

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 pm by Mark Frandsen, President

Invocation by Ron Cutsinger

Pledge of Allegiance by Bill

Officials and Dignitaries were introduced. Visitors were welcomed.

The meeting began with Mark reporting some of the future speakers. February we will have Mr. Jerome Fletcher of the City of North Port. In March, we will have Chief Todd Garrison and Deputy Chris Morales of the North Port Police Department speak about the Police Department referendum. Meetings will continue at the William A. Garvey VFW Post 8203 in North Port.

Monday, February 2, 2025 there will be a Club Board Meeting at Perkins. Meeting begins at 6:00pm and all club members are welcome to attend.

Mark then introduced the featured speaker, Mr. Ed Brodsky the State's Attorney for the 12th Judicial Circuit. His jurisdiction covers 3 counties. He has served in the State Attorney's Office for 33 years.

Mr. Brodsky began his presentation by discussing the increases in cybercrime. He provided a handout with details of phishing scams. You may receive emails warning of some impending problem with your accounts, computer, refunds, fake orders, etc. He discussed a number of things to look for in the Email that will alert you to this type of fraud. Sometimes they are looking to obtain your personal info or attempting to trick you into downloading Malware. He advised regular review of passwords. Avoiding use of common or familiar names or dates that could be easily hacked. 61% of passwords are stolen. The longer and more complex, the better the password

He next discussed Federal issues. The Laken Riley Act has passed and will be signed shortly by President Trump. This will have immediate impact on illegal immigrant crime. Penalties will also be applied to jurisdictions that refuse to cooperate with this act. It is the law that deported persons that return illegally have committed a felony.

In Florida, Governor DeSantis is working with the legislature to pass laws to dismantle immigrant criminal gangs through property seizure. The governor and legislature may be working to tighten up the Amendment process. Open Carry may be reintroduced at the next legislative session.

He discussed the problem of Porch Pirates and shoplifting. They are working to place stronger penalties on groups that shoplift and lowering the threshold for the value of goods stolen through shoplifting and porch pirating. He suggests individuals should invest in alert cameras and security systems.

A major problem in prisons are Cell Phones. Inmates are not to have phones, yet they are smuggled in sometimes by prison staff. Speaking of prisons, Sarasota County needs more jail capacity. Currently we have 800 capacity with 1100 inmates. The county will be considering this issue.

A variety of questions were directed by the members. Audience members brought up placing fraud alerts on your property via the County clerk's website. Mr. Brodsky also noted that investigations and prosecutions are greatly aided by video technology and DNA technology. One of his concerns is the great increase in financial fraud. The club appreciated his short and effective presentation.

Meeting Ended at 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Patricoski, Secretary