

COBWRA DELEGATES MEETING HIGHLIGHTS • VALENCIA LAKES • MARCH 20, 2019

WELCOME

VALENCIA LAKES DELEGATE BILL DONOVAN and PRESIDENT ROBERT SKLAR welcomed the COBWRA guests to their community.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS



Pictured (l-r) Congresswoman Lois Frankel with President Phil Barlage.

CONGRESSWOMAN

LOIS FRANKEL touched on a number of issues, including the need to reduce prescription drug costs, equal pay for equal work, requiring drug manufacturers to provide justification when they increase drug prices, and the value of investing in Green Energy Jobs.

COMMISSIONER MARY LOU BERGER reported that she attended the National Association of Counties meeting where many topics of common interest to the participants were discussed, including Lake Okeechobee, Water, Energy, Land Use, and Zoning.

COMMISSIONER ROBERT WEINROTH expressed a desire to work together with his colleagues on the County Commission and the community to improve the entire county. He encouraged the Delegates to contact their State Legislators during the current Session to oppose the Legislature's attack on home rule such as zoning and ordinance decisions.

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE KAREN BRILL reported that during Palm Beach County Days in Tallahassee she advocated for a bill that would allow the west Boynton community to use our taxpayer dollars to build schools where we need them, regardless of capacity issues in other areas of the county. She also advocated for no guns in schools other than in the hands of law enforcement and for the separation of church and state.

PALM BEACH COUNTY FIRE RESCUE BATTALION 4 CHIEF KIMBERLY HUDE announced a new "resilience" program in the development stage that would provide training for groups of residents in each community who would serve as an information pipeline regarding the status of residents in their neighborhoods during an emergency situation such as a hurricane.

MAJOR CHRISTOPHER KEANE, PBSO reported that the Citizen's Police Academy was very successful and that another document shredding event is being planned. He also stressed the importance of never leaving valuables in a car, especially firearms.

Highlights by Sharon Reuben

NEW MEMBER VOTE

The Delegates, by consensus, voted to welcome Willoughby Farms as a member of COBWRA.

ELECTION OF 2019/2020 OFFICERS

The following officers were elected by consensus vote, to serve for the 2019/2020 term: President: Beth Rappaport (Colony Preserve); 1st VP Barbara Roth (Bellaggio); 2nd VP Steve Slade (Avalon Estates); Treasurer: Andrea Levine (Valencia Cove); Secretary: Cheryl Dodes (Valencia Isles).

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE CHAIR STEVE WALLACE announced that four COBWRA representatives went to Tallahassee for Palm Beach County Days, including President Phil Barlage, Linda Levine, Bruce Brodsky and Mr. Wallace. The COBWRA representatives met with 21 legislators and attended networking events. They also met with the staff of the Senate President and the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. The bills that are supported by COBWRA are currently going through the legislative process.

FUNDRAISING

COMMITTEE CHAIR VICTORIA MORTON announced two fundraising initiatives:

1. Breakfast sponsorships
2. A Vendor Expo which is scheduled for the evening of May 15

HEALTH & WELLNESS

COMMITTEE CHAIR HENRY BARTOS announced the details of the committee's next symposium:



Jamaica Bay Clubhouse • 31005 Jamaica Bay Drive
Featuring a Distinguished Panel of Experts

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT PHIL BARLAGE and **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT MYRNA ROSOFF** met with County Administrator Verdenia Baker, Assistant County Administrator Todd Bonlarren, Director of Parks Eric Call. and Director of Libraries Doug Crane to express concern about the delay in construction of the Canyons Library and District Park.

PROGRAM

DEBORAH DRUM, Director of PBC Environmental Resources Management (ERM) provided an overview of her department. ERM administers programs designed to protect, preserve, and enhance the County's natural resources.