

**Minutes**  
**Institute for Senior Professionals**  
**February 20, 2007, 7:30 a.m.**  
**Gallery, Building K**

**Members Present:**

Eileen Arpke	Bill Hall	Fred Pryor
Dave Bechtold	David Keener	Larmon Salmon
Stan Berg	Don Litke	Joe Staton
Robert Billingsley	Sam Mac Nulty	John Streit
Steve Cherny	Bill Maxson	Van Swenson
Jim Durham	Gary McMillin	George Wagner
Mike Flynt	Jane Meigs	Dann Wallis
Bob Garcia	Bob Milligan	Loyal Weaver
Mack Gay	Charlie Morris	Rae Williams
Audrey Hains		

**Members Absent:**

Dale Blanchard	Inez Hall	John Vaughan
Russell Christesen	Doug Harvell	Barbara Wall
George Dean	Annette Register	Roger Wallis
Howard Dimmig	Tom Reynolds	Al Weidenbusch
Ben Grafton	Sy Shwiller	

**Others Present:**

Jim Chitwood  
Phil Hoge  
Robin Safley  
Becky Tislow

**Guest Speaker:**

Sandy Safley

**Call to Order**

Call to Order

David Keener called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. Mike Flynt delivered the Invocation after which Dave Bechtold led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guest Speaker**

Mr. Sandy Safley, former legislator and Florida insurance lawyer was the guest speaker.

**Introduction of Guests**

Jim Chitwood introduced Phil Hoge. Mr. Hoge retired after 31 years in the Army; an architect and civil engineer, Mr. Hoge was also the Director of Economic Development for the City of St. Louis prior to moving to Florida.

## College Report

Jim Chitwood reported that Dr. Richburg is in Tallahassee to petition the State Board of Education to grant OWC authority to award bachelor's degrees in elementary education and middle school Science and Math education; the final home basketball game against Chipola JC will be held Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>; "Taming of the Shrew" is the student production to be presented in the Sprint Theater; conceptual drawings for the Community Services Complex will be brought to the District Board of Trustees in March; the opera, "Don Giovanni" will be presented March 17 in The Arts Center.

## Chairman's Report

David thanked Audrey Hains for chairing the January meeting in his absence. He noted the death of Dr. Henry Register, husband of ISP member Annette Register; several ISP members attended Dr. Register's funeral and flowers were sent in his memory.

## Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the January 16, 2007 meeting were approved as presented. **Motion, Bob Garcia; Second, Bill Maxson. Motion carried.**

## Treasurer's Report

Bob Garcia presented the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$5,242.87.

## Committee Reports

### Program

Van Swenson announced upcoming guest speakers, March, Elaine Courtney, University of Florida Extension Agency; April, Congressman Jeff Miller (County Commissioner John Janazzo will be the back-up, if necessary); May, Florida Senator, Don Gaetz; and June, the incoming Test Wing Commander.

Van announced that there would be a seminar on Citizen's Property Insurance on March 1<sup>st</sup> in the Gallery, Building K.

### Membership

Bill Hall said the Membership Committee met with applicant, Darrell James, and recommends him for membership. **Motion, Bill Hall; second, Audrey Hains. Motion carried.** The recommendation will be forwarded to Dr. Richburg for his administrative action.

### Social

Bob Garcia said the Spring Social would be held April 28, 2007 at the Eglin Yacht Club. More information will follow at the March meeting.

## Project Opportunities

Dave Bechtold said the Emerald Coast Barbershop Singers would like ISP to develop a marketing plan for their organization. He and new member, Darrell James, will meet with Barbershop representatives after the last concert in March.

In response to a question from David Keener, Eileen Arpke noted that Loyal Weaver judged entrees at the recent Regional Science Fair. Loyal said there was a great need for additional judges, and, hopefully, requests for assistance will come earlier for next year's competition.

