

Minutes
Press Club Meeting, 01/08/2026
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Varsity Club Tavern

Present: Doug Kates, Editor; Tom Butcher, President; Joanne Cordes, Secretary; 15 members

Call to Order – at 1:25 p.m. by Doug

We reserved the back room at the Varsity Club so we'd have some privacy during the meeting. Doug called the meeting a few minutes early since the wait staff were taking food and beverage orders at the same time and many had begun to arrive at 1 p.m. Doug had asked Patty Branch to manage the 50/50 raffle. I appreciated Patty's oh, so cute and most accurate comment: "this is not as easy as it looks." Doug asked Joanne if she wanted to read the minutes of the last meeting, she said "no" to grins, clarified "not just yet", and so Tom began with his remarks. Tom reminded us that Saturday, January 10 was the Good Neighbors' Meet Your Clubs Day at the East Activity Center from 10 a.m. – noon. He stated that he and Joanne would be manning the table and encouraged all to participate for benefit of the Good Neighbors group.

Doug then, again, asked Joanne to read the minutes and she did, giving a summary of the poorly attended meeting in December. In addition to the minute's summary, Joanne stated that 3 narratives in the January paper did not carry a byline. This is important because if there is no byline, then there is no credit for the story. Those incompletes were Chorus, Theater Workshop, and the new Lifestyle column. Doug admitted to writing the story for Chorus and also that the omission of Maxine Sutcliff's name to the byline was his error. And the Lifeline story was written by Randae VanDenover.

Doug went on to add that there are several other missteps even after the November Workshop training. Examples included not knowing who Chilly is and not remembering that the word limit to a story is 400, not 1,000. One storyteller even argued with Doug about the word count. Only in rare cases is a writer allowed more than 400 words. One such exception is Bob Rittner in his softball column, because of the number of games that he covers.

Despite the loss of several production days in December due to the holidays, our Press team met the goal set for stories in by December 12 and Doug thanked everyone for pulling it off. Once again. We did get a reminder, as we do each year at this time, that we cannot submit a Christmas story for the February paper. It's just not allowed. Also as a reminder, our next celebrated holiday is St. Patrick's Day – always early, for the parade. This year we salute 30 years. And the Press Association will participate. We need at least 10 walkers.

Further announcements:

- Since we enlisted 4 new writers during the Fall Festival in November, let us try for the same this Saturday with the Good Neighbors Meet-up
- Our treasury amount is \$121
- All future meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month. This occurred because of the new OTOW board requesting meetings for the first Thursday of each month. Doug is busy recording these meetings and therefore unavailable for anything else. Doug noted that Diane Like was present at our own meeting as a thank you for the schedule change.
- More than 100 voted for the Pet of the Year contest. Doug was pleased to know there is still an interest.

- In more good news...Doug will be getting a part-time assistant. During the holidays, Doug became ill but needed to come to work regardless because there is no one else familiar with his job duties. Following another request of management, Doug was told an assistant would be hired.

Before closing the meeting, Patty announced the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Sue Trost won \$13 and donated it all to the club. This would bring our new balance to \$147. Doug's final announcement was that we will announce those who qualify for the Appreciation Dinner at the next meeting in February.

We adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Joanne Cordes