

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
Florida State Winnie Gators, Inc
Rally Park, Seffner, FL
May 16, 2009

Nancy Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am; Jerry Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag; Shirley Halstead had the invocation.

Nancy welcomed Terry and Joan McDonald as guests; she announced that attendance at the state meeting is 60 coaches, representing 10 chapters.

Nancy introduced the officers:

Joe and Ann Loudenslager, 1st Vice Presidents

Kathryn Griffin, Secretary

Jerry Miller, Treasurer

Linda and Dan Tuzzolo, Directors

Cliff and Ree Spiller (in absentia as they are working in Gatlinburg this summer), 2nd Vice Presidents.

It was moved by Dan Tuzzolo and seconded by Joe Loudenslager that the minutes of the March 2009 meeting be approved as presented; the motion passed unanimously. Kathryn reminded attendees that the minutes are posted on our website and that copies were available for inspection if desired. Kathryn also read a thank you letter from the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association for our donation of \$1,835 at the State Rally.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report indicating that we had a made a profit on the 2009 Rally, which was great news. Nancy indicated that the Row Party was a great idea and thanked Linda for all her rally planning. Nancy indicated that the report would be filed for audit. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes

Old Business

- Nancy announced that ten of the fourteen chapters have submitted Chapter of Excellence forms. The forms will be turned in to WIT next week and pins will be distributed at GNR.
- Nancy thanked all chapters who participated in the Military Care Package project. Several chapters reported participation with mixed success. Nancy is hopeful that more chapters will decide to adopt this project in the future.
- Final plans for GNR are in place:
 - Nancy reminded everyone to register for GNR if they plan to attend and have not already done so. We currently have 114 coaches from FL registered, with 58 of them in the FL row.
 - She pleaded for a volunteer to head up the beanbag baseball team but was not successful; hopefully someone will step up to the plate at GNR to take on that responsibility.
 - Iowa State Rally is July 10-12 on the rally grounds with an early entry day on July 9; registration forms and agendas were available.

- The tent has been ordered for the FL row; Nancy asked that if anyone had a dining fly to please bring it for shade, etc. in addition to the big tent. There will be coffee, OJ and dog treats each day during pre-week. Our large FL State flag will be flying over the tent.
- Several events for pre-week, including the Florida Fling at Dick Fromanek's restaurant on the 18th, prime rib dinner at The Branding Iron on the 13th and Puckerbrush Days in downtown Forest City over the weekend.
- Florida will have a First Timers Seminar at the head of the row on Monday, the 20th.
- Row Party on Tuesday, the 21st, with 50/50 raffle, door prizes, food, beer, wine, etc. Bill's Food is doing the catering again this year.
- Need lots of decorations. State Row decorations will be judged during State Row parties and prizes will be awarded (monetary and floating plaque). Nancy already has lots of stuff but encouraged everyone to bring more FL, beads, tie-dye shirts, peace signs, groovy signs, etc.
- Impromptu happy hours and pot luck dinners at head of row.
- Remember to check the white board near the tent for daily information.

New Business

- Nancy explained the GNR Youth Program and a discussion followed. It was moved and seconded that we donate \$200 to this program. It passed unanimously.
- Nancy opened the floor for presentation on possible charities for our group. Sharon Millard presented the Florida Sheriffs' Youth Ranch program; Ann Loudenslager, the hospice organizations in Florida advising us that each group is a separate entity and they have territorial lines; other suggestions were the Florida Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and the Hope Lodge (operated by the American Cancer Association) in Tampa. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that we adopt the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch as our charity for the next two years. The motion passed unanimously.
- Nancy advised that the travel allowance to GNR for club president is set each year; Mike Sofarelli moved and Shirley Halstead seconded that the travel allowance for 2009 be set at \$1,500. The motion passed unanimously.
- October State Meeting – dates 10/16-18 -- location Torrey Oaks RV Park, Bowling Green FL. The Millers and the Zuckers visited this park and report a wonderful location; Nancy had pictures for all to see. This is a new park and the managers travel in a Winnebago, are joining the Winnie Gators and will have a booth at the 2010 State Rally. The events for the meeting will include a golf outing (planned by David Nobert), a Chinese auction, an ice cream social and, for our [Saturday](#) evening entertainment, a "Mystery Not So World Famous DJ" will spin songs for our dancing pleasure - including dance lessons for those who would like to learn to dance.
- January State Meeting – January 15-17, Lee Civic Center, Ft Myers FL. Rainbow Catering will do the food.

- 2010 Florida State Rally – March 11-14, Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando; possible conflict with the fair. Hopefully, prices will remain the same as this year. Advertising will be ready by GNR and will go to membership in the Fall Winnie Gate.
- All chapters were asked to complete the Sign-up sheets for duties at 2011 and 2012 rallies; signing up this early will allow chapters to shadow current duties for help in planning for 2011 and 2012.
- Rally pin and T-shirt design for 2010 will be voted on at October State Meeting. All members are welcome to participate by submitting possibilities; there is an award to the person submitting the winning design -- theme is "Welcome to 'Bago 'Bago Island".
- The slate of nominations for new officers will be presented at the October meeting. Nancy appointed Linda Tuzzolo as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Nancy announced that we are looking for volunteers for 2nd Vice President; Linda announced that Ted and Janis Fumia have volunteered to serve if elected. The Nominating Committee will have a slate to present at the October meeting and at that time the floor will be open for other nominations.

Announcements

- Congratulations to John and Barbara Trent (Suncoast Winnies) celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this weekend. Happy Birthday to Chris Ross (Caloosas) and to Terry McDonough (guest) who are having birthdays this weekend.
- Nancy urged everyone to participate in the Toilet Paper Olympics in the afternoon; to remember to check the Winnie Gator website (www.winniegators.org), paying particular attention to the new section on technical tips presented by Phil Halstead and to become acquainted with the new WIT Club twitter website (www.twitter.com/WITClub) .
- WIT has announced that North Trail RV in Ft. Myers is now an Itasca dealer; North Trail plans to open a second location in Ft. Lauderdale in August.
- Larry Ireland, officer for Funtimers, recently had surgery; card was available for signature for him. A reminder that all chapters need to let the Executive Committee know of any illness or deaths among members.
- Kathryn announced that a sheet with email addresses was available for review; plans are that the newsletters will go electronically to all members who have internet access – saves times and money!
- Nancy announced that the chapters will be asked to furnish items for the goodie bags at the 2010 State Rally; Linda Tuzzolo presented a catalog from Oriental Trading Company which has lots of items that would work well with the theme for next year.

Nancy's closing comments included another big thank you to everyone for attending the meeting and for all the help in the success of the meeting; also, a big round of applause for Rainbow Caterers. Her travel tip "When planning a trip, lay out all your clothes then put half of them back in the closet. Count out your money and double the amount to take along!"

Joe Loudenslager moved that the meeting be adjourned and Shirley Halstead seconded. It carried unanimously. Nancy adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Griffin
Secretary