

## ALLIANCE OF DELRAY MEETING SUMMARY Feb. 6, 2019

The meeting of delegates and guests was called to order at 9:30 am by President Bob Schulbaum.

Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Captain Sandt told the assembly that the Sheriff's Office had a very busy holiday season. He was, however, proud that crime statistics were down from prior years. Captain Sandt urged everyone in the audience to get locks for their tires and rims, since there seemed to be more thefts of these items.

Commissioner Mary Lou Berger addressed the audience followed by Commissioner Robert Weinroth, representing District 4, who announced that the newly appointed Election Supervisor would be getting new equipment. Part of that equipment would include a voter signature ID. In addition, caregivers of voters would be given an ID card.

Karen Brill, Palm Beach County School Board Member, informed the group that the controversial Common Core curriculum was being abolished. A new set of norms was being established that would require less 'teaching to the test' and more flexibility in meeting academic requirements. In commemoration of the February 14, 2018 tragic mass shooting at MSD High School students will observe Seventeen Days of Kindness.

Lori Vinikoor, Executive Vice President, was proud to announce that the Wellness Screening Expo, held in conjunction with Delray Medical Center, was a great success. Additionally, a cancer care center is being established at Delray Medical Center with the arrival of a revolutionary new cancer treatment machine. A Nostalgic Expo will be held at the South County Civic Center on Thursday, February 21 between 9 AM and 1 pm. The proposed development project at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Hagen Ranch Road (Terra Nova) has been postponed for several months. As more information becomes available, the Alliance will distribute it through the e mail network.

Dorothy Jacks, Palm Beach County Property Appraiser, was the first guest speaker. Ms. Jacks explained that her office is a Constitutional Office, that is, she elected by the voters, not appointed by the Commission, making that office non-political. Her office manages the lists of who owns what and the accurate location of the property. The properties include residential, commercial and land. New building produces additional revenue for the county. There are 70,000 transactions in PBC annually, and the county is growing. Also growing are new hotels, Airbnb's and storage facilities. She explained the homestead exemption. Owner(s) must reside in their property at least 6 months a year. There are additional exemptions that may apply: surviving spouse, disability, veteran disabled by military service, income limitation and other qualifications. She introduced Mike Pratt, her assistant, who would be available to answer any related questions.

Anne Gannon, Tax Collector, was introduced by Lori Vinikoor. The tax collector is charged with the collection and distribution of the property taxes. She answers only to the property owners of Palm Beach County. Last year her office billed \$3.7 billion, with Florida Power & Light the largest taxpayer. The 'bed tax' collection is a challenge. Private owners who rent their properties and Airbnb's try to avoid paying their required taxes. She also explained the difference between paying taxes in one lump sum or paying quarterly. Following her presentation Ms. Gannon took questions from the audience.

The next meeting will take place on March 6, 2019. Meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Submitted by Carol Klausner, Director