

Minutes for the May 3, 2017 - LGA Monthly Meeting - (FINAL)
Lake Gaston Baptist Church

At 9:30 AM President Bill Heflin called the meeting to order. Bill led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance and then requested a moment of silence. Bill requested a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded and passed.

In attendance were President Bill Heflin, Vice President Mozine Lowe, Directors' Al Potter, John Cataldo, Jeff Dowhan, Carol Warfel, Wally Sayko, Tony Moran, Jack Saunders, Don Carson, Brian Goldsworthy and Executive Director Moira Underwood. Also participating were over 100 members, guests, and two members of the press.

Our topic this month was "Venomous and Non-Venomous Snakes in the Lake Area". Bill introduced our featured speakers, Warren County Director Tony Moran and Janet Kaiser, Emergency Department Director, VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital. Tony began first with a presentation concise and on point that included photos about the "good" and the "bad" snakes. Leading the bad snakes was the copperhead which is actually very prevalent in this area. There were lot's of dos and don'ts along with a recommendation to be very careful when gardening and stepping over logs in the woods.

RN Janet Kaiser then captivated everyone with what to do if bitten by a snake. Contrary to what you might see in TV westerns, don't use a tourniquet or make an incision and suck out the venom. Nor should one apply ice to the affected area. Instead, keep the snake bite victim calm and at rest. Wash the site well with soap and water and remove any tight clothing or jewelry near the bite since most likely there will be swelling. Keep the extremity at the level of the heart or slightly elevated.

RN Kaiser indicated if you bring the person to the hospital, he or she will most likely receive medication to manage any pain and then be monitored 4-6 hours before direct medical intervention.

Two important phone numbers to note:

VA and NC Poison Center 1.800.222.1222
For pets if bitten by a snake - 1.855.764.7661

After the presentations we enjoyed a lively 30+ minute Q&A.

Committee reports were provided after the speakers and the following was shared:

Director Al Potter provided an update on E-Coli and Seechi Disks.

Jeff Dowhan, Education Chair, provided an update on the last two Lakeside Learning sessions which were held in May prior to the end of the school year.

Wally Sayko, Environment Chair, advised the lake revegetation dates have been set for June 6-9. Volunteers are needed.

Director Carol Warfel who is leading the May 20 annual Lake Gaston Clean-Up day, spoke about the event and location of the dumpsters at Morningstar Marina and Washburn's Marina. Yard signs announcing this event have been placed strategically around the lake.

And finally, Safety Chair Jack Saunders reported the Community Shred event held last month was a success.

If you would like more information about any of the committees or would like to come out and help at one of the special events, please email info@lakegastonassoc.com or visit www.lakegastonassoc.com.

As a reminder the next LGA Monthly Meeting will take place on **Saturday, June 10, 2017**. This is the Annual Meeting which includes the election of officers. Our speaker will be Tom Guest, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, who will discuss paddle boarders and wake boating. Lunch will be provided at the end of the meeting.

We heard comments after the meeting that snakes was a good topic. We also heard suggestions about something on spiders, migration of birds. Stay tuned.

With no further comments, Bill closed the meeting at approximately 11:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Goldsworthy, Secretary