

Lake Placid Garden Club, March 11, 2026

The meeting took place at the Lake Placid American Legion Post 25. There were 61 members and 4 guests present.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

In her message, President Doris Rohner told members, "Don't get sick!" She then thanked Brandi Hayes and the staff and members of American Legion Post 25 for their cooperation and hospitality.

These guests were introduced – Robin Burnett, Barbara Nichols and Janet Kelly. Our speaker, Melissa Hoffman was also present.

Rich Smith, Patsy Stamm, Brenda Stevens, Wanda Fitzgerald, Sherill Trevino and Kathleen Hartman were feted with the birthday song.

Sharon Diaz passed the "Coins for Camp" jar. Money collected this way is sent to Wekiva for their General Fund.

Agnes Smith, keeper of the tree log, reported members had planted 65 trees in the last year. She sent that information to the FFGC. Members are asked to record each tree they plant.

There are various sign-up sheets to be checked by members to volunteer and participate in Civic Beautification, the Member Appreciation Picnic, the plant sale and/or the plant study. The March 25th Plant Study will be conducted by Danny Green at the Masonic Lodge. The April Plant Study will be at Vicki Maxwell's "Yard With An Attitude" on April 22.

The centerpiece, yellow lantana plants, were provided by Mary Meisenheimer and Vera Olds.

Wanda Dickson spoke the invocation.

Members were called to lunch. Lunch consisted of sub sandwiches and chips from WaWa. Sharon Diaz provided the desert. Beverages, condiments and pickles were available.

The meeting reconvened. Monica Griffith, Co-First Vice President introduced the speaker, Melissa Hoffman. The subject of her presentation was the Ridge Ranger Volunteer Program.

Recording Secretary Joyce Miles confirmed there was a quorum present.

Sally Kinsey moved that with the addition of "Fuss and Brag," the agenda be accepted. The motion carried.

Fran Bimberger moved the February 11 General Meeting minutes be accepted as written. The motion carried.

Co-Treasurer Sandy Rosch reported that the club checking account had \$6,23,51. The Vanguard account had \$42,288.99. Cash on hand totaled \$200. Total assets are \$51,112.50. The report was accepted subject to audit.

In Civic Beautification, severe frost damage was reported at the American Legion gardens. Donna Ferchen plans to redo both Legion gardens, possibly at the end of the month.

Deb Meyer reported that progress was being made with the Masonic Ledge plants. Their plan calls for first removing most of the plants, adding top soil, replanting with more attractive plants and replacing the edging. The Lodge has money to use for this purpose and is working with Ibanez nursery and the LPGC. Irrigation needs to be installed. Mark Ponsler has volunteered to help with that and with the planting.

Karen Denning and Robin Shear, Holiday Home and Garden Tour Co-Chairmen, reported that they had been knocking on doors trying to find more homes to show in the 2026 event. Already, there are three homes committed. One or two more homes as well as a garden are needed.

Cathy Sockwell and Sandy Rosch reported on the March 21 Member Appreciation Picnic to be held at the Sun n Lakes Community Center between 11 and 3. Participants are asked to confirm the number in their party. Those bringing food are asked to bring any necessary serving utensils. More help is needed to set up, starting at 9:30.

Nick Price collected items for Manna Ministries today. Another collection will be held at the May meeting.

Marcia Price, Chairman of the Nominating Committee spoke about the need for members, new members in particular, to step up and take an office. The club is in real need of a President for the next club year. She pointed out that without a president, the club would dissolve. The office of president can be co-chaired. Patsy Stamm pointed out being the president of the LPGC is fun and that fellow members are quick to help out. Much of the current Board is staying but positions may be shifted around. The proposed slate of officers will be presented AND voted on at the April meeting.

The annual LPGC Plant Sale will take place March 28 at the Masonic Lodge. Deb Meyer reported for Vicki Maxwell. Members are asked to bring plants and to label them with the name of the plant. Plants can be brought to the Lodge late Friday or very early Saturday. Water bottles will be sold. A cooler for the water is needed as well as ice. Because of the possible shortage and poor condition of plants due to the frost, craft items and baked good will also be sold; craft items and baked goods are needed. Volunteers are needed to help set up the sale and take down after the sale. Members may be asked to bring plastic bags and cardboard boxes before the sale takes place.

Pat Reiser gave a thought-provoking talk in the Horticulture segment, titled, "Are plants sentient?"

Karen Denning gave an update of the Acorn Project. Volunteers meet at Royce Ranch the third Thursday of each month. One session begins at 8:00 and the second at 9:30.

Cathy Sockwell, Garden Therapy, brought an arrangement of flowers to show members what residents at Lake Placid Health and Rehabilitation Center made at their meeting this month. 18 residents and six Garden Club members participated. They meet the second Tuesday each month.

Carol Lambert, Youth Gardening, told members that the February activity at Crane Brook Academics was flower arrangement. The project this month will be making seed blankets and using dried flowers to make notecards and will be led by Sue Rood and Sharon Diaz. The meeting will take place the fourth Wednesday this month because of the student's spring break.

In the Fuss and Brag segment, Sue Rood showed members a frost-killed bouquet from her yard. Wanda Fitzgerald brought an Easter basket she made from a Dollar Tree basket, some moss and a wreath. She compared the one she made to an Easter basket from Crate and Barrel.

Centerpieces were won by Donna Jean Glenn, Wendy Parent, Alice Oldford, Pat Reiser, Lisa Hartman, Jerry Meisenheimer, Jeanne Dietl, Carol Coyle, Robin Shear, Robin Burnett, Mary Greeley and Linda Hunley.

The 50/50 drawing, conducted by Kathie Hutson, yielded \$85 and was won by Karen Denning.

Winners of Opportunity table offerings were Marian Chambers, Scarlet Ray, Pam Rosenberg, Lisa Hartman, Robin Burnett and Deb Meyer.

Deb Meyer reported a new plan to enhance the garden at the library. Along with the Friends of the Library Pat Smith and member Mark Ponsler, they have a proposal for the Library Project, with a projection of completion in 18-24 months. It entails cleaning up, raising funds, removing the gazebo, washing and raising the concrete and possibly installing a paved patio and inviting a mural. They ask for the support of the LPGC, by the sharing of knowledge, labor and perhaps funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13.

Joyce Miles

Recording Secretary

