

The meeting of delegates and guests was called to order at 9:30 am by President Bob Schulbaum. He called upon Captain Rob Sandt of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to speak to the assemblage.

Captain Sandt reminded the group that the holiday season brings a higher amount of criminality. He urged that everyone be especially wary of people posing as maintenance workers who try to gain access to homes. In addition, he recommended the 'Ring' doorbell. This is effective in combating crime by allowing the homeowner to see who is at the door.

Lieutenant Morales also emphasized the 'Ring'. He also urged the audience to download the app called Neighbors. This app posts information within the community as well as allowing video taping in real time around the community. This too is an effective crime fighter.

Chief Tozzi of the Palm Beach County Fire Department said there were many assorted calls requiring either the Fire Department and/or the Paramedics. There are additional staff events planned.

Karen Brill of the Palm Beach County School Board reported that the principal of Spanish River High School was fired because of voicing his opinion concerning the reality of the Holocaust. Additionally, there is a class action lawsuit that has been filed against vaping.

State Attorney Dave Aronberg criticized the state for putting up roadblocks to block the implementation of Amendment 4 – allowing former felons to vote. This amendment was passed by a large margin of Florida voters and has yet to go into effect. Efforts are being made to correct this injustice. Efforts are also being made to make animal cruelty a federal crime.

Lori Vinikoor, Executive Vice President, announced that on February 7, 2020 the Alliance will host a Getting to Know Palm Beach County Expo. The Expo will be held from 9 am to noon.

Wendy Sartory Link, Supervisor of Elections in Palm Beach County, announced a number of changes and procedures to voting. It will be possible to see voter turnout in real time and early voting wait times. New security enhancements as well as back-up plans have been implemented. She displayed the new voting machines and invited the audience to try them out at the conclusion of the meeting. Additionally, two new programs have been established. The 'Adopt-A-Precinct' program allows area clubs, groups, and organizations to participate and earn some money for the group. The 'Vote in Honor of a Veteran' program also is intent on increasing voter participation. There are three ways to cast a ballot: a) Vote by Mail b) Early Voting c) Election Day at the Polls.

Lisa De La Riondo, from the Palm Beach County Public Affairs Office, discussed the importance of being counted and included in the census. Residents are given the options of using a paper form, a telephone call, on line, or a personal visit from a census worker. Seasonal residents will be counted as of April 1.

A representative from the Census Office emphasized that the census directly affects everyone in the form of money received from the federal government. This is money that will be used for health care, education, infrastructure, and other important areas of Floridians' lives. Anyone interested in becoming a census worker can apply online to 2020census.gov

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am. The next Alliance meeting will be held on December 4, 2019 at the South County Civic Center, where the topic will be focused on the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and Delray Medical Center Emergency Services.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Klausner, Director