

Meeting Called to Order by President Mark Frandsen at 6:02 PM.

Invocation by: Ron Cutsinger

Pledge of Allegiance Led by: Bill

Before the meeting began, all members in good standing signed the membership roster and visitors signed the visitor log.

Secretary and Treasurer Reports were available for review.

Officials, Candidates, and Dignitaries were introduced by Mark. Visitors were welcomed.

The meeting began immediately with the introduction of the featured speaker, Congressman Greg Steube of Florida's 17th Congressional District. He is members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Committee on the Weaponization of Federal Agencies. The Congressman introduced his staff members that were present and encouraged anyone with a problem with a federal agency to contact his office for assistance. He noted that this is their primary mission to assist the constituents.

Mr. Steube stated that he voted against the most recent Omnibus spending bill. He called the bill an "atrocious". The bill is loaded with funding for things like late term abortions. Currently, we are running a \$2 Trillion annual deficit. Five years ago our national debt was \$21 Trillion. Today it is \$34 Trillion. The language of the Omnibus bill was crafted by the House Speaker, the White House and the Senate President.

Immigration is a major threat to our country on many levels. Immigrants are not just coming from South American countries. Rather over 40,000 Chinese Communist Party members, 30,000 Russians and 6,000 Afghans, Turks and Iranians have entered. Our enemies know how to get into our country. Over 300 persons on the terrorist watch list have been released into our country. At a congressional hearing, Secretary Mayorkas would not list how many have been released.

Although the Republicans hold the house majority by a slim margin, only about 100 of the members will stand up and vote for the right things. About 40 long-term members of the House are afraid to shut down the government or take bold action. This may be attributed to their experience during Speaker Gingrich's shut down, where many members lost their seats. Also, former military members fear that a shutdown will result in young military families losing their pay checks. The shutdown could be crafted to fund essential items. This would eliminate that problem.

There is much evidence of the Biden Family corruption. Direct evidence shows that the President has received money from foreign sources. Yet, the media will not report this. The judiciary will not act. He encourages us not to let frustration with these situations lead to apathy. GET OUT AND VOTE. Tell your family and friends to get out and vote. Explain the issues to them.

Current legislation proposes that 80% of new vehicles must be electric by 2030. This would be a disaster for the auto industry and our country. Again, Get out and vote and help Trump win re-election. The only way to fix all this is to take back the White House, keep the House and flip the Senate. All these issues must be addressed and reversed on the first day of the Trump Administration.

The Disaster Bill is close to passing the Senate and hopefully signed by the President. This covers not only Hurricane Ian, but Fires in Maui, the train accident in Ohio, etc. Once signed into law, file an amended 2022 Tax Return and include your Hurricane Ian losses.

Mr. Steube called for a show of hands on 2 issues. Continued funding of the Ukraine War and removal of Speaker Johnson. A majority did not want funding to continue for Ukraine. On Speaker Johnson there was much division with many unsure. Mr. Steube noted that perhaps this was not a good idea to remove Speaker Johnson now. The Republicans have a very slim majority and with just a few missing members, a Democrat could be elected Speaker instead. He is hopeful that after the election there will be a stronger majority and the Speaker will change then.

Several years ago, he filed a bill to allow Veterans with service connected health problems to be allowed to access private care using Tricare. This would ultimately lead to billions in cost savings and better care for Vets. About 20+ Veterans commit suicide each day. However, this is held up by the Senate because the lobby for the VA union workers opposes it. They are concerned that if Vets are allowed to choose their healthcare providers the VA employees will lose their jobs. Currently, this is dead in the Senate. If we can win the White House and flip the Senate, this could go forward. President Trump has committed to it. He is also working on a south Sarasota County location for a VA clinic or hospital. Hoping for North Port. He noted there is no VA Hospital in his Congressional District.

Questions were then allowed from the audience. Issues were:

- Balanced budget amendment? Could pass with House, Senate and White House in our hands. Florida has a balanced budget requirement and see how well the state works. Currently, 3.5 Trillion comes into the Treasury each year, yet 5 to 6 Trillion is spent. The deficit could be erased over a 10 year period.
- Mr. Steube is optimistic that the new 2024 House will be better. Currently 65% of the current congress are America First Members. That number should increase after the election.
- Tik-Tok bill as written allows the President to shut down any social media influenced by foreign actors. This is very concerning as the President is the only one to decide. There are a number of problematic pieces to this bill. Conservative Senators have shut it down and it will not proceed.
- Size of the interest payment on our debt. Service of our debt exceeds defense spending by about \$800 million. Our bond rating has been lowered from AAA to AA. Treasury trying to sell debt but China and Russia will not buy it. What does that tell you? Next year (2025) Social Security and Medicare will spend more than they collect.
- Guidelines in place to protect election in the swing states? Teams are on the ground working now to clear up election roles. It will be better than in 2020 but there will still be corruption. The Federal government should not be involved in elections. Article 1 requires the states to run elections.
- Abolish Dept. of Education? States should be in charge of education. If we win in November the Dept. of Ed will be gone. Also, if men are allowed to play on women's teams there will be no Title IX funding for the school.
- Farmland purchases by other countries. He has a bill that states no foreign nationals may be allowed to purchase farm land and especially near military bases.

In conclusion Mr. Steube noted that it is time for the states to exercise their 10th and 14th amendment duties as the federal government is not performing its job. He re-iterated his call for unity and support for Republican candidates this fall.

Mr. Steube was presented with a handcrafted wood flag from a club member. He will hang this in his Washington office.

Mark then asked Jerry Manegold to come forward regarding the Bylaw amendments that were read at the last meeting. Jerry Ni Castro made a motion to accept the amendments AS READ AT THE LAST MEETING and Kathie seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and the “ayes” carried the vote. The President and Secretary signed the updated Club Bylaws.

The July 13, 2024 Candidate Picnic was announced at the Scout House of Dallas White Park. Starting at 11:30am to 2:00pm. Bring a dish to pass and fee of \$10 per adult. Club to provide burgers, dogs and refreshments.

Matt, an aide to Mr. Buchanan made a few quick comments about legislative issues. Mark then reminded everyone that our next meeting will be April 22nd here at the Hampton Inn. Mr. Buchanan and Ms Pozzie will be featured with each speaking for 20-25 minutes and 5 minutes of questions from members only. They will both remain after the meeting for additional questions.

Note that the May meeting will be moved to the 3rd Monday due to Memorial Day. Location to be announced.

Mark will undergo open heart surgery this week. Mike will conduct next month’s meeting.

Meeting concluded about 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Patricoski, Secretary