

FLORIDA STATE WINNIE GATORS
General Meeting Minutes
Southern Palms RV Resort, Eustus, FL
January 16, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Caffrey at 10:00 am. Chaplain Shirley Halstead delivered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by the group.

Shirley Halstead made a motion that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be waived. The motion was seconded by Bob Milligan. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's report running from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 was read by Treasurer Susan Kiefer. The entire report is attached to this document. The profit from the auction conducted on Friday evening at the rally was \$974.00. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Dave Drenning and seconded by Russ Grimm. The motion carried.

President's Report:

Current officers were introduced to the membership.

President: Jack and Gloria Caffrey

1st Vice President: Mike and Barbara Sofarelli

2nd Vice President: Richard and Dorinda Gest

Secretary: Judy and Cal Sweep

Treasurer: Susan and Frank Kiefer

Directors Ted and Janis Fumia were acknowledged but were unable to attend the meeting due to a travel conflict.

The following "First Timers" were introduced and welcomed:

Jan and Tom Danielson from the Villages

B.J. and Susan Scott from Kissimmee

Mary and Don Troudt from Dunedin

All these first attendees have joined a local chapter this weekend.

The following members are experiencing health problems and need to be remembered in prayer: Kathleen Bock, Bud Geng, Charley Monzillo, Bob Gill, Joe Sholtes, and Mary Jo Berry.

A huge shout-out was given to the Funtime Travelers for co-hosting this month's meeting and campout. Chris Ross, the new President, accepted the chapter's gift card in appreciation for their creative and outstanding efforts.

Cal Sweep, representing the DuBol Winnies who are the parkers for this year's rally, will distribute confirmation packets at the conclusion of this meeting to the attendees present at the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Vendor Chair, Linda Levine, reported an enrollment of a total of nineteen paid vendors and an additional twelve vendors are anticipated to commit to attend the rally. Eight seminars and one class have been scheduled as of this date. Thirteen door prizes have been secured from the vendors. Scheduling conflicts with other events have made the securing of vendors difficult this year.

Linda Levine also presented the plans for a new club project. Each member of our club is challenged to create a ten and one-half by ten and one-half cotton quilt block using the theme "recreation". The finished quilt will be auctioned or raffled at the 2016 State Rally. The proceeds will be equally divided between the state club and our charity. Prizes will be issued in the following categories: best use of material, best use of color, most intricate, most creative, etc. All squares are due by the October 2016 state meeting. Members Carol Thomas and Cathy Olson will be assisting Linda with this project.

In the absence of Ted Fumia, Phil Halstead presented the following 2016 slate of officers:

President: Jack and Gloria Caffrey

1st Vice President: Mike and Barbara Sofarelli

2nd Vice President: Richard and Dorinda Gest

Secretary: Judy and Cal Sweep

Treasurer: Susan and Frank Kiefer

There being no nominations from the floor, Pete Putman called for the nominations to cease. The vote to accept the slate of officers was unanimous and they will be installed at the February rally. Local chapters were encouraged to nominate candidates next year for the 2017 term and were reminded that the present officers will work beside each new candidate to offer assistance.

Old Business:

Barbara and Mike Sofarelli reported that the club trailer is currently parked under roof covering and will be taken to the rally at which time all contents will be evaluated.

There are currently two categories of FSWG documents; those we need to retain and those older than seven years. Those that are seven years or older and do not need to be retained, can be safely destroyed. If the club decides to retain these documents, it must be determined which items are of historical importance and where they are to be stored. Members were reminded that WIT is the custodian of important documents for both the state and local chapters. President Caffrey asked for a volunteer to be Historical Records Reviewer. This person's duties would be to review the old records, determine what needs to be retained and the cost of scanning them on to a disc. When this is done, the volunteer would then present the costs to the club. The club would then vote on whether to scan and retain or destroy old records. No volunteer came forward.

