

MID-FLORIDA MILERS WALKING CLUB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The Mid-Florida Milers annual membership meeting was held at Kiwi's Pub & Grill in Altamonte Springs, FL, following a Traditional Walk starting from San Sebastian Trailhead in Altamonte Springs. The meeting was officially called to order by President Cathy Metherell at 12:15 pm. A quorum was established with twelve memberships attending and ten proxies previously received. The luncheon/meeting at Kiwi's was attended by 13 members, welcomed by President Cathy Metherell, and enjoying good food at good prices, with good friends.

MINUTES

Minutes from the May 18, 2024 annual meeting were approved and accepted by the membership.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Dan Barnett presented the following report as of the first quarter, April 30 2025:

- Total Assets (Checking, Savings, CDs, petty cash): \$12,624.27
- Net Income as of April 30th: \$1,185.15 (Note: as of today, this is less \$380.00 for bills paid so far in May).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Chair, David Piatt, presented the following updates.

- As of May 17, 2025: Memberships 50 and members 74.
Compares to last year at this time: memberships 53, members 82.
- We are starting our renewal campaign today. MFM membership runs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Single memberships are \$15 and couple or family memberships are \$25.
- If your basic information (address/phone number/ & email) has not changed you may renew at any walk during registration or mail a check to MFM PO Box. If you do have changes, please fill out the membership form on our website and renew at any walk or mail to the MFM PO Box.

ROUTES AND TRAILS REPORT

Cathy Metherell reviewed the upcoming scheduled events:

- May 31: Maitland YRE
- June 7: Disney Springs YRE
- June 21: Orlando South YRE
- July 5: Celebration #1 YRE
- July 19: Oakland Nature Center, Traditional (one-time) Event

Dan mentioned: With regards to Traditional Events, if you have any ideas, please let us know. We do try to do at least five TEs a year. As we get toward the end of the year, we will be putting together the 2026 Walk Schedule and we do encourage anyone who has ideas on places they would like to walk to let us know.

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Quarterly Newsletter Editor, Dan Barnett provided the following reminders:

- Dan requests that walkers take pictures when they are out walking any walks and send them to dnlcssb@aol.com or text to 808.342.8584.

- Also request any walkers who are traveling and walk any AVA walks to please consider writing an article for the Newsletter about the walks on their trip.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

Sharon Axelrod, Volunteer Coordinator, thanked all the MFM members who give their time in volunteer positions which provides the administration needed to keep this AVA Club active.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities will be available for this year's Walk Around Florida 34 being held the weekend of November 7- 9. As always positions needed to be filled will be walk start, walk finish, stamping, checkpoints, selling of raffle tickets, awards and books, etc. To accommodate the volunteers, we will be holding guided "worker walks" so they can pre-walk any walk for which they will be volunteering so as not to miss out on the walk and still get credit for it. The Volunteer Signup List is scheduled to be available the first of September. The Worker Walks for the four WAF events will be held on the two Saturdays in September and October which MFM will not be walking one of their group walks. A signup for those attending the Worker Walks will also be available at the beginning of September.

YEAR-ROUND EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Jenny Thomas YRE Coordinator, reminded members that at the beginning of each year to keep our events active, we pay a sanctioning fee to AVA. Each YRE costs \$40, therefore to keep all 17 of our YREs, MFM pays \$680 annually. In addition, we also pay AVA a \$60 fee for any Traditional Events we do during the year. The last several years we have been doing 5 TEs, so that is an additional \$300 we have paid out.

A few years ago, some of our members offered to financially support their favorite YRE walks by donating the annual \$40 fee to MFM. Currently the YRE's supported by members include: Celebration #1, Orlando Downtown, Delray Beach, West Palm Beach, Miami Beach and Key West. Jenny identified the following YRE walks that are not sponsored and welcomed anyone who would be interested in donating the annual \$40 fee to contact her or any of the Board Members: Celebration #2, Disney Springs, Orlando South, Universal, Maitland, Orlando North, International Drive, Winter Park, Lake Sumter Landing @ The Villages, Spanish Springs @ The Villages, and Fort Lauderdale. *[Note: After the meeting Sponsors volunteered for Celebration #2, Maitland, Orlando North, Orlando South and Winter Park].*

NEW BUSINESS

- Elections of Officers:
Cathy Metherell handled the elections for this year Board Member positions that were due for re-election.
 - The position of Vice-President is up for re-election for the next two years. Cathy asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none. Current Vice President, Paul Erickson said he is willing to continue as Vice President for the 2025-2027 term. Cathy asked for a vote and Paul was unanimously approved and thanked.
 - The position of Treasurer is also up for re-election for the next two-years. Cathy asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none. Current Treasurer, Dan Barnett said he is willing to continue as Treasurer for the 2025-2027 term. Cathy asked for a vote and Dan was unanimously approved and thanked.
- Highlights from AVA National Conventions 2025:
Cathy Metherell attended the Convention (as she usually does) and made a month-long vacation out of it. The convention was held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Cathy rented a car and left Orlando heading out west and stopping in at a number of cities within a number of states on her way. Stopping to walk AVA walks and to visit family and friends. She said the Convention was great and shared some stories of her time there and about her trip. She did

head out to California and Las Vegas before taking a red eye home to Orlando the day before our annual meeting. Watch for her story in our July quarterly MFM Newsletter.

- **WAF34 Update:**

Cathy Metherell gave a brief overview of the plans for the WAF34 Event hosted by MFM to be held Nov. 7 -9 in Osceola County, Florida. In conjunction with The Happy Wanderers and the Suncoast Sandpipers, the Mid-Florida Milers planning is underway. There will be four walks: Downtown Kissimmee, Saint Cloud, Celebration and Lake Nona Medical City; and a Swim at hotel pool will also be available. Our hotel is the Fairfield Inn & Suites, on 192, right outside the entrance to Celebration. Registration is now open. Visit any of the clubs' website or Facebook page for details. The WAF34 Brochure and pre-registration information will be provided shortly.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Cathy Metherell presented the following Awards:

- A Lifetime Mid-Florida Milers Membership Certificate of Appreciation was presented to JoAnne Cross who was one of the original members of our Club, walking and supporting the club now for 35 years. Many thanks to all that she has done as one of our founders, and continues to do in her participation of so many of the Club's activities. We are so grateful to you!

- Cathy presented MFM Certificates of Appreciation to the following members:

To our YRE Point of Contacts:

Tom Carter – Maitland

JoAnne Cross- Orlando South & Orlando Downtown

Howard Daughtrey – Celebration 1 & 2

John Hunter -North Orlando

Jan Van Vlack -The Villages Sumter Landing & The Villages Spanish Springs

To Vice President – Paul Erickson

To Treasurer – Dan Barnett

To Secretary – Sharon Axelrod

To YRE Coordinator – Jenny Thomas

To Membership Chair – David Piatt

To Publicity Coordinator -Veronica Palacios

- The following Mid-Florida Milers Awards will be presented to recipients at an upcoming walk since they were unable to attend the meeting:
 - President's Award: to Letty Zook for all her work as eNews (email) coordinator.
 - Volunteer of the Year: to Michael Kirchner for his efforts in maintaining the on-line only Winter Park Year-Round Event.
 - Volkssporter of the Year: to Sharon Predham for achieving walks in all 50 states and 51 capitals.
- The Board of Directors and the Quarterly MFM Meeting Participants presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Cathy Metherell for all her work and efforts as our Club President.

ADJOURNMENT

Cathy Metherell thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Sharon Axelrod

Secretary, Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club