

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

**Members Present:**

Eileen Arpke	Audrey Hains	Fred Pryor
Dave Bechtold	Bill Hall	Tom Reynolds
Stan Berg	Inez Hall	John Streit
Dale Blanchard	Doug Harvell	Van Swenson
Steve Cherny	Darrell James	George Wagner
Russell Christesen	David Keener	Barbara Wall
Howard Dimmig	Sam Mac Nulty	Roger Wallis
Jim Durham	Bill Maxson	Loyal Weaver
Mike Flynt	Jane Meigs	Al Weidenbusch
Bob Garcia	Charlie Morris	

**Members Absent:**

Robert Billingsley	Gary McMillin	Sy Shwiller
George Dean	Robert Milligan	John Vaughan
Ben Grafton	Annette Register	Dann Wallis
Don Litke	Larmon Salmon	Rae Williams

**Others Present:**

Bob Richburg  
Becky Tislow

**Guest Speaker:**

Elaine Courtney, University of Florida Extension Service

**Call to Order**

David Keener called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Tom Reynolds delivered the Invocation after which Van Swenson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guest Speaker**

Ms. Elaine Courtney, University of Florida Extension Service, spoke on the “Okaloosa Saves” program.

**College Report**

Dr. Richburg said the college’s proposals for two Teacher Education programs were unanimously approved by the State Board of Education. Beginning with the Fall 2008 semester, the college will be able to award baccalaureate degrees in Elementary Education and Middle School Science and Math Education. Both programs, which have the full support of Okaloosa and Walton County school superintendents, will have endorsements in Reading and Special Education.

Dr. Richburg said the college’s Americorps Program is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year and annually has 30-40 students working with literacy programs in our two-county district. The Americorps Program also has 15 students working under Mr. Brian Shonk, Director of Public Safety, in the Disaster Response area studying Disaster Shelter Management.

Dr. Richburg noted that the college's District Board of Trustees looks forward to approving naming the Mattie Kelly Fine and Performing Arts Center, approving the Mattie Kelly Scholarship in the Fine and Performing Arts, approving a Mattie Kelly Endowed Teaching Chair in Music and Conducting and a Mattie Kelly Endowed Teaching Chair in Environmental Science. With these actions, the Kelly Estate issue will be brought to conclusion.

College enrollment is up by 4 percent due in part to the programs in Homeland Security, Disaster Response and Radiography. The OWC Foundation's College Courtyard Apartments will be ready for occupancy in early July. Rental rates have been approved, with five or six units designated for use by incoming faculty.

### **Chairman's Report**

David said that Bob Milligan is working as a Consumer Advocate on insurance and tax issues in Tallahassee, but will attend as many ISP meetings as possible. David read a letter of resignation from Joe Staton, who has taken a job with Raytheon and will be moving to AZ.

Meeting Dates for the remainder of the ISP year are April 17, May 15 and June 19. The Spring Fling will be held April 28 at the Eglin Yacht Club.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting were approved as presented. **Motion, Dave Bechtold; second, Bob Garcia. Motion carried.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Garcia presented the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$4,862.37.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Program**

Van Swenson reported that Congressman Jeff Miller would be unable to attend the April 17, 2007 meeting because Congress will be in session. Van will speak to a representative of the Apricot Project for wastewater treatment to determine if someone from that group would be available to speak. State Senator Don Gaetz will speak in May, Gen. Eidsaune in June. A field trip, with lunch following, to the Explosive Ordinance School will be scheduled.

#### **Membership**

Barbara Wall said that Philip Hoge has applied for membership. The committee will meet with him and provide a report at the April meeting.

Barbara introduced new member Darrell James. Darrell retired after an Air Force career, worked for Suncoast Scientific then retired from Motorola. His hobbies are golf, flying and barbershop harmony.

#### **Social**

Bob Garcia said the Spring Social would be held April 28, 2007, 4-7 p.m. at the Eglin Yacht Club. He passed around sign-up sheets for various side dishes and desserts. Dr. Richburg said the Show Choir Finale would be that evening at 7:30 p.m. and recommended that all attending the Spring Social come out to support the Show Choir.

### Project Opportunities

Dave Bechtold said he, Darrell James and Sam Mac Nulty would meet this week with representatives from the Emerald Coast Chorus.

### Okaloosa Saves

Van Swenson said Elaine Courtney had expressed an interest in ISP helping Okaloosa Saves develop a Business Plan.

