

Chapter Meeting Minutes
Lake NOW
Date: November 17, 2015
Location: WT Bland Library, Mount Dora, FL

A chapter meeting of Lake NOW was held on November 17, 2015 at WT Bland Library in Mount Dora, FL. The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m. with Lucinda McGinn presiding.

Number of members and guests: 19 were in attendance

Officers in Attendance: X

<u>X</u> <i>President</i>	Lucinda McGinn
<u>X</u> <i>Vice President</i>	Nancy Lee Hurlbert
<u>X</u> <i>Membership Director</i>	Carol King
<u>X</u> <i>Treasurer</i>	Cookie Wright
<u>X</u> <i>Secretary</i>	Linda Jo Pfeiffer
<u>X</u> <i>Immediate Past President</i>	Sandra Gray Paradise

1. Facilitated Discussion/Presentation:

Jeannie Economos, Pesticide Safety and Environmental Health Project Coordinator with the Farmworker Association of Florida, presented the history and polluted condition of Lake Apopka. She labeled it, "environmental racism". According to Jeannie, Lake Apopka is a collapsed ecosystem. For over 50 years, the Lake has been polluted with pesticides including DDT and raw sewage. She explained that many pesticides do not disappear over time but remain in the soil and become potentially more dangerous as they break down. Farm workers have been exposed to pesticides and are suffering from various illnesses. Since people of color make up the majority of farm workers and many are undocumented, Jeannie felt that they are not being monetarily compensated for the amount of work they do. An underlying racism appears to be implied. There are presently five offices throughout the state of Florida working at a grass roots level to represent the needs of farm workers.

2. Financial - Report: N/A

3. Upcoming Events:

The Holiday party will be on December 16, 2015 at 6:00pm. Location TBA

To celebrate the anniversary of Roe vs Wade, Lake NOW members will march with supportive posters at various locations in the county.

In January we will have an overview of state legislative bills that we can potentially support.

In February we will have a viewing of the movie, Selma, in recognition of Black History month.

Women's History, celebrated in March will be recognized by a presentation at Lake Sumter College.

In April, there will be a venue to celebrate Equal Pay.

4. Other:

Mary and Lucinda discussed the state council meeting that took place in Kissimmee. Since no one county is sponsoring the 2016 Florida State NOW conference, a committee is being created to address the needs of the conference. A fund raiser for Florida NOW is also being planned.

Linda Bozeman gave an update on Michael McKenna's move to Rhode Island and his job prospects.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Linda Jo Pfeiffer , Lake NOW Secretary