

Minutes for the September 5, 2017 - LGA Monthly Meeting (APPROVED)  
Lake Gaston Baptist Church

At 9:30 AM President Mazine Lowe called the meeting to order. Mazine led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance and then requested a moment of silence. Mazine requested a motion to approve the agenda which was made by Al Potter, seconded and passed.

In attendance were President Mazine Lowe, Directors' Don Carson, Jeff Dowhan, Bill Heflin, Carol Warfel, Wally Sayko, Clarence Drumgoole, Al Potter, Brian Goldsworthy and Executive Director Moira Underwood. Also participating were 70 members/guests, six law enforcement personnel and one member of the press. First term congressman from the NC House of Representatives, Terry Garrison, District 32 which covers the lake, also joined us.

Mazine introduced our guest speakers from the following police agencies: Sheriff Brian Roberts, Brunswick County, Sheriff Bobby Hawkins, Mecklenburg, Sheriff Jack Smith, Northampton and Lieutenant John Branche, Warren County representing Sheriff Johnny Williams. Sheriff Wes Tripp, Halifax County, was unable to attend due to last minute urgent police business.

All in attendance warmly embraced the obvious dedication and professionalism of our police agency representatives. In turn, all speakers spoke candidly and stressed their primary mission is to "serve the people". Our speakers didn't try to sugarcoat a common major concern; that being the rising heroin/opiate epidemic problem not only impacting our area but throughout the United States. It's not uncommon for responding officers to find overdose victims. In an attempt to save lives, selected responding officers have been trained to administer a dose of Narcan intended to counteract the effects of an opioid overdose.

It was noted it's not just the drug epidemic that is a concern but the growing gang problem with youth as young as 13 joining gangs with the resultant increase in crime. All spoke of the importance of Neighborhood Watch programs for each subdivision. We were asked to look out for our neighbors, especially the part-time residents, and if you see something that doesn't look right, say something now and call the police. What number to call resulted in a lively question and answer session.

Each sheriff stressed the importance of calling 911 from a landline. However, if your home doesn't have a landline that means you must use a mobile phone. Unlike a landline, a cell tower doesn't pinpoint the location of the caller. That is why if calling 911 from a mobile device, first state the county where the emergency is at then the address. The dispatcher will then route your call to the appropriate county first responders.

Each stressed police resources are tight due to limited budgets. We were asked to do our part to lock car doors and don't leave valuables visible inside parked cars. Also, ensure good locking devices are in place at your home and consider purchasing an

inexpensive trail camera for outside your residence to assist the police if there is a burglary.

If you would like more information about any of the LGA committees or would like to come out and help at one of the special events, please email [info@lakegastonassoc.com](mailto:info@lakegastonassoc.com) or visit [www.lakegastonassoc.com](http://www.lakegastonassoc.com).

As a reminder, our next meeting will be on October 4, 2017, and our speaker will be a representative from the North Carolina Attorney General's office who will speak on "Internet Scams, What's New". The recent Equifax massive identity theft of personal information involving over 143 million Americans should make this a very timely presentation.

With no further comments, Mazine closed the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Goldsworthy, Secretary