

Wild Women on the Water meeting 09/06/2022

Patrice Messina called the meeting to order at 7:00. There were 30 attendees.

Jeff Baumgartner, the Executive Director of Florida Bay Forever, was introduced by Pat Witchel, a Board member of Florida Bay Forever. Jeff spoke about Florida Bay as the foundation of the Florida Keys economy. He encouraged members of WWOW to Join, Donate and Advocate for efforts to improve the health of the Bay. Florida Bay Forever is located at the Green Turtle Hammock Preserve at MM 81, and offers guided nature walks, bird walks, 2 short nature trails, paddle trips in the fall and Breakfast by the Bay (with speakers) October, November, and December. There is also a Bay Science Lab that will provide youth education. The Send It South paddle fundraiser to raise awareness of the need to send more fresh water south from Lake Okeechobee will be 11/26 to 12/3 this year. The cost to register is \$60; participants can be sponsored for funds per mile paddled or can just post their mileage with the Send it South hashtag. He distributed postcards addressed to Governor Ron DeSantis encouraging the continue support of Everglades Restoration.

Members then introduced themselves, including several new potential members.

Kathy Sill reported that the organization is operating in the black, with over \$4,000 in the account..

Linda Lankenau's report was given by Patrice Messina:

- October – Old and New WWOW – please submit photos.
- November- Elections of Officers
- December – Party first Saturday in December
- January-Steve Friedman on water and policy

Diane Xiomek presented the membership report. There are 50 paid members plus 4 honorary members, with one returning member and four new members at the meeting. Patrice reiterated that 2023 dues MUST be dated January 2023 for 2023 membership.

Sunshine report by Judy O'Hara Vetrick: Happy Birthday was sung to the Birthday girls. All members remain healthy.

There were 9 boats at the Labor Day raftup. The Annual Picnic will be at Coconut Creek on Sunday, 9/18 from 1-4 PM. The theme is Pirates of the Caribbean.

The R/T Miami cruise is 10/28-10/31 on Freedom of the Seas (Royal Caribbean), Miami-Coco Cay-Nassau-Miami.

The Holiday Party will be held at Whale Harbor on Saturday, 12/3. There will be dancing, a DJ and access to the buffet. Pat would like to put together a slide show of WWOW photos, to be

shown on the TV at the event. She can scan them if they are not digitized. The deadline for submission is 11/1.

Nominations are needed for Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions all need to be filled.

New member Jen won the 50/50.