

St Johns County Civic Association Roundtable
Minutes of Meeting - April 11, 2011
Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM

Minutes of March meeting were approved as submitted

Treasurers Report - Bank Balance \$4192.83
Currently we have 52 members - 18 paid

This meeting was dedicated to Education and we enjoyed two important and timely presentations;

Early Learning Coalition - Rick Burch shared information about the Coalition and its goals including the affiliation with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its programs;

- Read to Me
- Story Telling Groups
- Literary Workshops
- Literary Fairs & Special Events

The presentation included some poignant statistics regarding reading and success in school and its impact on our community both socially and economically. A few of the many important facts shared were;

- 90% of brain development occurs before age 5
- 95% of brain develop occurs by age 18
- Depending upon their environment, children at age 5 enter pre-school and daycare with vocabularies that range from 500 to 4000 words. The academic success rate for children with larger vocabularies is significantly higher that those with a minimal vocabulary.
- Jail - prison populations can be directly related to current 4th grade reading levels

The ELC programs provide young readers with the tools needed for academic success. The program's goal is to help children become better students which will lead to a better more productive workforce, a stronger local economy, lower dropout rates and a positive impact on our community. For more information, to donate or to volunteer you may visit their web site at <http://www.elcpsj.org> or contact Joan Whitson via email at jwhitson@elcpsj.org

St Johns County Education Foundation - Donna Lueders & Dr. Meryl Goldman
The foundation was established to provide direct support for the school district and its teachers. The foundation can accept donations and raise funds for programs like;

- Take Stock in Children - provides mentors for students starting in grade 6 and leads to scholarships to state schools for students who qualify
- SES Tutoring Program - program provides free after school tutoring by teachers in the subject of reading and math in 4 elementary schools. The schools are chosen based on student progress. Schools with the most students in need receive the assistance
- Horizon Grants - mini grants given to teachers to promote literacy, math &

science

- Tools for Schools - county wide supply drive where local businesses provide donations of any item, traditional or otherwise that can be creatively used in our classrooms
- Teacher & Rookie of the Year Recognition
- Art Attack - a visual & performing arts celebration held annually to raise money for art programs

The foundation has had a profound impact on St Johns County schools running 28 programs, finding and donating over a quarter million dollars of direct benefits to our students and teachers and providing over 1500 volunteer hours a years. According to our presenters the state budget crisis will certainly impact some of these programs. The foundations work will be even more important under these circumstances. For more information contact the foundation via the web at <http://www.sjcef.com> or call Donna Lueders - luederd@stjohns.k12.fl.us or call 904-547-7120

Committee Reports -

Linda Oakley reported on the County Commission Meeting - her report is below;

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It was also suggested that rather than rehashing the same items each month with Commissioner Bryan or Assistant Administrator Cameron that Roundtable members contact either the department head or Commissioner directly through appropriate channels.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM