



America First SWFLC Membership Meeting Minutes
326 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice FL 34285 - February 11, 2026

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mike Stephenson-Vice President, Donna DeFiore-Treasurer, Luke OBrien-Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: by Mike Stephenson at 11:34 am.

OPENING CEREMONIES: Invocation - Barbara Vaughn; Pledge of Allegiance - Mike Stephenson; God Bless America - led by Randy Wedin.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes for January 14, 2026 were approved for adoption without objection.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report for January 2026 was not yet available, but upon cursory review, no significant differences were noted.

ELECTIONS were held for President and Second Vice-president:

Paula Miller, Chair of the Nominating Committee, led the voting process. There were forty-five available ballots based on the prior month's membership and current attendance. Candidates for President and 2nd Vice President were allowed to speak for 3 minutes each prior to the casting of ballots, with no question-and-answer session. No vote was held for the uncontested office of Secretary.

The election process was distinguished by multiple tie-votes for President, but the 3rd round of voting resulted in:

AFSWFLC President - **Barbara Vaughn** received the majority vote over Mike Stephenson. Mike will serve out his current term.

2nd Vice President - **Tom Babicz** received the majority vote over John Hallowell.

REMARKS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES:

Vic Rohe - Hospital Board - mentioned changes in future health services to include more processing of services over the phone and internet. He announced his candidacy for the State Senate, District 22 (Sarasota-Manatee), and solicited serious candidates for board-level positions on his campaign. His campaign platform is likely to: 1 - oppose any new Constitutional Convention (as a threat to the 1st Amendment); 2 - preserve local control/authority for County Commissioners; and 3 - ensure Health Freedom.

Teresa Dewitt - Candidate for Sarasota County School Board District 1 - from community counselling and family planning, to pushing back from Tom Edwards, to managing billion dollar budgets, she has done much of everything possible 'on this side of the podium' as a conservative force for the Sarasota County School Board.

FEATURED SPEAKER:

Joe Neunder - Sarasota County Commissioner Dist 4, Sarasota County State Republican Committeeman, 37 year resident, and family man. He is running for a second (4-yr) term as Sarasota County Commissioner. One of his first initiatives was Midnight Pass Commissioner, directing the continued open access through Midnight Pass. In his second year as County Commissioner, he was on board with lowering the millage rate on homesteaded properties. Year 3 was his opportunity to proffer many accepted suggestions on dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Idalia.



More recently, Dr. Neunder has been involved in a Storm Mitigation project at Gulf Gate, and a mosquito management project with a new building on Laurel Road to come forth in March. Concurrent with his civic responsibilities, Joe manages a successful solo Chiropractor practice. His email is: jneunder@scgov.net

Considerable attention was given to a question-and-answer period, and Joe swore-in the new Board Members: Barbara Vaughn - President; Tom Babicz - Second Vice President; and Dan Gauthier - Secretary

ADJOURNMENT: There was a Motion to Adjourn at 1:00 pm by Conni Brunni.

SUBMITTED BY: Luke OBrien, Secretary

Approved – x