were purchased at a reduced cost. The Shred Event and a sponsored program to help seniors and others identify scams, before becoming a victim, were both intended to address the growing identity theft problem.

In June, Safety sponsored a Safe Water Recreational program presented by the Water Industry Safety Association. Halifax Helps, Inc. has confirmed that they have awarded \$2,500 based on a request from the Friend's of the LGA (501 3C). The request is to

benefit the Roanoke Wildwood VFD to help with the acquisition of sonar equipment for their dive team. It will improve their abilities in the area of "Search & Rescue". Last, but not least, Safety organized a Five County Forum and the chief law enforcement officer from each county were present to discuss crime issues in their respective jurisdictions.

Our Education Committee, chaired by Jeff Dowhan, continues the outreach effort participating in Career and Club Day events at William R. Davie Middle School. The Committee organized two Lakeside Learning Days for local 6th graders. Feedback has been very positive and look for this program growing. Part of the LLD involves getting kids to the water to see the lake. Bill commented of the number of young kids who, although they live in one of our neighboring counties, never have had the opportunity to see the lake. The Committee also sponsored a Five County Forum for the area public school superintendents.

The Lake Clean-Up Committee has a new chair, Carol Warfel. Bill noted the 7th Annual Lake Clean Up effort filled up two dumpsters. Wow! Mark you calendar for May 20th, 2017 when we do this again. More to come.

Bill spoke appreciatively of the efforts of the Marketing and Membership Committee, chaired by Tony Moran, as we continue to grow the membership. Just so you know, the current membership stands at 2,201. There are also 100 business members. Please support our local businesses. For 2017 we are using targeted solicitation efforts and will focus on Warren County. This year we focused on North Hampton County which resulted in 24 new members to date.

Bill then spoke of 2017 efforts and rest assured we will build and enhance on our efforts from this year. What we did in 2016 worked and will be repeated with some surprises. One date to save, besides the 2017 Lake Clean Up, is the Five County Government Forum which will be on March 16, 2017 at the Lake Gaston Lions Club.

The second portion of the program was the formal presentation of the donated Christmas gifts on behalf of the LGA to Shannon McAllister, John 3:16. Shannon was very appreciative of the efforts put forth by lake residents and LGA for John 3:16 and said the donations will be put to good use..

The final portion of the program was opened for audience feedback and an interesting discussion pursued involving a derelict houseboat partially submerged near Poplar Creek. Bill tasked the Safety Committee to come up with a solution to resolve this eyesore which has been resting on the bottom of the lake for some time.

With no further comments, Bill closed the meeting at approximately 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Goldsworthy, Secretary