

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Lake Ashton Democratic Club  
In-Person Only  
February 1, 2024, 6:30 PM



**Attendance of Board of Directors:**

Ron McKie, President  
Deanna Mayne, Vice President  
Carolyn Ritz, Treasurer  
Paul Ritz, Secretary  
Carol Gillespie, Board Member  
Sheryl Hemingway, Board Member  
Howard Kay, Board Member  
Howard Mayne, Parliamentarian

**Absent:** Judy Mehal, Board Member

**Call to Order at 6:30 PM** by Ron McKie, President

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Welcome New Attendees**

Alex Vogt and Colette Farland-Vogt introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 4, 2024, General Membership meeting were emailed to members in advance and were approved by acclamation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Emailed to members in advance of the meeting. Balance as of February 1, 2024 was \$4,015.18. Treasurer Carolyn Ritz reminded everyone that 2024 dues were now due.

**Video Presentation & Speaker-Terrye Howell**

The group watched a brief video presentation about the Lake Wales Envisioned Plan, featuring several local officials and residents of Lake Wales, discussing the future of Lake Wales.

Colette McKie introduced our speaker, former long-time Lake Wales City Commissioner Terrye Howell. Ms. Howell stressed that she was not a politician, but rather was a teacher, both professionally and by her outlook. During her time on the Commission, she made an effort to always ask questions and to evaluate how the Commission's proposed actions benefitted the citizens of Lake Wales and the overall community.

Ms. Howell stressed the need for a voice on the Commission to ask the necessary questions and challenge proposed actions by the Commission in order to see the Lake Wales Envisioned Plan come to fruition.

Ms. Howell indicated that Carol Gillespie is the person best qualified to ask those critical questions and challenge the Mayor and other Commission members to make wise decisions that benefit the whole community.

Ms. Howell stressed that all citizens, young and old, need to not only vote, but get involved in the process of Carol's campaign by canvassing, getting people to register to vote and to register to vote by mail.

### **Clean Energy Alliance Endorsement**

Kathy Sutherland announced the endorsement of Carol Gillespie's campaign by the Polk Clean Energy Alliance. Carol Gillespie thanked her for the endorsement and pointed out that her opponent, Danny Krueger, is an outspoken climate change denier.

### **Carol Gillespie Campaign**

Carol Gillespie spoke about the need for contributions to help fund her campaign for Lake Wales City Commission. She also stressed the need for volunteers to do canvassing and engage in other campaign activities.

Carol brought campaign buttons to share with her supporters and contributors.

The campaign website for making donations is:

**[CarolGillespieCampaign.com](http://CarolGillespieCampaign.com)**

Donations can also be made by check, payable to "Carol Gillespie Campaign" and either mailed to or dropped off with Carolyn Ritz, Campaign Treasurer, at 5405 Hogan Lane, Winter Haven, FL 33884

The election is city-wide and takes place on **April 2, 2024**

**Outreach Committee/Snowflakes:** Snowflakes is continuing its regular activities, meeting alternatively in either the Poker Room or the Sports Court at the HFC on Tuesdays at 6-8 pm. The Snowflakes primary activity will be preparing postcards/letters in support of Carol Gillespie's campaign. Collette McKie stressed the need for in-kind donations of envelopes, stamps, etc. to help support the Snowflakes' activities. Norm Wilderson noted that anyone interested in assisting that cannot make the Snowflakes' meetings can also work from home.

President Ron McKie again stressed that Vote-By-Mail registrations must be renewed for each election year. Members should remind their friends and neighbors to re-register if they have not done so already. Voter turnout is the key to achieving victory for Democrats and like-minded candidates in non-partisan races.

**Membership Committee:** Deanna Mayne thanked the volunteers who assisted in the Club's representation at the LA Club Expo, noting that we handed out several membership applications. She also reported that a potluck social event is being scheduled for some time in mid-May.

### **Future Meetings and Adjournment**

The next general membership meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Pavilion**, as the HFC Community Room is booked for that evening.

Social time will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by the meeting from 6:30-7:30 pm. Our tentative speaker will be **Brandon Alvarado, candidate for Seat 2 on the Lake Wales City Commission**, to discuss his vision for Lake Wales and his campaign.

Members should consider bringing folding chairs as a backup in case they are needed. Volunteers for bringing food/drinks should coordinate with Deanna Mayne.

Please also note that **Lori Edwards, Supervisor of Elections**, will be speaking at our April 4<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. Ms. Edwards is running for re-election against a formidable Republican opponent, so we really need to show our support for her to continue to protect the integrity of our elections in Polk County.

There being no further business, President McKie called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:26 pm.