

## ***Minutes of Oct 21, 2023, VA LoW's Meeting at Bull Run Regional Park***

Attendees:

Heather

Debbie (Heather's sister, visiting)

Ralph

Marsha G

Joann

Bob

Beth

Barb

Heather, Wagon Master, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Old Business: 2024 Campouts

1. Kathy volunteered as Wagon Master for the September campout at Pohick Bay Regional Park Campground.
2. Still waiting on target site for June campout at Pocahontas SP. To be posted on the website as soon as available.

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

### **October 2023 Campout Bull Run Regional Park**

We had a very low key campout to end our 2023 season. Bob and Beth did a hike at the Manassas National Battlefield Park but we mostly relaxed around the campfire. We burned a record 11 bundles of wood. It was chilly and rainy on Friday so we did dinner out at TGI Fridays and moved the potluck to Saturday. On the last day Barb brought out her Rummy Cube game and challenged Debbie, Bob and Marsha. By time to leave everyone was rested up from the 2023 season and looking forward to 2024.

## **September 2023 Business Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 5:55 pm

Old (continuing) Business:

Bob read the minutes of the August campout and they were accepted as read.

Reminder was given that national membership is a requirement to club membership.

Dues and Club President for 2024 were again discussed and decision made since most members were present and many would not be at the October campout that 2024 changes would be voted on at this meeting.

The group was reminded that 1 T-shirt was still available. It was decided to offer it to Nancy.

Flags – Kathy updated the group on the style and color of the garden flags that identify attendees as belonging to our group – this is optional, not required. 5 individuals indicated which flag they wished to acquire. Additional flags can be ordered with choice of design.

New Business:

Dues – The group voted to change club membership from \$20 to \$5 since we have a robust treasury of \$501.50 which is used for the purchase of firewood.

Club President – Joanne was elected as President for 2024. Sherry advised National on Sep 21, 2023 of the change in officer for next year.

Wagon masters for 2024 – As of this campout, the following volunteered as wagon masters:

April 18-21 - Barb at Newport News City Park, VA;

May 16-19 - Joanne at (tentatively) Tuckahoe State Park, MD;

June 13-16 - Marsha M. at Pocahontas State Park, VA;

July 18-21 - Sherry at Powhatan State Park (Site 16), VA;

Aug 15-18 – Anita at Blackwater Falls State Park (Site 45), WV

October 17-20 – Heather at Bull Run Regional Park, VA.

A wagon master is still needed for September.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

**The August campout of the Virginia Lows**  
**August 17-20, 2023**  
**Blackwater Falls State Park in Davis WV.**

Those attending were Anita, Marsha M., Sherry Bob, Kathy and Beth. Three National Lows members were Judy (PA Lows), Ralph and Joanne. Guests were Dave, Rose, and Dean. We had 12 participants total.....It was a real nice group of members, potential members, and guests.

The group enjoyed meals at Blackwater Lodge, Purple Fiddle, Sirianni's Cafe, and Canaan Valley Lodge. Since several arrived on Wednesday, those members explored the shops in Davis and enjoyed an Italian lunch at Sirianni's on Thursday. On Friday, the group went to Blackwater Falls and then explored Thomas on their own. We met for lunch at the Purple Fiddle. On Saturday, we traveled to Canaan Valley State Park where some chose to ride the chair lift to the top of the mountain. It was a magnificent view from the top. We then had dinner in the dining room at the Canaan Valley Lodge. Since the weather was so pleasant, we enjoyed a campfire each evening with some-mores. On some days, individuals explored on their own....hikes and overlooks. Others explored the nature center and took advantage of the naturalist's activities. The naturalist presented a program where he prepared pepperoni rolls in a dutch oven over the campfire and shared WV trivia.

Several of the group stayed until Monday so they took advantage of the clear evening and walked out to Lindy Point for the sunset.

The weather was perfect, which made for an enjoyable campout with fall-like temperatures. It was agreed that the chapter should return in August 2024 to Blackwater State Park.

## **Minutes from the Virginia Lows meeting on August 18, 2023.**

Sherry called the meeting to order on August 18, 2023. Members present were Sherry, Anita, Marsha M., Kathy, Beth, and Bob.

OLD Business – It was suggested that no dues would be collected for year 2023-24. It was later pointed out that membership is determined by members who have paid dues. The dues amount will be voted on at the October meeting.

A new president will be voted on at the October 2023 meeting.

Anita will be the wagonmaster for the August 2024 meeting from August 15-18. We will camp again at Blackwater Falls State Park in Davis, WV.

Meeting was adjourned.

**July 2023 Virginia LoW's Campout**  
**Killens Pond ,**  
**Felton, DE**

There were 6 LoWs members in attendance: Sherry, Kathy S, Marsha G, Barb, Beth , and Joanne, WM

We had arrivals, Weds, Jul 19 and Thurs, Jul 20. We enjoyed dinner together Thurs.

