



**Leesburg Heritage Society, Inc.**

111 South 6<sup>th</sup> St., Leesburg, FL 34748

[www.leesburgheritagesociety.org](http://www.leesburgheritagesociety.org)

28 January 2020

Dear Members,

Another month has flown by and it's almost time for another meeting of our great group. We will meet on February 4, the first Tuesday of the month, at 3:30 at the Leesburg Library. Our program will be on the history of First Baptist Church presented by one of their ministers, Art Ayris, and Suzanne Garner. Both of these presenters grew up in the church and in Leesburg. The program is sure to be very interesting and informative. I hope ALL of you will come for the meeting. First Baptist has always been our church with the largest membership. Find some Baptists to bring along with you to the meeting. Many years ago, Eloise White shared her story of the church.

The nametags are here and I will bring them to the meeting. I haven't checked them yet so just hope they are okay. We will have a Board meeting at 2:30 on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at the Leesburg Partnership Office as usual.

There was a story in the Commercial showing the old Simon Seed and the plans for it by the owners. There was a presentation yesterday at the Partnership meeting of the report by the consultants who did the downtown study. I questioned the lack of discussion about the Museum building and will follow up with the City Manager. He knows it needs a lot of work. If you know any of the Commissioners, please talk to them about the importance of protecting our history. Right now, we don't seem to be a very high priority.

Guess that's enough for this letter. If you have a concern or suggestion for us, please let us know. See you at the meeting.

Sanna Henderson

*Sanna*

President

Leesburg Heritage Society  
Minutes - Regular Meeting - January 7, 2020

There were 32 members and guests present as President Sanna Henderson called the regular meeting of the Leesburg Heritage Society to order at 4:00 PM on January 7, 2020 at the Leesburg Public Library. Sanna welcomed everyone and had several guests recognized. The Beyers team was thanked for, once again, providing such nice refreshments.

Janet Davis gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sanna announced that Frank Stivender has consented to join the Board. The name tags are expected to arrive soon and will be available for the next meeting. Sanna expects plans to restore the Mote-Morris house to get on track soon. The old Simon Seed building was razed, but the new building will have a facade that will play homage to the old familiar business.

Deb Bussinger presented the Library news. There are always a wide variety of programs available. The monthly bulletin tells all about them.

Vi Pfahler told a joke about an over-enthusiastic hospital volunteer who insisted on using a wheel chair to escort a man out the door, over his protests.

Woody Wagner took the floor to introduce the program and speaker Matt Tucker from Tucker's Machine and Steel Service. Matt is the third-generation manager of the Leesburg business. They were named the 2019 Outstanding Business of the Year. Matt told the story of the company's development in the 1950's under his grandfather's leadership, starting with mixing equipment and rock crushers and then developing technology for pre-stressed concrete with Duracrete. Today's state-of-the-art equipment uses robotics in the production of extreme hauling and lifting devices sold world-wide. A very interesting and informative presentation, Matt. We were all impressed! Thanks for coming.

Woody told us next month's presentation will be Art Ayris and Suzanne Garner with the history and accomplishments of the First Baptist Church of Leesburg.

Sanna adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Turner, Secretary

Treasurer's Report  
January 27, 2020

\*\*\*Memorial Fund - \$2,375.00

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Russek, Treasurer

Membership dues are: Individual - \$20.00 per year; Couples - \$30.00 per year  
Student - \$5.00 per year  
Professional, Business & Organization - \$100.00 per year  
Life Membership - \$200.00 per person

\*Our year is October thru May, with meetings the first Tuesday of the month.

LEESBURG HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. BYLAWS

Article IV - Membership.

Section 2. Term of membership shall be on an annual basis, from October 1 through September 30.

February 2020 Events at the Leesburg Public Library  
Dusty Hill Matthews, Adult Services Supervisor

**Performances**

Blackwater Creek Bluegrass Band | Saturday, 2/1 from 2pm-3pm

Cash Classics-A Tribute to Johnny Cash | Friday, 2/7 from 3pm-4:30pm

Adam Miller-American Folksinger | Thursday, 2/13 from 4pm-5pm

Plantation at Leesburg Strings | Thursday, 2/20 from 3pm-4pm

October Mountain Washtub Band | Saturday, 2/22 from 11am-12pm and 2pm-3pm

**Presentations**

Mind Body Spirit College: Stress Management Techniques | Thursday, 2/13 from 11am to 12:30pm

Love and Chocolate: a Workshop on Appreciating and Understanding Poetry, with Lake County Poet Laureate Laura Sobott Ross | Friday, 2/14 from 1pm-2:30pm

WWII Veterans History Project with founder Benjamin Mack-Johnson | Saturday, 2/29 from 1pm-4pm

Mack-Johnson was moved to educate and inspire his generation, and future generations, to better understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation by sharing his life-changing experiences, educating the public with the Traveling Museum of WWII, and encouraging other young people to find their passion and create a voice for themselves.

**FROM GLORIANNE'S DESK**



Jacket Hive and Leesburg Boating Club

One of the highlights which was created at Venetian Gardens on the basin by the WPA before World War II were four piers (two covered, two uncovered) with docks between them in the vicinity of today's Leesburg Boating Club which was organized Oct 1946. After the war all that was left of the two piers to the west were pilings. By 1947 one remaining pier was restored by the boat club, followed by the Jacket Hive, a gathering place for teenagers. Then VG Beach (swimming area), with floats and a platform.