



America First SWFLC Membership Meeting Minutes
326 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice FL 34285 - October 08, 2025

Officers Present: Mike Stephenson-Vice President, Donna DeFiore-Treasurer, Luke OBrien-Secretary

Call to Order: by Mike Stephenson at 11:29 am.

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

Treasurer's Report: Donna DeFiore reported that for August 2025, a Beginning Balance of \$5,388.55; Total Receipts of \$1,139.31; and Total Expenses of \$4,157.09 - leaving an Ending Balance of \$2,370.77. The report was filed for audit.

The hearing of RCSSC and RPOF as plaintiffs, against AFSWFLC was announced, with Judge Danielle Brewer presiding. It was scheduled for 13 Oct at 9am - South County Courthouse, Anderson Building. (Case Number:2024 CA 001939 SC)

Secretary's Report: Paper copies of the proposed September minutes were distributed and were available online for review at: <https://americafirstswflc.org/minutes-1>. Having called for objections or amendments, and hearing none, the minutes were approved for adoption.

Old Business:

Details for our December 10th Christmas Luncheon, and a link to purchase tickets will be made available today at <https://americafirstswflc.org/christmas-luncheon>

New Business:

Remarks by Elected Officials:

Vic Rohe - Hospital Board - announced the Hospital millage rate, 1.0420 - unchanged; an interactive spreadsheet; progress on the new hospital in North Port on Sumpter Blvd and I-75 for 2027; and sign-up sheets to have letters hand-delivered regarding the repeal of Florida's call for an Article V Convention.

Candidates Report:

Michelle Pozzie - candidate for Sarasota County School Board District 5 to replace Karen Rose, was appointed by Gov. DeSantis to fill the vacancy of Tim Enos. She expressed determination to re-imagine the educational system and fulfill the Mission Statement for Sarasota County Schools: *Engage, elevate, and empower every student, every day!*

Nominations have begun for President, 2nd Vice-President, and Secretary, and will continue each month thru January, with the exception of the month of December.

for President - Mike Stephenson was nominated by Randy Wedin, seconded by Rick Mikluscak.

for 2nd Vice-President - Tom Babicz - nominated by Sharon Bellendir; seconded by Randy Wedin

for Secretary - the nomination for Luke OBrien by Rich Mazur was declined.

Membership Renewal for 2026 is \$35 per single and \$60 per couple.



Featured Speaker(s)

Michelle Pozzie - as director of the Countywide Headquarters for Turning Point USA, announced a TPUSA HQ Kickoff and Cookout at the Maxine Barrett Pavilion in Venice for Sunday 12 October from 3:30 pm-6:30 pm.

Michael Sabga - Florida Field Coordinator for the John Birch Society, provided 'An Introduction to the John Birch Society'. Mr. Sabga informed us as to many tools which the John Birch Society provides for the purpose of informing ourselves, reaching out to others, and to take back control of Congress. Such tools include:

- Educational Materials - books; literature; the New American Magazine - a monthly printed and online publication with timely articles about current events [<https://thenewamerican.com/>]
- A Home-Schooling project - Freedom College Academy [FreedomProject Academy] that offers a fully accredited, Common Core free, Classical education for Kindergarten through High School. [<https://jbs.org/education/fpa/>]
- Action Alerts - personal notifications via email or phone with details on critical upcoming legislation. Action Alerts, available regardless of membership, contain a link to automatically contact your representatives. Sign up at: <https://jbs.org/subscribe/>
- The Freedom Index - a biannual rating of members of Congress on how closely they follow the Constitution [<https://thefreedomindex.org/>]
- A Scorecard - a voting record score of Congresspersons based on legislative adherence to the U.S. Constitution [<https://thenewamerican.com/freedom-index/report/scorecard-119-1/>]

Many such tools are provided for free to non-members.

Mr. Sabga encouraged us to contact our representatives with regard to H.R.3245 — a bill to repeal The USA PATRIOT Act, a.k.a. the “*American Privacy Restoration Act*”, introduced by Representative Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL-13)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/3245>

<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

He also provided a synopsis of the forthcoming event at the Hollow entitled: 'Blueprint for Liberty' on Nov 15th, at 10am. He fielded questions and comments, and offered to return upon request.

Adjournment: There was a Motion to Adjourn at 12:59 pm by Randy Wedin.

Submitted by: Luke OBrien, Secretary

Approved – x