



WHITE SANDS PANHANDLERS Chapter Newsletter/Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 2023 CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCTION

The October Meeting was held at Twin Lakes RV Resort in DeFuniak Springs, FL on Thursday, October 5th.

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Moniz, Elaine Ciardello gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The officers present were Paul Moniz, President; Chuck Kuzma, Secretary; and Carol Kuzma Treasurer.

Members present were Leroy & Shelene Armacost, Carmen & Elaine Ciardello, Rob & Jane Krauss, Chuck & Carol Kuzma, Lisa Lyons, Paul & Margie Moniz, Mike & Cheryl Schmitz and Bob Zeller. New member Lisa Lyons and Rob & Jane Krauss were welcomed to the chapter. Mike Holcomb came to the meeting as a guest and left the muster as a new SMART member and will be sending in his chapter member application.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The reading of the minutes of the previous Chapter Meeting were waived. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. The motion was passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was provided by Carol Kuzma, Treasurer.

Beginning Balance as of August 31, 2023		\$1,067.21
<u>Expenses</u>		
Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, Eglin	\$ 100.00	
Krauss refund of overpayment of dues	<u>\$ 15.00</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>\$ 115.00</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 10.00	
Chapter Swinger Sales	\$ 20.00	
September 50/50	<u>\$ 28.00</u>	
Total Income		<u>\$ 58.00</u>
Ending Balance as of September 30, 2023		<u>\$1,010.21</u>

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chuck Kuzma presented a heartfelt thank you card from Fisher House for our chapter's donation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine Committee: Carol Kuzma reported that if you know of a member that needs to receive a sympathy, get well card or a thinking of you/missing you card or greeting from the chapter, please contact Carol directly with the information. She can be reached at ckuzma116@cox.net or by phone at 850 217-2586.

Survivor Assistance Program Chair, Mike Schmitz briefed that personal assistance is available for surviving military members and spouses should the passing of a spouse occur. He also pointed out that the requirement to place a house in a trust to avoid Probate is not necessary

if the house is titled in the names of both spouses and a third person, should both spouses pass on. Information on the program is available on the SMART website, www.smartrving.com. Mike can be contacted at amimjs@yahoo.com or 850 572-3370.

Muster Committee. Paul Moniz stated that based on input from chapter members, new RV park locations are being researched with nightly rates of \$50 or less after discounts, which include the use of a club house. Although a club house is not always a necessity, it is desirable for preparation of meals and playing indoor games. As the Chapter Activity schedule is developed for 2024-25. It will be emailed to all members and placed on the SMART chapter website. He is going to introduce a Kick-Off- of the Fall camping season each year with an **August, End-of-Summer Social Muster** with no meal preparations and a pot-luck dinner. He is anticipating a 3-4-night muster with the number of nights of individual attendance being a variable based on individual member's availability.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Paul wants to **emphasize** that should no-one step up to perform as Host or Co-Host for a Muster, the Muster dinner would be Potluck and would be scheduled on the Wednesday of the Muster. Also, for anyone attending that would like to present a breakfast, that a \$5 per couple, \$2.50 per person fee would be asked of those attending to pay the volunteer cooks for the cost of the food for the breakfast. Only one breakfast would be necessary unless two would like to be prepared. Cookware, cooking utensils and basic supplies will be provided by the Chapter. The Chapter Secretary will provide an inventory of items available to support all meal preparations for musters. Breakfast preparers only need to make the food purchases with the funds provided, prepare and serve the meal(s). This will offer new members the opportunity to learn hosting with a minimum of experience and frustration. If no one attending wants to present a breakfast, then only a Pot-Luck dinner will be scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS – Leroy & Shelene Armacost were thanked for hosting a great muster. The weather was perfect, the meals delicious and the and the activities were great fun. The meals include a breakfast of Cereal, yogurt, fruit & honey buns, two continental breakfasts of honey buns and yogurt and one of biscuits & gravy. Of course, coffee, juice and milk accompanied all of them. A German Oktoberfest dinner of Yaeger Schnitzel, Spätzle, red cabbage & rolls with eclairs & Ice-cream for dessert. Everyone enjoyed bean bag baseball and card bingo. A dinner in town at Bogey's Restaurant on Prime Rib Wednesday rounded out the week. The 50/50 drawing winners were Bob Zeller, \$15 and Carmen Ciardello, \$40. Carmen thanked Paul for talking him into buying 50/50 tickets.

NEW BUSINESS – Paul announced that **SMART regions are being combined.** The NE & SE regions are now combined into the Eastern Region, the NC & SC regions are combined into the Central Region, The NMW & SMW Regions are now combined into the Midwest Region, and the NW & SW regions are not combined into the Western Region. This reduces the number of geographic regions from 8 to 4 regions. Those regions that are activity oriented remain the same. This will allow each of the regions a greater chapter base to draw upon for activity support.

The 2024 **SMART national Muster** will be held in Charleston, SC on September 16-20 with the 21 being a departure day. The 2024 **Central Region Muster** will be held in November in North Lake Pontchartrain, LA. With exact dates to be announced. Additional information on these two events will be posted on the SMART website as it becomes available.

The **November Chow Call** will be held on the 9th at Hideaway Pizza on Main Street in Crestview, FL. Mark your calendars and plan to attend, might even greet some folks you haven't seen in a while. It's an easy drive and the pizza is superb. The **December Holiday Muster** Will be held in Foley, AL at Anchors Aweigh RV Resort from December 4-7, with Dec 4th an early arrival day and Dec 8th being the departure day. Paul Margie Moniz and Chuck & Carol Kuzma are the Hosts. Information on these two events will be forthcoming in an email.

Our chapter **annual dues increase will take effect on January 1, 2024**. The dues for a member would be \$10/year with new members paying initial dues of \$10 plus a \$5 Initiation fee. Current members and new members pay their 2024 dues and new member that join prior to January 1 will pay only \$5 for their 2024 dues. Current members that have not paid their 2023/2024 dues have been notified by email. If no dues due email, you're good for 2024.

CLOSING

Paul Moniz thanked everyone for coming and hoped that with the coming of the fall camping season the turn-out for chapter musters and Chow Calls would pick up. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned. The winners of the 50/50 drawing were Carol Kuzma, \$8 and Paul Moniz, \$20.

Prepared by: Chuck Kuzma, Secretary

Approved by: Paul Moniz, President