

Meeting Called to Order at 6:03pm by Mike Patricoski, Vice President.

Invocation By: Mary Jepson

Pledge of Allegiance Led By: Sheriff Kurt Hoffman

Officials, Dignitaries and Candidates were welcomed to the Microphone to introduce themselves.

Audio and Video Recording are not permitted.

Mike began the meeting with the following announcements.

- Mark Frandsen is currently flying back from a family visit in Chicago. He will be here in about 30 minutes. We will have our speaker first and by then Mark should be here to conduct the election of club officers.
 - Jack Brill of the Sarasota REC reported Republican victories in various races and judgeships. He again emphasized the importance of retaining the 3 seat conservative majority on the School Board. The Primary is August of 2026. January 8th will be the Statesman Dinner. Details are to be finalized shortly. A local Republican will be honored as the Republican of the Year.
 - Mike reviewed details for the club Christmas Party on December 15th. It will be held at Tarpon Point beginning at 6 PM. The fee is \$35 per person. You may purchase tickets at the website or tonight from Joe Garren. You will be able to select from 4 Entrees: Burger Plate, Fish and Chips, Coconut Shrimp which is Gluten Free, and Seafood Risotto. You may make selections when registering on the website. Mark will call others for selection.
 - We are looking for Extra Halloween Candy to distribute at the North Port Poinsettia Parade on December 6th. See John or Patty Chihil or Mark with your donation.
 - This Christmas we will be helping the non-profit, Jessy's Toy Box. This group collects new and unwrapped toys and distributes them to children at Hospitals and Emergency Rooms throughout the area. This will be collected at the Christmas Party.
-

Mike then introduced the featured speaker, Sheriff Kurt Hoffman. Sheriff Hoffman has served our community for over 30 years first as a prosecutor and then in the Sheriff's department. He has held numerous positions within the Sheriff's Department and has received countless certifications and accreditations. We consider him the Best County Sheriff in Florida. Please Welcome Sheriff Kurt Hoffman

Sheriff Hoffman focused this evening on Immigration. His department has produced a 12 minute video to detail and clarify their work on this issue. It will be posted to most social media sites. Please view it.

Uncontrolled immigration under past administrations has allowed individuals from the Terrorist Watch List, prisoners from many countries, Chinese nationals, drugs and human traffickers to enter our country. In 2018, Sarasota County was one of 13 county Sheriff Offices in Florida to sign up for the 287G program to partner with ICE. This allows trained and authorized county sheriff deputies to perform specific immigration related tasks. This was initially implemented using the Jail Model.

Now with more administration support, they have expanded to add the Task Force Model which allows field operations. Sarasota County has 21 deputies that can serve warrants including Sheriff Hoffman. Sarasota County is a regional hub for Ice detainee deportations. Serving Sarasota, Manatee and Hardee counties.

ICE has provided vans for duly processed illegal alien criminals to be transported directly to Tampa for deportation. The department is reimbursed for their work with ICE.

The Sheriff also spoke of the horrific statistic of 540,000 unaccompanied minors. The whereabouts and conditions of these children is largely unknown. They have rescued some of these children during arrests of criminal illegal aliens. He discussed the over 100 arrests made in September and October and the crimes of those arrested.

There are also programs that allow for illegal aliens that cooperate with law enforcement or are victims of crimes to permit a fast-track of visas (U VISA). It is not all about deporting everyone. He is aware of about 50 so far that have earned this option. He also spoke of the E-Verify employer program for those employing 25 or more. It is a felony to fraudulently report as an employer or employee. He will continue to pursue criminals, both citizens and non-citizens, to keep our county safe. He then took questions.

Jack Brill noted the 1 to 1000 ratio. There should be more than 1 law enforcement officer for every 1000 residents. Statewide the average is 1.66 per 1000. In Sarasota County it is 1.2 and we are a growing area. We are short about 120 deputies. The Sheriff noted that in March of 2025, over 600,000 persons came through the Sarasota Airport. There are 1.2 Million users of the Legacy Trail each year. Juvenile burglars and drug deals occur along the trail. More officers are needed. The department has 883 Vehicles and they drive 7 million miles per year. Supporting his budget requests goes beyond the needs for personnel.

Mark Frandsen, President arrived and then took over the meeting as planned. He first introduced Andrew Sias that will also be running for Charter Review Board. Mark also noted that at the October Picnic we had passed an amendment to the Bylaws to allow candidates for club officers to be members of less than 1 year. We are withdrawing that now because we did not follow proper notification per the Bylaws. The new board will address this issue in January.

For tonight's election, a winning candidate must receive 50% of the votes cast plus 1 vote to win. If no candidate is elected for a position, the new Board will appoint someone to fill the position. Terms for the new Board will be 2 years.

Mark began with the office of President. Slate Committee nominated him and he then asked for more nominees from the floor. No other nominees came forward. Mark was acclaimed winner by motion of Joe Justice and second by Sheriff Hoffman. **Mark Frandsen will continue as President.**

The Vice President office has 4 candidates that have been nominated by the Slate Committee. Mike Patricoski is stepping down from the position. Joe Justice, Joe Garren, Phil Stokes and Robert Sisson. Ballot cards were distributed and votes collected. Jerry Manegold and Karen Arlington conducted the counts. **Joe Garren is the new Vice President.**

The 2nd Vice President candidate from the committee was Mary Manegold. There were no nominees from the floor. Mary was acclaimed the winner. **Mary Manegold is the new 2nd Vice President.**

Secretary nominee from the committee was Marian Patricoski. There were no nominees from the floor. Marian was acclaimed the winner. **Marian Patricoski will continue as Secretary.**

The Office of Treasurer had no nominee from the slate committee. Mark made 3 calls for nominees from the floor. No one came forward. **The new Board will appoint a Treasurer in January.**

The Office of Member at Large nominee is John Chihil. Again no nominees from the floor and John was acclaimed the winner. **John Chihil will continue as the Member at Large.**

Finally, the Office of Sargent at Arms nominee is Mike Patricoski. Jerry Nicastro is stepping down due to other obligations. No nominees from the floor. Mike was acclaimed the winner. **Mike Patricoski is the new Sargent at Arms.**

This concluded the Election for Club officers. Mark wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Before the meeting adjourned, Jack Brill swore in all the newly elected club officers.

Meeting concluded at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Patricoski, Secretary