

FLORIDA STATE WINNIE GATORS  
General Meeting Minutes  
Lazydays RV Resort  
Saturday, October 17, 2015

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

Sylvia Macdonald made a motion that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be waived. The motion was seconded by Russ Grimm and the motion carried.

The Treasurer's report running from May 1, 2015-September 20, 2015 was read by Treasurer Susan Kiefer. The entire report is attached to this document. A motion to accept the report was made by Don Levine and seconded by Charley Weaver. The motion carried. As a member of the chapter co-hosting this campout, Susan then reviewed the schedule of events for the remainder of the campout. A seminar by Jane Vogel entitled "Grill It and Skillet" was added to the schedule for today at 3:30 pm in this location.

**President's Report:**

President Jack Caffrey passed the microphone to the five "First Timers" to FSWG at which time they introduced themselves and were given a huge welcoming applause by the membership.

The two pin designs created by members, Gayle Putman and Lee Macdonald, for the 2016 rally were labeled "A" and "B" and passed to attendees for review. Voting will occur later in the meeting.

Current officers were introduced to the membership.

President: Jack and Gloria Caffrey  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Mike and Barbara Sofarelli  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Richard and Dorinda Gest  
Secretary: Judy and Cal Sweep  
Treasurer: Susan and Frank Kiefer  
Director: Ted and Janis Fumia

Appreciation in the form of applause and gift card was expressed to Mid-Florida Winnies for co-hosting this month's meeting and campout. Funtime Travelers have volunteered to be the co-hosts for our January campout in Eustus, FL.

**Committee Reports:**

Vendor Chair, Linda Levine, announced the addition of Barbara Trent to her committee and the need for a volunteer to assist with the organization of seminars at the rally. Registration forms have been sent to past vendor participants. Linda requested input from the membership for names of potential new vendors.

Ted Fumia, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the follow slate of officers for 2016-2017:

President: Jack and Gloria Caffrey

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Mike and Barbara Sofarelli

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Richard and Dorinda Gest

Secretary: Judy and Cal Sweep

Treasurer: Susan and Frank Kiefer

Director: Ted and Janis Fumia

There were no additional nominations for the officer positions. A motion to accept the nominations as read was made by Edwin Gies and seconded by Charlie Weaver. The motion carried. Election will be held at the January meeting and the installation at the February rally.

### **Old Business:**

Chapter of Excellence certificates were handed out at the July GNR. Judy and Cal Sweep collected those certificates belonging to chapters that did not have a representative present at the ceremony for distribution as this meeting. WIT failed to include two of our chapters, the Caloosas and the Florida Sunshine Winnies, in the list of recipients in their last newsletter. Other chapters in other states were also omitted. All will be recognized in the next printing of the WIT newsletter with apologies. Certificates were presented to those chapters and individuals who were not present at GNR.

The 2016 annual rally dates of February 18-21 shortens the preparation time for the rally. Individual chapters are encouraged to begin early planning of their respective duties which remain unchanged from last year.

Mike and Barbara Sofarelli reported that the FSWG supply trailer is currently being housed on their son's property. The trailer will be brought to the Sarasota fairgrounds prior to the rally.

Special acknowledgement was given to Mike and Barbara Sofarelli, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents, for serving as the Head-of-Row at GNR. They richly deserve the many compliments received from participants.

Susan and Frank Kiefer reported on the status of the historical documents in storage. The original club charter document has not been located. Anyone with helpful knowledge of the location of this document should notify the club. WIT has advised that documents dated past seven years should not be considered of relevant historical significance. Concerns were expressed as to how to identify historically important documents. The possible need for an historical records keeper to determine which items are significant to the club was presented. Perhaps some documents should be stored in a climate controlled atmosphere or safety deposit box. The idea of scanning documents was discussed. These issues will be researched and discussed again in January.

Discussion of the possible purchasing of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) was continued from last meeting. Some concerns were discussed:

Who should carry the AED, be responsible for its use and insure it is at all campouts/rallies?

Unless the AED is applied by a licensed, certified first responder, physician or nurse the Good Samaritan Laws apply. However, liability remains a risk to the person applying the AED. Cost of the AED is \$1500.00.

There is no insurance policy to cover the club's liability.

Dr. Allen Gabroy expressed his concern that such a system might be needed due to the average age of our members and was thankful for the opportunity to present this idea to the club. Rich and Dorinda Gest will research the idea of CPR classes by the Red Cross as a possible alternative for our group.

