

Minutes

March 06, 2025 Press Club Meeting

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. in East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room

Present: Doug Kates, Editor; Tom Butcher, President; Donna Gagnon, Vice President; Joanne Cordes, Secretary; 25 members

Call to Order – at 1:36 by Tom

Tom called the meeting to order by asking Doug to step forward to accept an award in honor of his achievement to 200 editions. Tom read the inscription on the exquisite statue with a crystal globe; the Press Club staffers collected funds to purchase it. (Tom, Donna, Katie Bajas -- as OTOW Board Chair, and Joanne chose the design and verbiage; Tom placed the order.) All of this was kept from Doug. Tom also presented a card to Doug – this was signed by all those present that day. Doug was very surprised.

This meeting is our annual Pizza Party – compliments of the 50/50 raffles. So, Doug asked that we all begin serving ourselves. Donna had prepped the room with tablecloths and the food table was set up with beverages and plastic and paperware.

Minutes –

Joanne read highlights of the February meeting.

Announcements of Coming Events –

- The March 1 Irish Parade was a disaster, Doug claimed. The sound equipment failed, even though it worked well during the testing on the prior day. Also, YouTube.com booted the first-time live parade broadcast because one of the entries played Jimmy Buffet's 'Margaritaville' – a copyright infringement. Doug will edit the recording to replay it on Ch 901 on St. Patrick's Day. Impressively, Mary Lou Walls and Barb Rice took a total of 600+ photos which Doug will whittle to 50 pictures for reprint in the paper and elsewhere.
- On March 25, 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.
- Doug verified that no one other than Tom Butcher, Donna Gagnon, and Joanne Cordes were interested in running for the officer positions for the 2025-2026 year. That being clarified, Doug declared that the current officers will continue for another 1-year term. All staffers agreed.
- Doug praised the staff for the phenomenal 60 stories for the March paper. In this spirit, staffer Roy Lemnus presented Doug with a red t-shirt on which Roy had printed OTOW

News. Doug liked it very much; said he would wear it on March 25 to the Varsity Lounge celebration.

Yes, this was our annual pizza party but we also were recognizing Doug's longevity as Editor of OTOW World News.

50/50 Drawing –

Tom Chalupka was our winner.

Refreshments -- Donna Gagnon hosted the table setup and cleanup afterwards.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Pictures in the Crystal Beach Room and in the Press Room followed the meeting.

Minutes Submitted By: Joanne Cordes, Secretary