### Freeport Study

Bill Maxson said he and Steve Cherny meet each Tuesday and Thursday with the Freeport Study Team. Three developers and representatives from the West Florida Regional Planning Council have been added to the team. Representatives from various state agencies will be in attendance at an April 17, 2007 Scoping Meeting to study relevant issues necessary to re-write the Comprehensive Plan.

### Horizons of Okaloosa County

Audrey Hains said that with the resignation of Chair, Joe Staton, the project's completion time line would be moved back.

### Okaloosa County Courier Project

Howard Dimmig and Larmon Salmon met with county officials to determine if the courier would be able to go from two deliveries/pick-ups per day to one per day. He should have a report next month.

### Heritage Museum

David noted that Ben Grafton said he would like to help with this project, but would be unable to serve as Chair; a committee chair is still needed.

## **Critical Issues Focus Groups**

### Transportation

Bill Maxson said Steve Cherny, George Wagner, Dale Blanchard, Mack Gay, Dave Bechtold, Audrey Hains and Al Weidenbusch also serve on this focus group.

Dave Bechtold – Emerald Coast Bridge Authority – the Brooks Bridge problem could be solved by expanding the existing bridge or building a new bridge alongside the existing one.

George Wagner – Mid Bay Bridge Authority – construction of new toll plazas should be completed by May 4, 2007. The by-pass has been approved by the Air Force, with construction set to begin in 2010; the by-pass from Highway 20 to Highway 85 has been approved by the Air Force with provisions that the Air Force be permitted to close the highway temporarily for tests.

Dale Blanchard – TPO – the county has 85 projects set with a cost \$8 billion, but has only \$213 million. Paving Highway 98 is set to begin April 15, 2007.

Bill Maxson – members are encouraged to look at the Master Plan on the Corridor Authority's website, WFTCA.com.

### Environment and Natural Resources

Loyal Weaver reported on his visit to St. Lucia County for a tour of the waste management program. Loyal said St. Lucia County is “light years” ahead of anyone else in the state. The county has begun an endowment for land-fill enhancements, it bales refuse, re-cycles everything and is building a geo plasma arc facility to eventually eliminate local landfills.

Mike Flynt said the Mattie Kelly Endowed Teaching Chair in Environmental Sciences will fund a symposium on the Choctawhatchee Bay, probably within the next 18 months.

### Disaster Response

Stan Berg said the focus group is making contact with groups that have disaster plans. He said he and Don Litke have been attending meetings of the Emergency Management Committee sponsored by the Department of Public Safety. These meetings are a good resource to keep ISP members up-to-date.

### Workforce Housing

Fred Pryor said there would be a Workforce Housing Symposium on April 7, 2007 at the Emerald Coast Conference Center, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Citizens Involvement

Doug Harvell said he and focus group members Russell Christesen, Eileen Arpke, Tom Reynolds, Bob Milligan and David Keener have met with the Walton County taxpayers group as well as Pete Smith, Okaloosa County Assessor. He said Walton County has formed a Northwest Florida Taxpayers Round Table from which there is a ground-swell to organize into a Panhandle Alliance.

Mr. Charles Hilton, former Chairman of the Board of Florida Tax Watch and current Chairman of the Board of the James Madison Institute, suggested his sister, Pat Tolbert, would be a good independent person to help form an Okaloosa County tax watch organization.

### **Sustaining Support**

#### Web Site

Tom Reynolds asked any member having difficulty logging in to send an email and he will try to assist. He suggested that having an independent website, as opposed to one hosted by the college, would provide more flexibility.

#### Prime Time

No report.

### **Around the Room**

Loyal Weaver noted that Eddie Phillips and his wife are doing well in South Carolina.

David said Don Litke will chair the Nominating Committee. Dann Wallis will chair an Advisory Committee to deal with some minor changes to the by-laws.

Dale Blanchard said the NFSO Pops Concert would be held May 27, 2007 at the Mullet Festival site.

Eileen Arpke announced a Children in Crisis Golf tournament to be held April 13, 2007. Teams and sponsors are needed; Loyal Weaver has sign-up sheets.

Stan Berg said the League of Women Voters will host Dr. Frank Fuller who will speak on the Okaloosa County School System's CHOICE Program, March 31, 2007, 10 a.m. Location as yet to be determined.

Jane Meigs said the Heritage Museum will sponsor "Steak on the Take" April 12, 2007 in front of Kelley's SuperValu; the annual Saturday in the Park will be held April 28, 2007.

Bob Garcia said the NFSO's Food and Wine Tasting event was a great success.

Sam Mac Nulty said that John Vaughan is at home and doing well after open heart surgery.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.