



Leesburg Heritage Society, Inc.

111 South 6th St., Leesburg, FL 34748

352-315-1800

Hi all,

We meet again next Tuesday, February 7th, at the Rogers Park Pavilion on 9th Street.

Beyers Funeral Homes will provide refreshments at 3:30, and the one hour meeting will begin promptly at 4:00.

Leesburg Doctors of the “Greatest Generation”.

Sanna has lined up another interesting program. She enlisted John Okelley, who has recruited a panel on which he will participate, which will talk about the Leesburg Doctors (Binneveld, Buchanan, Englehart, Okelley and Young) who served the “Greatest Generation”. The panel will consist of their Baby Boomer offspring, Bill & Jeff Binneveld, Paul Buchanan, Chris Englehart Meade, Butch & John Okelley, and Farrell & Ronnie Young.

Be sure to read Sue’s minutes for the last meeting. We enjoyed the “Glorianne and Vi Show” as they presented the history of our museum building, pictured in our letterhead. It just turned 100 and was originally built by the Leesburg Women’s Club. The end of the meeting became a retirement and appreciation celebration for Glorianne and her amazing service.

I’ll say this again. When I first became President of the LHS, I soon realized that Glorianne was in charge, as she did almost everything. So I gave her the rank of Queen because my role, comparatively, was mostly ceremonial.

“Long live the Queen!”

Jim Miller, President

Museum Director Frank Stivender's Report

by Jim Miller

Museum:

Frank has spent most of the last year working with Glorianne. She was grateful to be able to hand the museum's reins to Frank and he has dived in with great enthusiasm. He's spending many hours in his efforts.

He and our treasurer, Frances Russek, worked together to put our financial records on QuickBooks, which we'd be happy to share with any Leesburg Heritage Society Member.

He also helped Glorianne and Vi organize a very successful open house at the Museum to celebrate its 100th Birthday. We estimate that 50-70 people attended the event. That helps explain how we had 188 visitors that signed our sign-in book for the month of January.

Mote Morris House:

Frank is also excited about the Mote Morris house and has taken over Glorianne's roll there.

He's even talked me into joining the training session for new docents (I think that means tour guides) at 10am Saturday Feb 11th.

He's also developed a relationship with the several of the people involved with the Baker House in Sumter County. They are also interested in helping us with the Mote Morris house and have joined the Heritage Society, attended our last meeting, attended our open house at the museum, and will be attending the docent training at the Mote Morris House.

It appears Frank Stivender has a new calling.

Leesburg Heritage Society
Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 3, 2023

The Leesburg Heritage Society assembled at the meeting room at Rogers Park and enjoyed refreshments served by Beyers Funeral Home, as well as several gifts they made available. The room has proved to be a great place to gather. It has adequate parking, easy access, generous seating at the tables, and a very good audio/video system. If you haven't been to a meeting there, we encourage you to come! Our attendance continues to climb, with 31 members and guests present.

Jim Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Woody Wagner led the Pledge of Allegiance. Sanna Henderson gave the invocation. Vi Pfahler told a joke from the wild, wild west with lessons to be learned from kissing a mule's butt!

Jim had several new faces introduce themselves and we welcomed new members Laurie and Larry Bailey, John OKelley, and Ken and Sue Bragg.

We celebrated “Queen” Glorianne Fahs 83rd birthday and serenaded her with song. She received flowers and decorated organic mini-muffins for the occasion.

Jim introduced the program which Vi and Glorianne presented : “100Years of Woman's Club Building History”. In 1909 the Leesburg Woman's Club was formed and in 1910 they joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The Spanish Mission style building was built in 1922 on 6th Street. It was a beautiful, graceful two-story building with the second floor being an auditorium and stage which served for many community activities. Over the years the first floor served such uses as the community library, the American Legion meeting post, and Lassiter-Ware Insurance office before being sold to the City in 1981. In 1988 the Leesburg Historical Museum was able to move in and share space with the Leesburg Partnership. It now houses the Museum alone.

Jim met with Al Minner and added his vision for a facelift to restore the exterior to look more authentic and is very hopeful that the City will consent to spend the money.

Glorianne invited everyone to the celebration on January 13th at the Leesburg Heritage Museum, when the building will be 100 years old.

Thanks to Vi and Glorianne for a timely and interesting program.

Next month John OKelley will present a program on his and some other doctors' families' histories in Leesburg.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Turner, Secretary