

**Minutes**  
**Institute for Senior Professionals**  
**January 15, 2008, 7:30 a.m.**  
**Gallery, Building K**

**Members present:**

Eileen Arpke	Ben Grafton	Charlie Morris
Dave Bechtold	Audrey Hains	Tom Reynolds
Stan Berg	Bill Hall	Larmon Salmon
Dale Blanchard	Inez Hall	John Vaughan
Steve Cherny	Doug Harvell	George Wagner
Russell Christesen	Darrell James	Barbara Wall
George Dean	David Keener	Dann Wallis
Howard Dimmig	Don Litke	Roger Wallis
Jim Durham	Bill Maxson	Loyal Weaver
Bob Garcia	Gary McMillin	Al Weidenbusch
Mack Gay	Jane Meigs	Rae Williams

**Members absent:**

Mike Flynt	Fred Pryor	Van Swenson
Philip Hoge	Annette Register	
Sam Mac Nulty	John Streit	

**Others present:**

Bob Richburg  
Becky Tislow  
Gary Yancey

**Guest Speaker:**

State Representative Ray Sansom

**Call to Order**

Audrey Hains called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Introduction of Guests**

Russell Christesen introduced his guest, former ISP member, Jack Kent, who is visiting from Minnesota.

**Guest Speaker**

Florida State House of Representatives Member, Ray Sansom

**College Report**

Dr. Richburg commented on the following:

- The District Board of Trustees is expected to give final approval to the specifications for bidding the Community Services Center. The Okaloosa County Commission has already reviewed the documents.
- The Northwest Florida Heritage Museum will appear before the District Board of Trustees to present a plan to re-locate the museum to the college's Niceville Campus. Dr. Richburg has talked with Ms. Michelle Severino and let her know that funds must come from somewhere other than the college.
- This semester OWC will serve the most students in its history. Enrollment is up 7-9 percent.

### **Chairperson's Remarks**

Audrey noted that Becky has new inserts for the Directors' Guide and that members should pick up a copy and replace the pages in their current notebook.

She also called attention to two opportunities for member involvement and encouraged members to volunteer to assist with these projects: Mu Alpha Theta competition, February 9<sup>th</sup> and the OWC/BAE SYSTEMS Math Bowl, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Audrey announced that former member, Robert Behr passed away in December and that current member, W. Robert Billingsley passed away soon after the first of the year. The Executive Committee approved a memorial gift, in keeping with ISP policy, to Children in Crisis in memory of Mr. Billingsley.

### **Business Meeting**

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the November 20, 2007 meeting were approved, as presented (Motion: Howard Dimmig; Second: Bob Garcia. Approved unanimously).

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Steve Cherny provided the treasurer's report. The balance in the account is \$6,535.84.

#### **Program Committee**

Bill Hall presented the upcoming program schedule:

February – Bob Milligan

March – Gabe Woods

April – Lenore Wilson

#### **Membership Committee**

Barbara Wall reviewed the membership process as listed on Page 15 in the Directors' Guide. She moved that ISP approve membership for Joseph Konecsni and William Lord; second, Dave Bechtold. Motion approved unanimously. Dr. Richburg will send a written letter of invitation to each of these newly elected directors.

#### **Social Committee Reports**

Tom Reynolds said the Christmas Social went very well and that the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club enjoyed having ISP members as guests. He booked the 2008 Christmas Social at the Yacht Club and asked members to reserve December 11, 2008 on their calendars.

Bob Garcia reported that 35 members and guests toured the EOD School and ate lunch with the troops.

### **Active Projects:**

#### **Walton County y Local Mitigation Strategy Report**

Bill Maxson said Walton County is currently briefing municipalities on the report prepared by the ISP task force. After the municipalities approve, the report should move to the state by the end of the month. The ISP task force wrote the plan with the exception of portions that only the county could provide and offered to assist in finishing the report if needed. Unless task force members are contacted by Walton County officials, the project should be considered completed.

