

Minutes

August 07, 2025 Press Club Meeting

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Eggs Up Grill on McMullen Booth Rd, Clearwater

Present: Doug Kates, Editor; Tom Butcher, President; Joanne Cordes, Secretary; 20 members

Call to Order – at 2:10 p.m. by Doug

As soon as Doug arrived, he began to offer 50/50 raffle tickets for \$1 each or 3 for \$2. He got a good response from nearly everyone. Since we were in the midst of ordering and then enjoying our brunch, our meeting was somewhat abbreviated.

For a change of pace, Doug handed out agendas for us to follow along with the points he wanted to cover. These were:

- Reminders for upcoming meetings:
 - November 6 – Writers Workshop in the East Activity Center’s Auditorium at 7 p.m.. This is a mandatory meeting; Doug is hopeful that all 104 writers will attend.
 - January 8 – Varsity Club Sports Bar and Grille, 24091 U.S. Hwy 19 N., Clearwater at 1:30-2:30. For a change of pace meeting venue.
- Congratulations on our summer newspapers – each at 48 pages.
- Donna Gagnon, vice-president of our club, pursued Sam’s Club as an advertiser and it resulted in their full page ad in the August paper. Doug encouraged us all to reach out to vendors.
- Our upcoming September newspaper has historically been a most difficult month. This is because so many residents are gone and stories are limited. Doug reminded us to write about upcoming events if that will strengthen our narrative.
- Announcement of our new website created by Doug. By hand count, just 4 of our group of 22 had accessed the site. We all should review it for content and news.
- Announcement that our club’s webpage is updated and in a new location, but with the same icon, through Box Office.
- Doug asked for comments about the paper’s new format. Katie Bajis offered that she did not like the new font. Others stated the opposite, that the new larger font was terrific.
- Finally, the reception difficulties via Summit are still apparent for some residents. The goal is for all residents to be able to watch the board meetings and other televised events on the Summit home channel. If this is still a problem for anyone, the answer may be that the resident needs a new router and must contact Summit to correct the equipment issue. Another possibility for poor reception is interference from too many silver-backed mirrors, depending on the layout of the condo.

50/50 Raffle – Doug decided that we would have 2 drawings instead of 1. The first winner of \$7 was Dave Beaven. Dave gave \$5 back to the club’s basket. And the second winner of \$12 was Joanne Cordes. We spent the remainder of our hour enjoying the company and conversation of others while finishing our meals.

Group Photo – Before leaving, Doug staged all 22 of us for an indoor group photo.

Adjournment – 3:00 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: Joanne Cordes, Secretary