

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Lake Ashton Democratic Club

HFC Community Room

September 4, 2025, 6:30 PM



Attendance of Board of Directors

Ron McKie, President
Deanna Mayne, Vice-President
Carolyn Ritz, Treasurer
Howard Mayne, Secretary
Board Member Phyllis Brushaber
Board Member Paul Ritz
Board Member Charles Roland
Board Member Howard Kay

Attendance

33 Members and 6 Guests for the speaker portion of the Meeting. The guests were excused for the business portion of the Meeting.

Call to Order 6:30 pm by Ron McKie, President.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ron announced that the speakers would be given time initially, and that the business meeting would follow.

Speakers

The invited speakers were Rev Clifton Dollison and Matthew Crowley. Both are running as candidates for the Winter Haven City Commission. (Dollison is an incumbent.) The WH elections take place November 4, 2025.

Dollison said his roots were in Polk County, and that after some years away he returned, and has been a chaplain for 25 years in Winter Haven at the First Missionary Baptist Church. He emphasized his commitment to service to the community. He explained that both his positions necessitated the need to listen to people of all persuasions. In response to an audience question, he pointed out his opposition to the removal of fluoride from WH drinking water, and was hopeful that with Matthew Crowley as a partner on the Commission, such (in his opinion, poor)

decisions could be avoided. Several donations to the Dollison Campaign were made, including a check for \$100 from LADC.

Matthew Crowley, a paraeducator, emphasized workers' rights, safe neighborhoods, affordable accommodation, and the need for improvement to infrastructure if urban expansion is to continue. He also criticized high insurance rates. He solicited and received several donations from the membership, and received \$100 from LADC.

The speakers' segment of the Meeting was closed, and the candidates and their guests were excused. The business portion of the Meeting was opened at 7:00 pm.

Introduction of New Members/Attendees/Birthdays acknowledged

A moment of silence for recently-deceased member Sheri Merritt was observed.

Minutes:

The minutes of the August 7, 2025, General Meeting distributed in advance to the membership were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is \$1793.73. Members were reminded that membership for 2025 is now due.

Vice President Announcements

We have reserved the HFC for the Fall Social October 28, at 5:30 pm. Guests are welcome. People should bring salads and desserts. The Club will provide beverages and pizza.

In addition, the membership was reminded that the Polk Democratic Party Annual Fundraising Gala will be held at Lake Ashton's HFC on October 25. (Cocktail hour starting at 6:00 pm.) David Jolly has been invited to attend. Tables are available for \$1000. Individual tickets are also available.

Dee thanked those who had brought refreshments.

Other Announcements/Reports

Ron McKie reminded the group that **Snowflakes** were ready and willing to help candidates. Snowflakes meet 6-8 pm each Tuesday. Ron reminded the Club that stamp donations for Snowflakes were always welcome. Ron also reported that funding to Snowflakes from the Polk Democratic Executive Committee seems to have dried up temporarily. He did acknowledge that they were likely busy with re-certification matters.

Ron McKie announced that he will soon constitute a **"Talking Points" Committee**. The Committee will be charged with developing ways to effectively communicate our mission and ideals to those who are not necessarily of the same political persuasion. Ron McKie reminded people that the Winter Haven local elections are November 4, 2025, and urged people to sign up for mail-in voting if they had not already done so.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:38 pm.