JF Roulet, Commander

ABC OCTOBER 25 2026 Meeting at Teiss'Cedar Key Home

Present: 30 members

Minutes

Overview

Members of the **Gainesville Boating Club** discussed organizational challenges related to declining membership, leadership transitions, and upcoming social events.

Organizational Status

Wendy confirmed that the website **GainesvilleBoatingClub.org** remains active for calendar events, newsletters, and educational resources. The commander expressed concern over low meeting response rates and requested that members use the RSVP functions to assist hosts. **Seth** was tasked with checking on outstanding dues before prices double at the end of the month.

Membership Trends The group discussed the **SOS** initiative aimed at increasing transparency within the national organization regarding long-term strategic planning and funding. **Lisa** emphasized a critical leadership gap in **District 23**, noting that current leaders are filling multiple roles, including Commander, XO, Administrative Officer, and Secretary. She warned that if more volunteers do not step up to fill bridge positions, **District 23** may fold, forcing local squadrons to join different districts and face significantly higher dues.

Upcoming Events

The club outlined several scheduled activities for the remainder of the year:

- November 7: Veterans Day event on Lake Santa Fe involving a pontoon boat provided by **Seth**.
- November 21: A birthday party hosted by **Francois**
- December 5: A holiday party hosted by **Lorraine** and **David**, featuring a White Elephant gift exchange starting at 5:00 PM.

Leadership Transitions

The "Change of Watch" presents significant challenges for squadron management. While current officers include Francois (President), Jerry (Vice President), Seth (Treasurer), and Della (Secretary), there is an urgent need for new volunteers to prevent burnout and ensure continuity. Discussion focused on adapting the club's identity beyond traditional "squadron" terminology to better attract members in an era when social and educational needs are increasingly met online through platforms like YouTube.

Action Items

- Post upcoming club events on GainesvilleBoatClub.org today.

Outline

Website and Membership Updates

- Speaker 2 confirmed that the website GainesvilleBoatingClub.org remains active for calendar events, photos, newsletters, and educational resources.
- The Commander requested a higher response rate for meeting RSVPs to assist hosts in planning attendance.
- Seth will check on membership dues status to identify members who have not yet completed the process through the national organization.
- Members were reminded that dues prices will double at the end of this month.

Organizational Challenges and SOS Initiative

- An initiative called SOS has been launched to address declining membership across national, district, and local levels.
- The squadron provided feedback regarding a strategic plan to encourage more transparency from the national organization concerning finances and long-term goals.
- A letter titled "District 23: Our Future Is in Your Hands" was distributed to highlight concerns about leadership participation.

District 23 Leadership Crisis

- Lisa Harris explained that District 23 is facing a critical shortage of officers, with only two people currently covering four roles.
- Lisa stated she will not accept the position of Commander unless a full bridge of officers is established first.
- If District 23 folds due to lack of participation, local squadrons would have to join other districts, likely resulting in significantly higher dues.
- Members were encouraged to volunteer for district-level positions, noting that training and support are provided for new officers.

Squadron Leadership Transition

- The club discussed upcoming leadership changes at the squadron level, referred to as "Change of Watch."
- Current officers include President Francois, Vice President (Speaker 1), Treasurer Seth, and Secretary Della.
- There is an expressed need for volunteers to step into various leadership roles within the club as current terms end.

Upcoming Club Events and Socials

- A Veterans Day event is scheduled for November 7 on Lake Santa Fe involving a pontoon boat provided by Seth.
- Francois is hosting a birthday party at his home on November 21, which requires RSVPs from attendees.
- Laraine and David will host a holiday White Elephant party on December 5 starting at 5:00 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM.

Closing Remarks and Fellowship

- Members discussed the changing nature of social clubs and the importance of providing value through social and educational activities.
- Robin provided fresh cut flowers from her yard for members to take home as gifts.
- The meeting concluded with an invitation for all attendees to stay for ice cream after the formal business ended.

Sig. David Roque