

SAINT JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE MINUTES OF MEETING

January 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Lofgren at 9:00am.

The minutes of the December 8, 2014 meeting were approved as read.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1420.19 with one new member for 2015.

President Lofgren introduced the guest speaker, Neil Benson, Director of Marketing for ARC in St. Johns County.

The ARC was founded in Saint Augustine in 1972 by parents of children with disabilities. It is one of 47 ARCs in the state of Florida. Initially one of the major goals of ARC was to eliminate mental institutions and establish group homes for the disabled. Currently there are 13 group homes in St. Johns County. There are still three mental institutions left in the state. The yearly cost for a mental institution is approximately \$180,000 per year while a group home costs around \$55,000. All clients must qualify for Medicare Waiver funding before they can enter a group home since the majority of the funding for their care comes from Medicare. Administrative costs account for 11% of the ARC budget while payroll amounts to 47%. The public can assist ARC by becoming aware of their mission, providing support and responding to special occasion requests.

OTHER BUSINESS

There will be a meeting of the County Commissioners at The

North Florida Regional Airport Conference Center on January 27
to discuss revenue sources for the county.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Olsen

Secretary