



November Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/22/2023 Time: 3:00 PM

Wellington Club House Ball Room

Opening

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- Full membership gave the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.
- Pastor Jack Martin conducted the opening prayer.

Roll Call

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

Elected Officials/Invited Guests Recognized

- Congressman Gus Bilirakis, (R) 12th District Florida (Guest Speaker)
- Mark Johnson – Hernando County School Board Member
- Wellington HOA Board President, Jason Marques

Club Business

- Treasurer Report – presented by President Joe Wolff
 - Reviewed report and balance report = \$1,333.86
 - Motion to accept – Charles DeCosta Jr....2nd to accept – Terry Delia
- Recording Secretary Report – Secretary Position Absent October (Report Deferred)

Candidate Presentations

- As a result of the Guest Speaker reported to be arriving late... candidate comments were moved to beginning of meeting... the customary 3 mins was given to each
...In No Particular Order:
 - **Jack Martin** Candidate for Congress
 - Franklin's response to what type of government they gave us was "a Republican if you can keep it. President Reagan reminded us that



“freedom is never more than one generation from extinction.” We are at a crossroads and your choice this next election will answer them both.

- **James Judge** Candidate for Congress
 - My name is James Judge, I am a Christian, husband, businessman, Tampa Bay area native and U.S. Coast Guard Veteran who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I am running to represent Florida's 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives... I'm running against an incumbent that has a 60 percent rating as a conservative, he has a history of taking more than 3,700 special interest contributions and he blamed the death of George Floyd on Minneapolis police officers, calling it “murder.” I believe in the pursuit of truth, justice, term-limits, a balanced budget, limited government and returning America to her foundational values... Thank you for your support and God bless America!
- **Marvin Baynham** BOCC Dist-3 Candidate:
 - I'm Running Because it's time for Everyday Americans to be represented by Everyday Americans. I'm the Best Person Because as a first responder, I serve the community on duty, and I will apply the same integrity and compassion to serve the residents of Hernando County.
- **Mark Johnson** Sitting Member HCSB (See HCSB Report Below Comments)
- **Mark Cioffi** HCSB Candidate:
 - We need to have a better disciplined environment for both students and teachers. ...We need a 5- and 10-year plan for building schools. Portables are temporary facilities and are unacceptable as a long-term solution. There will be a Campaign Fundraiser venue uncertain

Mark Johnson – Hernando County School Board Member

- Announced the need for a new High School – currently high schools are running 95 – 110 % capacity and some students travel 1 ½ hours to and from school each day. Teachers received a \$2,600.00 raise.

President's Report – by Club President Joe Wolff

- Announced the screening of the movie, “Police State”. It will be shown on December 3rd at Timber Pines and December 27th at the Wellington Clubhouse Ballroom. @ 3pm (There is no regular meeting in December)
- The Clubs Christmas luncheon will be on December 21st @ 1pm
- Additionally, Congressman Bilirakis was running late but arrived in time to hear President Wolff discussing the recent release of January 6th Tapes and how



significant a violation of defendants constitutionally guaranteed rights to disclosure of all state evidence, including exculpatory evidence. Without full disclosure of available evidence nearly everyone currently in jail should be released immediately!

Guest Speaker – Gus Bilirakis, Congressman, Florida 12th District (Introduced)

- Congressman Bilirakis was introduced and after thanking the group for the invite he immediately agreed with Joe Wolff and stated: “we are going to do something for those wrongly imprisoned”
- The Congressman then professed that he is supporting and his support of Donald Trump for President. Trump is hosting a fundraiser for Bilirakis at Mar-a-Largo in Palm Beach. Bilirakis cited an example of a benefit to Hernando County while Trump was President – for 20 years an expansion of Ridge Road was proposed but not approved - until Trump got it done. Gus further touted that Trump would tackle our National Debt.
- There is a bill pending to cure Parkinsons Disease and Dementia, but Liberals are against the bill. Some so called “Liberals” are not just liberal, they are radical socialists and communists.
- Mr. Bilirakis further discussed his lifelong advocacy for U.S. Veterans. He has been instrumental in modernizing VA clinics and supported a new VA clinic in New Port Richey. Veterans are a big priority of the Congressman.
- He supports term limits for the Washington Government but only if the limits apply “across the board”.
- Additionally, the Congressman spoke highly of the new Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, and predicted good things to be accomplished as a result.

Annual Elections/Nominations

- President Wolff began by announcing the resignation of Chris Karpovich as Recording Secretary. Joe mentioned that Chris had been accepted an employment opportunity that would make it impossible to continue in the role of recording secretary. His resignation was being accepted with regret but a mutual a understanding of the necessity. Chris will remain an active member of the Club attending meetings when possible.
- President Wolff then opened the floor for Nominations for the Clubs Elected Positions:
(This is the normal bi-annual process during non-election years)
- President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary & Sgt-at-Arms.
- Terry Delia nominated Sandra Apone for the vacant position of Recording Secretary. The nomination was seconded by John Delia.
- No further nominations were put forward for any other board position.
- Sandra accepted the nomination and will take up the roll immediately.
- The 2024/25 Board of Officers for the Wellington Republican Club will be:
 - Joe Wolff President
 - Mark Cioffi Vice President
 - Julie Karpovich Treasurer
 - Sandra Apone Recording Secretary
 - Charlie DeCosa Sgt-at-Arms



Republican Trivia Time: 2 Trivia questions. Group Correctly Answered

Door Prizes

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

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn -
- 2nd meeting adjournment = Joe Wolff
- Meeting adjourned at 4:25PM

Signatures

Joe Wolff President

Date

Sandra Apone

Date