David read a letter from Ms. Donna Miller, Assistant County Administrator for Okaloosa County requesting ISP review the county's current courier route with a critical eye toward adding pick-up locations and adjusting the number of pick-ups per day. **Motion to accept, Don Litke; second, Mack Gay. Motion carried.**

David read a letter from Ms. Michelle Severino, Heritage Museum Executive Director, requesting ISP conduct a feasibility study for a capital campaign to renovate and expand the museum's facilities and develop a business plan for a shop and book store. **Motion to accept, Rae Williams; second, Mack Gay. Motion carried.**

Van Swenson said Dr. Karen Chapman, Okaloosa County Health Department, spoke with him about ISP conducting health assessments. He will obtain more information from Dr. Chapman and take the request to the Executive Committee.

Loyal Weaver said the Chipola Regional Arts Association approached him about their quest to build a Fine Arts facility at Chipola Junior College similar to the one on OWC's Niceville Campus. Loyal passed this information along to Dr. Richburg.

## Freeport Study

Bill Maxson said he and Steve Cherny are meeting with the Freeport City Council to evaluate the city's Comprehensive Plan that is due August 1, 2007.

## Horizons of Okaloosa County

Joe Staton reported that Horizon's childcare facility has reached its maximum capacity that would seem to justify a new facility. He said the task force would assess the facility's present capabilities and demands in light of those predicted. He said there are 4,000 children in Okaloosa County who receive subsidized child care.

## Critical Issues Focus Groups

### Environment and Natural Resources

Loyal Weaver said the group is building a library of environmental work to be housed in the college's library and is maintaining awareness of any environmental regulations on the local, state or national level. He said the Greenway Project is on the Air Force's agenda, but there has been no immediate action; the Yellow River Dam seems to be a dead issue. The Northwest Florida Water Management District briefed the Okaloosa County Commission and concluded

that the Yellow River Reservoir is not a feasible project. The Army Corps of Engineers said the dam could be built, but asked if it is necessary and economical. The dam would require \$700 million and ten (10) acres for the reservoir which would demand major land acquisition. Some alternatives to the Yellow River Dam that are doable are the Bear Creek Reservoir (\$84.9 million); West Dog Creek Reservoir, (\$86 million); Shoal River Diversion (\$55.8 million); and River Bank Filtration (\$88.6 million)

Loyal discussed the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA). He said the group's oyster shell reef project was very successful, and suggested a workshop on Advanced Water Treatment Plants that reclaim excess water that occurs only during heavy rainfall. Loyal spoke to a Plasma Arc Gasification of Solid Waste plant that is being built in St. Lucie County. The plant will eliminate a land fill, produce steam to sell to industry and will turn waste into slag to be used by the roads department. Loyal is attempting to obtain additional information about the plant since it is something in which municipalities should be interested.

Mike Flynt said the CBA hired Julie Terrell as the new Executive Director; she is doing major work in public outreach and education.

### Transportation

Bill Maxson said the 98 Corridor Master Plan, its costs and alternatives, will be presented to the public March 1, 2007, 4 p.m. at the Ramada Beach Resort across from the Emerald Coast Conference Center.

### Disaster Response

Stan Berg said the task force is making contact with groups involved in disaster response.

### Workforce Housing

Fred Pryor said that, due to declining housing costs, things have changed since the task force was formed.

### Citizens Involvement

Eileen Arpke reported that Doug Harvell will meet with tax watch organizations to explore interests and objectives.

### **Sustaining Support**

#### Web Site

David Keener suggested that any member who is having difficulty connecting to the ISP website should contact Tom Reynolds.

#### Prime Time

Dave Bechtold reported that Prime Time has 56 classes with 641 seats currently filled; more are expected to be filled prior to classes beginning. This should match the numbers for the 2005 Prime Time season, the largest on record.

## **Around the Room**

Fred Pryor noted that John Vaughan had quadruple heart by-pass surgery in Birmingham, AL. Becky will send a card.

Dave Bechtold reminded members of the Schola Cantorum/Madrigal Singers concert to be held March 24, 2007.

Stan Berg said the League of Women Voters will hold a Candidate Forum for the City of Fort Walton Beach on March 1, 2007, 7 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

## Meeting Time

After some discussion on the pros and cons of ISP breakfast meetings, it was decided to hold breakfast meetings through the current ISP year, with members to vote again in June to determine the time of meetings for the 2007-08 year. **Motion, Mack Gay; second, Dave Bechtold. Motion carried.**

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.