Rick and Dorinda Gest are striving to secure a certified EMT to conduct a CPR/AED class at the October campout. Members are encouraged to enroll in classes in their local community. This training can save lives!

The Gests presented additional information on the charity "Every Day Blessings", after touring the facility and interviewing personnel. Eighty percent of their funding is provided by the state and the additional twenty percent is obtained through private funding. Linda Lavine made a motion that we accept "Every Day Blessings" as our 2016 charity and the motion was seconded by Joe Sala. The motion carried.

On January 14, 2016, the checkbooks and bank statements for SunTrust Bank account 1000072226938 were examined by Chuck Smalley and Jeff Roudebush for the twelve months ending 12/31/2015. The records were found to be kept in a neat and orderly manner and Susan Kiefer was commended for her good work.

Additional signs need to be ordered to accommodate the needs at the Sarasota fairgrounds. New signs need to be ordered for street directions, parking for handicapped, etc. New banners with FSWG logos will be ordered for standard locations insuring their reuse in future years. Those old banners that are appropriate for our new location will continue to be used. Several banners in the trailer belong to RV dealers and need to be returned. The approximate cost to purchase signs and banners should be approximately \$1200 based on

recent pricing. Joe Sala made a motion to purchase the signage and Carole Gies seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The 2016 FSWG Camping Schedule is posted on the website.

New Business:

A site map of the Sarasota fairgrounds and a directional map for reaching the fairgrounds from I75 were designed by Cal Sweep and Gayle Putman. Copies are in each confirmation packet sent to attendees and in the welcome booklet. Please note: **DO NOT USE FRUITVILLE ROAD EXIT OFF OF I75 TO REACH THE FAIRGROUNDS!**

Emails were sent to all attendees who paid for and received a full hook-up site for the rally. No refunds were needed.

Registration forms for the 2016 rally can be found on the website for both attendees and vendors. Butch and Becky Moore were acknowledged for their efforts in the distribution of forms at the Tampa RV Show.

Chapters were asked to bring door prize baskets valued at \$25-\$35 each and Friendship Walk baskets valued at \$5-\$10 each to the rally. Door prize baskets can be left in the Robarts Arena on marked tables and Friendship Walk baskets can be left in the Clark Building.

At the Officer/Chapter Representative Meeting this morning it was decided to retain the 2015/2016 chapter rally assignments for 2017 with one exception. The Funtime Travelers will be assigned Stage and Table Decorations and the Suncoast Winnies will be assigned Games. Retaining the job assignments for one additional year will allow chapters to become familiar with their job assignments this year in our new location. In 2017 the chapters can then refine their tasks in the job assignment and be able to pass these two years of experience in Sarasota on to the next chapter in 2018.

Rally themed shirts are being ordered based on requests on the rally registration forms. These shirts will not be sold at the rally.

Rally pins have been ordered using the winning design. Each paid attendee will receive a pin with extra pins being sold at the rally for a nominal fee.

Treasurer Susan Kiefer has developed a new FSWG expense reimbursement form to be used for obtaining reimbursement for expenses incurred for meetings and the annual rally. This new form will enable us to better track club expenses and record keeping. Copies of this form have been sent to chapter Presidents for review. Any new expense items must have prior approval from President Jack Caffrey before submission.

With the movement of the annual rally to Sarasota and changes made by WIT affecting all state and local chapters, our current By-Laws need revision. Over the next few months the club officers will be reviewing the By-Laws for appropriate changes and preparing a draft document for membership review. The draft will be sent out to all chapter Presidents for them to review with their membership. The projected completion date for this revision is October, 2016 following member vote.

Since Winnebago has purchased the production facility and rights for the Country Coach RV line, Country Coach RV owners are now eligible for membership in WIT.

The new East Coast WIT representatives, Tammy and Stewart Smith, will be attending the 2016 State Rally next month along with Butch and Becky Moore. Denise Yeager will be traveling from Iowa to formally introduce the Smiths.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jean Tanquay and seconded by Russ Grimm. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sweep
Secretary