

Minutes

January 02, 2025 Press Club Meeting

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. in East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room

Present: Doug Kates, Editor; Tom Butcher, President; Donna Gagnon, Vice President; Joanne Cordes, Secretary; 17 members

Commented [DC1]:

Call to Order – at 1:30 by Doug

Tom began the meeting by stating that he thought the January paper was one of our best. He congratulated all the staff and Doug for a great job. He mentioned that we will face more changes this year and one challenge we have is to eliminate the papers being removed right after delivery of new productions, only to find many of them dumped into the recycling bins. Here, Doug took over the discussion. He stressed that this is important – to find out who is doing this and get a picture of the culprits in the act, if at all possible. But, Doug stressed even more vehemently, we do not want this message out in the community...that the press staff is looking for paper abusers. The bottom line is that the advertisers and residents who look forward to the paper are being cheated. It could be said that this is a 'free speech issue.' We cannot have cameras installed in the core or trash rooms. We will continue to be vigilant but not too loud about our mission.

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Joanne read her version of events as told to her by Doug and also written by Doug in his January paper. Joanne missed the December meeting and apologized for it to the group. She then announced the staffers who, to the date of January 1, qualified for the Annual Appreciation Picnic. The list is attached to these minutes. Seven had questions about their qualifications; Joanne will recheck and validate her findings.

Announcements of Coming Events –

- Get Acquainted on Saturday, January 11 at 10 a.m. – 12 noon in the EAC Auditorium. Tom and Donna will man the information table.
- Pizza Party at the Pavilion in March. What pizza do we want to order? Dominos was a popular answer.
- On April 24, 2025 Doug will send his 200th edition to press. It is cause for celebration! Doug will be at the Sunset Lounge after work, to toast the occasion. He asked that anyone who wants to join him will get a drink on him.
- Also in April, on the 3rd at 5 p.m., the qualified press staffers will meet at the Philippe Park Pavilion (#7?) for the Annual Appreciation Luncheon/Dinner. To qualify, a staff member must have at least 3 story contributions or other such as photography or proofing *and* attendance at 3 or more meetings.
- Meet-n-Greet Candidate Forum held Thursday, Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. – 12 noon and 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. There is soon to be a RAVE announcement that sessions will also occur Jan. 24 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 26 2: p.m.- 4 p.m. Also, the Election date is now changed from Jan. 16 to Thursday, Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. Doug will be broadcasting LIVE TV

and re-broadcasting online. Katy Bajas, OTOW Board Chair, would also like written documentation of the sessions – perhaps done by staff writers; but this is still up for discussion and not decided at this time.

- Pet of the Year voting is Jan. 3-9 with bios of each month's entry on the voting site on the OTOW Box Office.
- Doug thanked Donna Gagnon for bringing the great selection of refreshments – homemade apple cake, cheese and crackers, grapes, and ginger ale.

Other news –

- Nothing new here...TV reception issues continue – but we now know it is the fault of Summit, not the IT equipment of OTOW.
- We already have at least 2 stories covering Jimmy Carter's death and how his life story touched many. We will probably publish 3-4 stories including him, but Doug asked there be no one else intending to write a story including this great man.
- Linda Weaver was present for her first meeting as a new staff writer.

50/50 Drawing –

There was \$20 collected and so the prize of \$10 went to Teri Mikszenas with the ticket selection by Linda Weaver.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: Joanne Cordes, Secretary