

GOOD SAMS OF FLORIDA, INC.
STATE COMMITTEE MEETING
KOA CAMPGROUND, OKEECHOBEE, FL
APRIL, 2022

DIRECTOR – In Joe’s absence, Debbie Weston called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Mike Kyle gave the invocation

Wayne McGee led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Director Weston asked if all Chapter Presidents or their representatives had checked in.

State Director Weston did the roll call with 17 chapters or representatives in attendance.

The minutes of the last state committee meeting are on the website. Sherrie Risberg moved to accept the minutes as published on the Website. Motion carried

TREASURER – The Treasurer’s Report was handed out. Treasurer, Eva French, said it was self-explanatory. The balance is as of the end of March; does not include items paid for Okeechobee, which will all be in this month’s report. Wendy Parcels moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. All in favor raise your cards.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STATE STORE – No report

DOGS FOR THE DEAF – No report

HISTORIAN – No report

We are working with a limited staff; not all positions are filled and some may not be.

WEBMASTER – Paul Carr was not in attendance – Debbie read Paul’s report.

BOGGY CREEK – Bob & Peggy Brown. Good news, Boggy Creek is starting up with in-person camping. With the pandemic they had virtual visits during and at Christmas they had a drive thru – not quite sure how that was. Please do not give up on fund raising. Bring bears, afghans, etc. to the November rally. Hope to be able to have a tour of the camp at the November rally. See you in November.

ASD REPORTS – as we do not have ASD’s at this time, there is nothing to report.

WAGONMASTER – Wayne McGee reported there were 136 rigs parked. Had no problems parking everyone.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – State Director Weston reported on a zoom call with Marcus Lemonis’ representative informed us we were no longer directors as of December 31, 2022 and there are no longer Chapters. The representative was inundated with questions and got a bit emotional. She did not want to give us this information. Was highly upset that Marcus did not give us this information and left it up to her. This is about all I was upset about.

We never needed Marcus and we did ok. We have done well without him. He hasn't given us much to start with. I have nothing against him, I wish him well. We're going to be ok. Any questions.

Steve Popovich of Trail Blazing Sams can't speak for anyone else but he will no longer support Camping World/Gander. He sees no value in us.

John Jolicoeur of Florida At Large (#161) asked what were we getting from CW/G. State Director Weston replied they provided \$2 million of event insurance. We (Weston's) always buy \$3 million (for \$450) for both rallies as the \$2 million did not include the golf carts which we need. They also sent us 25 Good Sam watches, we could sell and keep the money for ourselves (which would go on our 1099). We decided to give them away as door prizes. The Camping World near Eustis supported the rally prior to 2019 bringing RVs and lots of door prizes.

Sherrie Risburg mentioned that GS Chapters were a small part of Good Sams membership. At one time we received info about those who were members of Good Sams but privacy laws changed that. Marcus is a good businessman but doesn't understand us.

State Director Weston mentioned we had a zoom call with Marcus who asked what could be done to help us grow chapters. We suggested let us go into Camping World to give out information on Chapters to those buying RVs and such – we were shot down.

We will go forward – don't need Good Sam. We will continue to move forward.

Steve Popovich (Trail Blazing Sams) – how sustainable are we in the future; can we shrink down to smaller campgrounds or different locations? Director Weston said hopefully we won't have to.

Tom Booth (Sun State Sams) spoke about funding going forward – is there consideration about reasonable annual membership dues. Would put money in the coffers to keep going. Director Weston said we have talked about it. We just don't know yet. Will probably be doing that.

State Director Weston mentioned that Rod Coe of Yankee RV Tours gave \$5,000 to assist to start. We are going to seek an attorney to see if we can really do this.

Steve Griffin with Golden Triangle Sams thanked the Weston's for their leadership and determination.

John Jolicoeur (Florida at Large Sams, #161) suggested eliminating the Good Sam name, have a new one; communicate with other states; going to be difficult to start with an unfamiliar name; will need a marketing staff to assist. Same problem in all other states. Assume been communicating with other states. Director Weston – we have been communicating with other states. Unfortunately, other states have already shut down. There will not be rallies in some other states. Director Weston (Joe) has come up with an idea and have talked with some other states about having a SE Region Rally. We have been in contact with Tallahassee about having rally with all our SE Region that are still active. One way we are trying to get things going.

Name Change – don't think people want to be associated with Good Sam name anymore. We are going to be sending out emails. State Director Weston said they will keep Presidents in the loop and ask they keep their chapter members informed and move forward. A lot of things swimming in our heads.

Good idea about having a regional organization – if one state just has 2-3 chapters would be good to be in a region. Easier for them to join that region. Think of a way to get LazyDays and General RV aboard for marketing – have to get a connection with them at the rallies.

Larry Schmuhl (Sunset Ramblers #177) suggested checking out FMCA model for rallies.

State Director Weston asked Presidents to pick up your Stars & Bars from Libby Schramm at Dr. Sambones.

Right now we are concentrating on the November Rally.

State Director Weston asked for a report from Presidents of how many in their chapter – some have gone down due to Covid, illness, age but others have either increased or stayed the same.

Asked about cost of Southern Palms – we are in their peak season which starts November 1 - \$36 + tax for us – thought if the price was better we could move the rally to October. Called and asked what the off season rate was – only \$1.25 less!!! Not worth moving the rally.

Motion was made from North Florida Lifetime Sams to spend money to contact a lawyer to see about changing our name, and whatever needs to be done. Motion was seconded by Larry Schmuhl (Sunset Ramblers) and passed.

State Director Weston spoke about our charities, i.e., Boggy Creek and Dogs for the Deaf. We have always been a charity organization and will keep it that way. All chapters can donate to other charities as they wish. Please let the State Directors know who you also support.

Suggestion for a Chapter Fair – in Eustis. Each chapter would have a table giving info on what they do, etc.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Carr

Good Sams of Florida, Inc.