### **Heritage Museum**

Inez Hall said the museum's Board of Directors has some critical issues it must resolve prior to ISP assisting; therefore, the task force is dormant until the museum contacts her.

In response to a question regarding the museum moving to the college, Inez said the museum is growing and, if able to move to the Niceville campus, would be in a central location and could possibly have joint projects with the college. George Wagner complimented the leadership and growth of the museum's board over the last few years.

Don Litke cautioned those working with the museum that if it plans to building a new facility, it will cost a lot more to build on college property as opposed to public land because of state-mandated building codes.

### **Walton County Domestic Violence Committee**

No report.

### **Air Force Armament Museum**

In the absence of John Streit, Russell Christesen provided a report on ISP's assisting the museum in its efforts to raise funds for a new educational facility. John Streit, Mack Gay, Mike Flynt, George Wagner and Russell Christesen met with the museum's director and outlined needs for fund-raising. Construction on the \$1.8 million facility s scheduled to begin later in the year. To date, \$1 million has been raised. The museum has selected a design/build architect and Jim Chitwood provided expert advice on grant-writing and fund-raising.

The Engineers for America are involved in this project. Howard Dimmig briefed the group on the purpose of the EFA.

### **Critical Issues Focus Groups**

Audrey noted that each focus group chairperson was asked to submit a written synopsis of what is happening with each group and to provide both short-term and long-term goals as well as activities in which the group has been involved. Copies were provided for all members.

### **Workforce Housing**

No report.

### **Disaster Response**

Stan Berg said the primary purpose of the Disaster Response Focus Group is to enhance the ISP's capacity to make constructive contributions to disaster response programs in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. The group's goal is to use what the group has gained from contacts to carry out one or more constructive projects that will improve the response to disasters in at least one of the counties. The group also wants to continue what it's doing now in Okaloosa County and expand its contacts into Walton County. Needed are members from Walton County.

### **Citizen Involvement**

Doug Harvell said this focus group assisted the MPO in revising their citizens involvement procedures for public projects, developed the "Let's Get Involved" manual to inform citizens concerning the need for and how to become involved in local government and civic projects and issues. The focus group explored establishing an independent citizens "tax watch" organization which led to the Okaloosa Citizens' Alliance, a non-profit and educational citizens organization chartered by the State of Florida. The goal is to encourage members to be involved citizens by keeping abreast of critical goal issues, gathering information from local civic groups and keeping ISP members informed.

### **Transportation**

Bill Maxson reported that the group will remain aware of transportation issues that impact the community and keep ISP membership informed. The group tracked activities and decisions relating to the Mid Bay Bridge Authority, Emerald Coast Bridge Authority, Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization, and the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority. The goal is to encourage member interest in long-range transportation planning but, presently, are waiting for opportunities to serve.

### **Environment and Natural Resources**

Loyal Weaver said members can conduct individual research and can respond to requests by local agencies for assistance on environmental issues. As past accomplishments, the group completed a white paper detailing a business and marketing plan to improve operation of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA). The group's goal is to maintain intellectual credibility, and do good works that have a positive impact on local awareness of critical issues or quality of life. The focus group is looking into bringing Plasma Arc Gasification of Municipal Solid Waste to our area to eliminate landfills; and explore domestic solar or wind-powered electrical generation systems. As this focus group incorporates many of the other focus groups, members interested in becoming an active part of this focus group were asked to contact Loyal.

### **Sustaining Reports**

#### **Webpage**

No report.

#### **Prime Time**

Dann Wallis said 525 individuals have registered for spring semester Prime Time offerings. Many classes are full and several maintain waiting lists.

#### **Around the Room**

Darrel James reported the annual Emerald Coast Barbershop Chorus Concert will be held February 23, 2008 in the Kelly Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Stan Berg said the League of Women Voters held a forum on the upcoming constitutional amendment ballot question and more than 50 people attended.

Loyal Weaver said he would like to see some legislation to force utility companies to buy back electricity generated by solar or wind power.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.