

Minutes for the March 7, 2018 - LGA Monthly Meeting (APPROVED) Lake Gaston Baptist Church

At 9:35 AM President Mozine Lowe called the meeting to order. Mozine led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance and then requested a moment of silence. Mozine requested a motion to approve the agenda which was made by Bill Heflin, seconded and passed.

Also in attendance were Directors Mozine Lowe, Carol Warfel, Jeff Dowhan, Al Potter, Bill Heflin, Tony Moran, Clarence Drumgoole, John Cataldo, Jack Saunders, and Executive Director Moira Underwood. In attendance were 29 members/guests plus one member from the press.

Announcements included:

- March 13 - *LGA 101 for New Members*. Mozine announced that this event may be postponed.
- March 15 - the annual *5 County Forum* for all county managers, commissioners and supervisors who representative us around the lake.
- Lakeside Learning Day – first LLD scheduled for 3/28 at Edwards Beach (since postponed at the request of the school.)
- April 28 - *Shred Event* for all at the RWVFD on Lizard Creek Road.
- June 2 - *Lake Clean-Up Day*.
- Tony Moran presented certificates to the top two participants in the Realtor Referral Program – Brenda Thompson, Coldwell Banker Advantage, and Candace Teel, Waterfront Properties

John Cataldo introduced our guest speaker, Al Thompson, attorney at Banzet, Thompson, Styers & Way of Warrenton, NC. Mr. Thompson provided a thorough discussion on the topic of Advanced Directives. Mr. Thompson pointed out how important it can be to assign someone (a Healthcare Agent) to represent you on medical matter in the event you can no longer provide that direction yourself. In that case, it is extremely valuable to document your wishes, in advance, concerning what steps you desire to have or not have taken in the event you have a terminal condition with no hope of a cure. Making these wishes known in advance removes the burden of these decisions from your spouse or other loved ones.

He noted that the NC Secretary of State website (sos.nc.gov) has a link to simple forms you can use to create advance directives on your own. This form need to be witnessed and notarized. He advised that these forms are similar to those in other states and are generally used for guidance. You can check with your own State agencies to see if they have one specific to your state. Copies of these forms should be distributed to your appointed Healthcare Agent, close family, and your doctors. You may revoke the directive, and if you do, be sure to retrieve and destroy all copies you distributed. If you wish, the form can be registered with the State so that they are accessible to medical professionals. You can also have a wallet card made that will show that you have made an Advanced Directive.

Another useful decision can be to grant someone you trust to have your General Business Power of Attorney. This can be very helpful if/when you need help with your affairs as time goes on. The same NC website has a form you can use to do this.

Lastly, Mr. Thompson touched on estate planning. He noted that, at present, Inheritance and Estate tax is a non-issue for most of us, as your estate has to be valued at more than \$11M for it to have an effect. Also, for those that wish to distribute their assets prior to their demise, the Gift Exclusion (tax free gifting for the giver and the recipient) is currently \$5.5M. For gifts more than \$18K/person/recipient/year you do have to file with the IRS.

In Committee News, we addressed the Five County Forum, Meet the Candidate Forums, Lakeside Learning Days, and the upcoming Lake Clean Up (6/2). There was a short discussion on the Eaton Ferry Bridge renovation project but details are in scant at this point.

Under Issue/concerns, a concern was raised with respect to the amount of trash on the causeways. Also, it was noted, though not as a concern, that there is potentially a Bojangles coming to the lake area. It would be located near the Food Lion and Ace Hardware.

As a reminder, our next meeting will be on April 4, 2018, and our topic will be Fishing by the Lake Gaston Stripers Club.

If you would like more information about any of the LGA committees or would like to come out and help at one of the special events, please email info@lakegastonassoc.com or visit www.lakegastonassoc.com.

Mozine closed the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Don Carson, Acting Secretary