Friday morning we got an early start heading for the Delaware State Fair in Harrington. Arriving at 8:30 we hope to view the Chicken Judging. Unfortunately by the time we found the building the judging was over. However, we watched FFA and 4H students being taught chicken judging using artificial chickens made of wood. We found this to be very interesting.

We then wandered around the fairgrounds for the rest of the day, sticking our heads into various buildings and asking all kinds of interesting questions. We went through the sheep pavilion, the cow pavilion, the duck pavilion, the pig, and horse pavilion. The participants and their parents were very gracious in answering questions no matter how it sounded to them. Because this was the first full day open, there were no crowds and the weather was tolerable in the pavilions. and outside. We also enjoyed the vendor building. We had lunch and left around 2:30, Returned to camp and crashed.. We had decided that we would postpone potluck dinner to tomorrow night as we had plenty to eat at the fair

Saturday morning several of us took a 1 mile hike around the Lake. Except the hike turned out to be 2 miles. We all made it and enjoyed the experience. In the afternoon we visited the Nature Center where we saw exhibits of reptiles and amphibians. After our 4pm potluck we jumped into 2 cars with our chairs and headed to the pavilion where we enjoyed a concert put on by a local group. We sang and clapped and had a good time.

For July the weather was better than expected and all had a good time..

Joanne ODonnell

## **July 2023 Business Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 6:23 pm

### **Old Business:**

The group was reminded that 2 T-shirts were still available. They will be offered to the attendees at the remaining campouts.

Flags – We were updated on last campout decision to acquire garden flags that identify attendees as belonging to our group – this is optional, not required. Each individual will have the opportunity to purchase a flag with a choice of design – please contact Kathy. The designs available are a small version of the large LoWs wagon master site banner or a small teardrop trailer outline with LoWs below it – both on a yellow background. It will be up to each person to supply their own garden flag holder. Kathy will acquire the blank garden flags and work with the artist on design and production. Each person will be responsible for paying her for the completed flag they order.

### **New Business:**

Sherry advised the group of the change in national incorporation from Missouri to New Mexico. It does not appear to trigger a rewrite of our standing rules since the state of incorporation is not specified. She will send a copy of the club's existing standing rules to the membership along with the notification from national about the change in states.

Dues – Recommendation made to consider reducing or eliminating dues for 2024 since the club is only spending money for firewood. This needs to be voted on by the members present at the October campout.

Firewood purchases – A brief discussion regarding these purchases resulted in the members present voting that firewood should continue to be paid out of the treasury, which as of this date is \$501.50.

Wagon masters for 2024 – A discussion followed regarding the past selection of campout months by individuals at September/October campouts. Since getting campsites has become more challenging, it was decided that when members wanted to wagon master a specific month, they should notify Heather, our webmaster, as soon as they have selected a month and the location and their site number when know so others may make reservations nearby. As a result for 2024, Joanne volunteered for May, location TBD, Marsha M. volunteered for June, location TBD and Sherry for July, location TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03.

## Holliday Lake State Park

### 15-18 June 2023

Attendees: Barb, Marsha M, Beth, Nancy, Kathy, Heather and Sherry (Wagonmaster)

General: This 560 acre state park with a 119 acre lake is located deep in the Appomattox-Buckingham state forest. It features camping (RV, primitive and cabins), hiking, biking, kayaking, swimming and fishing.

Agenda: We arrived at various times leading up to the start of the campout. Greetings included “Hugs” which made everyone smile and started the fun. Thursday night was full of laughter, smiles, wonderful campfire and deciding what as a group we wanted to do during the day. We welcomed two visitors to the campout with an invitation to join in the activities and gatherings at the wagonmaster site as much as they felt comfortable doing. There were a variety of options presented and the group chose to visit High Bridge Trail State Park and Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park with lunch in Farmville on Friday.

With the morning departure after meeting for breakfast, we headed down the “short route” to our first destination. After much laughing and joking about the narrow gravel road followed by narrow paved roads, we arrived to find the Camp Paradise parking area for High Bridge closed due to a ticketed Firefly Festival taking place. So, we diverted to Farmville and did some shopping prior to lunch, then we proceeded to Appomattox Courthouse. Between photography opportunities, the museum/movie and gift shop, we were scattered in several places and had to scramble to get to the car prior to a heavy blinding rain. Kudos to our driver for managing to drive in that weather to return us to the campground. The weather moved on as fast as it hit so we were able to have a “way too much food” pot luck, a business meeting after dinner and a wonderful campfire to end the day.



On Saturday, we again set out after breakfast but in the opposite direction now heading to the D-Day National Memorial in Bedford, VA. We joined in with a tour led by a very knowledgeable guide who made the events leading up to and including D-Day come to life with the stories of individuals and units. After the tour, we went into Bedford and had lunch at a quirky but marvelous restaurant in an old house. Feeling very full, we set out to Thomas Jefferson's summer home, Poplar Forest, outside of Lynchburg. Since we missed the last tour, we did a self-guided ramble of the house and

nearby grounds then headed back to the campground to get ready to go to historic Appomattox for dinner. Afterwards, we gathered around the campfire again and just enjoyed watching the fireflies come out and play.