Rich and Dorinda Gest nominated Every Day Blessings of Hillsborough County as a candidate for our new club charity. No additional charities were nominated by the membership. The Gest's will inquire as to the existence of additional locations in Florida and report this finding later in the meeting.

**New Business:**

The 2016 FSWG camping schedule has been completed and all locations have been contracted. The schedule is posted on our website, on the WIT website and will be in the next issue of the WIT magazine. The schedule is:

15-17 January: Southern Palms RV Resort, Eustus, FL

19-21 February: Sarasota Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL

13-15 May: Seasons in the Sun RV Resort, Mims, FL

21-23 October: Travelers Rest RV Resort, Dade City, FL

Gloria Caffrey asked for members to provide suggestions for future locations because scheduling in January has become difficult due to "snowbird" reservations at campgrounds.

Chuck Smalley and Jeff Roudebush volunteered to serve on the annual January Audit Committee to review the treasurer's records.

The club's management of inquiries regarding payment for partial meal consumption, short stays and drive-ins to campouts will be handled on a case-by-case basis due to infrequency of such requests.

The recommendation was made that the club purchase reusable, sturdy hanging signs for (e.g. Vendor Hall, Activities Hall, Mail Hall, FSWG Annual Rally, Registration, Door prizes, Charity Raffle, etc.) as well as ground signs for directions, club name and welcoming.

Plans are underway for the February rally at Sarasota Fairgrounds.

A site map, designed by Gayle Putman, will be provided to all chapters and attendees once parking patterns have been determined.

Four Winnebago contracted RV dealers were invited with three confirming and one declining to attend the rally. A Ford towable automobile dealer has confirmed. The one "honey wagon" company in the Sarasota will provide service at a rate of \$30.00 per dump. The fairgrounds have four dump stations. There are 40 full hook-ups (30 amps with water and sewer) available on a first come, first serve basis at a \$40.00 premium. Assignment will be based on the postmarked date of registration. Rally and vendor registration forms and cover letters will be posted on the website next week.

Members renting golf carts need to contact Golf Coast Golf Carts of Sarasota directly, and the phone number will be posted on the website. The rental rate is \$165.00 for the entire week or any part thereof.

Chapter rally assignments are unchanged from last year with few exceptions. The January meeting will determine what assignments will be made for the 2017 rally. Chapters are asked to have a member "shadow" the club they will be assuming the assignment from at the 2016 rally to become familiar with the duties. Another alternative was discussed in which each chapter would retain their current job assignment for the 2017 rally. This would prevent a chapter from "shadowing" someone

who is inexperienced in Sarasota. This option will be discussed in January to allow time for input from local chapters.

Chapters were asked to donate door prize baskets valued between \$25.00-\$35.00 with the chapter determining the number of baskets they wish to donate. Door prize baskets have been requested from dealers and vendors.

Each chapter was asked to also donate 4-5 Friendship Walk baskets/items with a price range of no more than \$5.00-\$10.00 per item or basket.

The continuation of selling rally themed shirts was discussed. After polling the membership (42 voting "Yes" and 40 voting "No") the decision was made to continue offering attendees the option to purchase the shirts.

The cost of the 2016 rally reflects a \$40.00 increase with the \$15.00 discount for FSWG members. The increased cost is worth the price of a cleaner, safer location.

The membership voted sample "A," designed by Gayle and Pete Putman, as the winning pin/shirt design. Gayle will receive a year's membership to the FSWG.

Members were cautioned when making reservations for a group or individually to inquire if the RV resort/campground is a member of either Sun RV Resorts or Carefree RV Resorts. These two companies own and operate many sites in Florida and in other states. Their policy states you will be charged for your full stay at the time of making the reservation, not just the first night. If you need to cancel 24 hours or less from the arrival date, there is no refund.

Officers were given the opportunity to address the membership. Mike and Barbara Sofarelli expressed appreciation to all Florida GNR attendees for all their help during GNR. When the tents blew away, everyone came to the rescue and Friendship Hall was disassembled in record time. Acknowledgement was given to the Citrus Growers of Florida for the donation of "give away" items at the Row Party. Susan and Frank Kiefer stated that extra copies of the Treasurer's report were available as were pins and patches from previous rallies. Richard and Dorinda Gest clarified the existence of two locations in Florida of the charity Every Day Blessings. Judy and Cal Sweep expressed appreciation to Jerry and Nancy Miller for their continued assistance.

The selection of the Club Charity was tabled until January. The importance of the bulk of the collection of money going directly to the charity and not its administrative expenses was stressed.

Various chapters will be meeting later today.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Russ Grimm and seconded by Bob Christian. The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sweep  
Secretary