

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Lake Ashton Democratic Club
In-Person Only @ HFC Community Room
December 5, 2024, 6:30 PM



Attendance of Board of Directors:

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

Absent: Howard Kay, Board Member

Call to Order at 6:28 PM by Ron McKie, President

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of New Members/Attendees

Sandy Doucette and Lo Labrie were welcomed to the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 7, 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 December 5, 2024, was \$483.19. Treasurer Carolyn Ritz reminded everyone that 2025 dues will be coming due in January and that anyone joining now and paying will be covered through 2025. Given our depleted coffers, members are encouraged to pay their 2025 dues in advance.

Independent Media Sources Presentation: Carolyn and Paul Ritz gave a PowerPoint slide presentation on the shortcomings of mainstream television and print media and bringing attention to independent alternative news sources, such as podcasts, online streaming sites and newsletters.

A copy of the PowerPoint slides, along with a list of news sources and links to them will be provided to the Club members, guests and other LA Democrats.

Trivia game-Deanna & Howard Mayne

Deanna and Howard Mayne presented and conducted an entertaining trivia game of questions primarily focused on holiday-related presidential history for the group.

Snowflakes-Ron McKie

President Ron McKie discussed the activities of the Snowflakes group and encouraged all members and attendees to get involved if they have not already. He also specifically acknowledged the Snowflakes members in attendance and had them raise their hands to be recognized by the members. The group will continue to be on hiatus for a few weeks until a new activity comes into focus.

Upcoming LADC Elections

It was again noted that the positions of LADC President, Secretary, Parliamentarian and two (2) Board positions are up for election in January. Laverne Grey, representing the Nominating Committee, announced that the following individuals have expressed interest as follows;

Ron McKie-President

Howard Mayne-Secretary

Paul Ritz-Parliamentarian

Charles Roland-Board Member

Phyllis Brushaber expressed an interest in running for a Board Member position at the meeting.

Members interested in running for any of the open positions are encouraged to contact the Nominating Committee (Shelley Miller, Lyn Rogers & Laverne Grey) before the January 2nd General membership meeting.

President Ron McKie noted that attendance at the January meeting is important, as we need a quorum to conduct the elections.

February Social Event

Vice-President Deanna Mayne announced that the February Social Event would coincide with the February 6th General Membership meeting, due to the difficulty in reserving the HFC Community Room. It is most likely going to be a pizza party, with members bringing dessert items to share. Further details will be discussed at the January meeting.

Additional Items

Board Member Carol Gillespie reminded the group of the upcoming mayoral election in Lake Wales, in which Jack Hilligoss, a prominent local pastor, will be seeking re-election with a well-financed campaign. A significant grass-roots effort will be required to unseat him.

Carol also reminded the group about the Polk County DEC, the umbrella organization for Democrats in Polk County, encouraging members to become aware of and/or get involved with the Polk DEC's activities.

Kathy Sites, Secretary of the Polk DEC, noted that the DEC has developed a strong Voter Protection team, which will be more critical considering the election of Melony Bell, a partisan Republican, as Polk County Supervisor of Elections.

Food Drive

Pamela June announced that the Lake Ashton Black Heritage Club will be conducting a Food Drive on Saturday January 18th from 10am to 2pm. Further information will be forthcoming via email.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 2nd at the HFC Community Room, with social time beginning at 6:00 pm, followed by the meeting from 6:30-7:30 pm. Speaker TBD. If a quorum is obtained, Club elections will be held at the meeting.

There being no further business, President McKie called for the meeting to be adjourned by acclamation at 7:35 pm.