



## March Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/22/2023

Time: 3:00 PM

### Opening

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- HC School Board member, Mark Johnson lead opening prayer
- Full membership gave the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag

### Roll Call

- President Joe Wolff – Present
- Vice-President Mark Cioffi – Present
- Recording Secretary Chris Karpovich – Present
- Treasure Julie Karpovich – Present
- Sergeant-at-Arms Charlie De Cosa Jr – Present

### Elected Officials/Invited Guests Recognized

- Steve Champion - Hernando County Commissioner District 5
- Mark Johnson – Hernando County School Board member
- Justin Noe – Director of Outreach for US Congressman Bill Bilirakis

### Club Business

- Treasurer Report – given by Mark Cioffi (duties transferred to Julie Karpovich after this meeting)
  - Balance reported = \$1,876.91
    - Motion to accept = Charles De Cosa Jr.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept = Terry Delia
- Recording Secretary Report – given by Chris Karpovich
  - Reviewed abbreviated meeting minutes from February meeting, reported that detailed minutes are posted on WRC website
    - Motion to accept = John Delia
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept = Charles De Cosa Jr.
- President's Report – given by Joe Wolff
  - Reminded membership about Republican Club website: [www.wellingtonrc.com](http://www.wellingtonrc.com) and reiterated that detailed meeting minutes are posted on website.
  - Briefly covered 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment – no soldiers shall be quartered in private residences without owner consent and in a manner described by law.
  - Car 54 clip: Clip shows main actors driving but playing checkers while driving – point is to show how Biden/Harris are physically present in the White House but are focused on the wrong things allowing our country to fall apart: Banks failing, Loss in trust in healthcare due to COVID vaccine deaths on the rise were examples shared.
  - Shared book *Rise of the Fourth Reich* by Steve Deace and Daniel Horowitz and sent a copy to President Donald Trump. The book was delivered, and the receipt was signed by *Brandon*.



- Took a moment of silence for William L Partridge 3/26/1948 – 3/4/2023. He was a dedicated Republican and worked on many issues.
- The Hernando County Republican Club is hosting *Sean Spicer* on April 29, 2023. For more information, please visit the Wellington Republican Club website.
- Shared bullet points on how the Nazi's took power in Germany. The first point is that the Nazi's removed gun rights and confiscated them.
- Trivia Time – something new we are trying. We have Republican trivia book with over 1000 trivia questions. Chris Karpovich, Recording Secretary shared 6 Republican trivia questions. The feedback was positive therefore we plan to continue this member interactive portion of our meeting.

## **Guest Speaker**

- Guest Speaker: Steve Champion Hernando County Commissioner District 5 and owner of American Gun & Pawn and Tactical Supply & Surplus located in Brooksville.
  - Provided an update on the Constitutional Carry bill that is currently in our state government. The current bill does not support open carry, only concealed carry.
  - Suggested it is beneficial even with Constitutional Carry passing in Florida that one keeps or get a Florida conceal carry permit as many other states recognizes our permit. Also suggest picking up the Utah conceal carry permit as this will add more states.
    - WRC note: [www.usconcealedcarry.com/resources/ccw\\_reciprocity\\_map/](http://www.usconcealedcarry.com/resources/ccw_reciprocity_map/)
  - Spoke on SB7026 and how this law banned bump stocks and removed the rights of 18- to 20-year-olds to purchase a gun from a legal arms dealer in Florida, however they can purchase from a private party without issue.
  - Shared that the ATF as of April 1<sup>st</sup> will tighten up background checks to include 18- to 20-year-olds juvenile record. A move that Steve stated he supports, strengthening background checks.
  - Shared that arm braces are now illegal and anyone possessing one has until May 31, 2023 to either destroy the arm brace, surrender gun to the ATF or register with the ATF
    - WRC note: [www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-new-rule-address-stabilizing-braces-accessories-used-convert](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-new-rule-address-stabilizing-braces-accessories-used-convert) and further info on what an arm brace is: [www.concealedcarry.com/national/right-to-know-what-is-a-pistol-brace/](http://www.concealedcarry.com/national/right-to-know-what-is-a-pistol-brace/)
  - Steve shared that his store will conduct a background check for anyone for a \$5.00 fee.
  - Shared that many credit card companies are collecting data and sharing with the government about firearm related purchases. Steve has enacted a 3% upcharge for credit card purchases but there is zero upcharge for a pin debit purchase or cash.
  - Steve stated that “an armed society is a safe society”.
  - Hernando County has 5 Republican County commissioners
  - Shared that Hernando County has a severe deficit due to revenue short falls. This caused the county commissioners to evaluate spending plans and prioritize spending projects based on safety (law enforcement & fire), roads, garbage and higher used projects.
  - Hernando County currently has the cheapest garbage pickup in the State of Florida, and we have another 2 years on the current contract.
  - Steve covered impact fees and shared that any increase he believes should go to roads, law enforcement, fire, and parks.



## Elected Officials

- Mark Johnson, Hernando County School Board member provided an update.
  - Shared that there are 5 bills in Tallahassee:
    1. Ban teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity issues K to 12
    2. Moving away from 3 terms for school board to maximum of 2 terms
    3. Currently superintendents are appointed – this will now be an elected position
    4. Start times for school: Middle school shall not start before 8:00AM and High School shall not start before 8:30AM
    5. The Florida Department of Education is offering an opportunity for veterans to obtain a 5-year temporary teaching certificate for qualified candidates who have not yet earned their bachelor's degree.
  - Spoke about the anticipated future growth of Hernando County and the need for more schools. They are getting creative and coming up with cheaper options for more schools – one shared is to purchase old “box stores” and convert to schools. This is a cheaper option than building a new greenfield school.
  - Shared about Charter Schools – Hernando County currently has 3 charter schools around 330 students. There is a need for more schools on the east end and north end of the county.
  - Shared that there are three liberal board members that circumvent the process of oversight – citing a sole source given when this should not of been allowed. Mark and Shannon are working to ensure conservative values are heard and the processes set in place are followed.
  - School board meetings are normally held 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6:00PM of each month (check calendar on website to be sure). The meeting is held at the District Office-Board Room 919 N. Broad Street Brooksville, FL
- Justin Noe, Director of Outreach for US Congressman Bill Bilirakis – Florida District 12 (~80% Pasco, all of Hernando and all of Citrus Counties).
  - Shared that he is a lifelong resident of Hernando County.
  - Spent 20 years in the US Marine Corps, returned home after this military career.
  - Stated that he plans to visit our club more and possibly bring along our congressman – Bill Bilirakis.

## Door Prizes

- Ed Dunbar won a \$25 dollar gift certificate to Wellington Bar & Grill

## Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn = Charles De Cosa
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting adjournment = John Delia
- Meeting adjourned at 4:15PM

## Signatures

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Joe Wolff

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Date



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President

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Chris Karpovich

Recording Secretary (temporary)

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Date