

## Minutes

**Press Club Meeting, Dec 4,  
2025**

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Crystal Beach Room at East Activity Center

<i>Present: Doug Kates, Editor; Joanne Cordes, Secretary; 7 members</i>
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### **Call to Order** – at 1:35 p.m. by Doug

Doug started the meeting just a few minutes late, hoping more staff members would attend. There were two things that could have resulted in such a low attendance: 1) there was no usual meeting reminder email from Doug; 2) there was a discrepancy in the December newspaper about the time – the Calendar of events gave the usual time of 1:30 but the press association article Doug writes, stated 1 p.m. as the meeting time. Nonetheless, we had 9 members present when Doug asked Joanne to give an account of the prior month's minutes. That meeting was our Annual Workshop presented by editor, Doug Kates. Joanne pointed out that there were 36 members plus 2 guests at the November meeting. One of the guests was the husband of a new (signed at the Fall Fest) storyteller and the other guest was Nancy Rogers, present to announce the Press Association was awarded Best Table Display at the Fall Fest. Joanne said it was our club's first time at Fall Fest, and Doug added we only participated twice. That brought a chuckle of surprise to our 9-count group.

First Doug asked if there was any old business to discuss. There being none, Doug then asked Tom if he had a statement or more. Tom did and he began by thanking Donna Gagnon and Joanne Cordes for their work on the press association's display table at the Fall Festival on November 1. Tom thought the Fall Fest went very well, and the only real improvement needed was a more streamlined method for passers-by to complete the survey. As it was, we frequently had visitors stacked 3 deep in 3 lines. This is something we'll discuss for future shows. Tom went on to say there were 125 surveys completed; Doug added that he'd printed 200 copies, but he was very happy with the 125. Doug also added that 70% of the surveys requested hard news and 30% preferred a mix of soft with the hard. When someone asked what was considered hard news, Doug answered that typically hard news is what we get from columns by Ken, Dessa, and Nancy. This completed Tom's commentary. Doug then asked Joanne if she had anything else and she asked to speak to the January Get Acquainted event for OTOW clubs. This takes place Saturday, January 10 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the EAC Auditorium. It is suggested by Nancy Rogers that we offer a raffle prize (one, at least) to be announced at the conclusion by Sue Trost of the Good Neighbor's club. This event replaces the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month entertainment presentation usually sponsored by several local vendors related to healthcare services and which include fabulous donuts and coffee served by the Good Neighbors' Club. In January, Summit will sponsor the donuts and coffee. Paula Schelling gave an example of her participation in her building's Christmas time raffle, in which she contributes a small Christmas tree and then ties the various gift cards to the branches, thus giving several gifts in one. She offered to do the same for our club. Doug offered to solicit from one of the advertisers of the paper for a contribution and then noted that we (the club's board) will discuss it and make the final decision.

Other announcements:

- The January monthly meeting is on the 8<sup>th</sup> at the Varsity Club at 1:30 p.m. This is to be lunch (paid by each attendee separately) held as a change of pace in a different venue and to celebrate the holidays but after the holidays when less activity makes all seem less hectic.
- The treasury amount is \$111.
- The Appreciation Lunch is April 2.
- Thank you very much to Roy Lemnus for the delicious homemade cupcakes and cookies!

To end the meeting, Doug asked if anyone had a question.

- Q1 from Mary Ann O'Neil – Will there be a column in the January paper on the board election results?

Answer from Doug – If the Chair or Vice-Chair does not write a column, then Doug will write one.

- Q2 from Charlie Wood – Is the problem with stolen newspapers continuing?

Responses: yes, no, fewer.

Answer from Doug: It will not matter this coming month because no one will recognize the delivery date as being December 29.

We ended the meeting with announcement of the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Joanne had promoted a 'big haul' since there were so few in the drawing. And even Doug bought 3 tickets (the first time ever) to boost the prize amount. As it turned out, Patty Branch drew the winner – Doug! And the winning amount was a meager \$6. Doug kept \$1 to pin on his bulletin board, while the remaining \$5 went back into the club's treasury. Thanks, Doug.

Adjournment followed at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Joanne Cordes, secretary.