On Sunday, several folks had to head back home and the campout ended again in hugs as folks departed.

## **MINUTES OF LoWs MEETING ON JUNE 19, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President, Sherry McNeil, on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:48 p.m. at Holliday Lake State Park, VA.

### **ATTENDEES:**

Sherry, President  
Nancy  
Kathy  
Beth  
Marsha M  
Heather  
Barb

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Sherry reported her communications with the national office about the LoWs T-shirts. She received six shirts (in two colors, with a medium, large, and extra large in each color) and three dozen LoWs logo pens.

A proposal was made to give each member two pens and to keep the rest for new members as they join our chapter and was agreed to. Accordingly, each member present received two pens.

The group discussed how to distribute the free shirts and that no further attempt should be made to obtain additional shirts. Of the members present, several did not want a t-shirt and those that did (3) were given a shirt. The remaining 3 will be offered to the members not present at this campout.

Sherry provided LoWs information brochures to each member to give out to interested persons to publicize the group. National office will be contacted for additional copies of the brochure.

Kathy reported on the individual flags to be displayed at each member's site at campouts to help first-time campers find us in addition to our main sign displayed at the wagon master's site. Kathy provided options (logo on one side for \$10 or logo on both sides for \$17). She took orders from those present and will commission the designer to make the flags. Each flag owner will provide their own flag holder.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Having received the new By Laws from the national office, the group discussed implications for our chapter, if any. Heather provided a historical context on how the By Laws evolved over the years. The group decided that the perception of "legally single" was adequate to define expectations for campers.

The discussion moved to the need for additional officers, as required by the By Laws. Our chapter does not have enough cash to merit a formal bank account administered by a Treasurer. Our only cash expenditure is to purchase firewood for each campout. A volunteer usually serves as an ad hoc secretary by jotting down the minutes of each meeting.

We discussed the lack of historical chapter records, which were stored, never consulted, and were eventually discarded. Heather has some old newsletters if anyone wants to read them. We agreed that our website with campout schedule and campout reports is adequate to meet the newsletter requirement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted,  
Sherry McNeil, President





## **May 2023 Virginia LoW's Campout at Gettysburg, PA**

On May 18-21, LoWs gathered at Gettysburg, PA, to soak up some history and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Both Marshas, Joanne, Nancy, Sherry, Kathy, and Barb attended. Bella, Leila, and Senor represented our critter contingent. We were sad to learn that Marsha M's Sammy and one of Marsha G's fur babies have crossed the

Rainbow Bridge. They were missed.

We camped at Caledonia State Park, about 15 miles west of Gettysburg. Our sites were surprisingly tiny and oddly arranged, but we enjoyed camping in our own 'loop.' Except for rain on Saturday night, the weather was sunny and very pleasant.

On Wednesday we early arrivals drove to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville.

We followed the less traveled Rt 30 westward over the Allegheny Mountains, seeing beautiful Pennsylvania barns and countryside as our ears popped going over the twisty mountain road. With the help of directions from a lovely Amish girl driving her horse and buggy, we had lunch in a quaint local restaurant. The Memorial was thoughtful, unique, and inspiring. We ended our visit listening to the Tower of Voices wind chime. The Memorial left each of us in awe.

The sunny weather beckoned us into the 1950s on Friday, so we visited the home and farm of Dwight D. and Mamie Eisenhower. One could almost envision Mamie with her banged hairdo puttering around their home and "Ike" practicing on his front yard putting green. The farm showed pictures of Ike competing with his show cattle. We visited nearby Sachs Covered Bridge for some photos. On the way back to the campground, we stopped at the furnace near the campground (where locals processed metals), and then went on to the Appalachian Trail



Museum and lunch at the nearby general store. Many thanks to Marsha M for helping with driving. Couldn't have done it without you! Saturday the rain held off until evening, so we enjoyed an excursion to the Gettysburg battlefield—along with what seemed like hundreds of others doing the same thing. We visited the museum and then drove to key features on the battlefield: the Eternal Flame, the Living Tree Monument, we left dog bones for dogs on two of the memorials, traced the strategic locations of both armies, and how each

conducted the battle. For dinner, we dined at La Bella Italia, which served the biggest portions we had ever seen. No one could complain of skimpy servings, which was good because I got us hopelessly lost on the way home and we might have needed our leftover boxes to keep us nourished. Looks like a GPS is in my plans....

Sunday dawned clear and beautiful, so some of the group hiked the nearby trails as the rest of us relaxed at the campground. Thanks to Kathy's pyrotechnical skills, we had a fire each night. She performed miracles coaxing fire from damp firewood. We knew the campout was over when she tossed her cardboard bellows into the final flames.

As usual, no one went hungry! Happy Hour saw several dishes for each of us to sample, with Kathy's cheese/Rotel dip and Marsha G's cheese and caramel popcorn seeing many repeat visits. Our potluck was eaten up in no time. Obviously, no one is going to lose weight at this campout.

After a final campfire and good night's sleep, we packed up and headed to our respective homes, looking forward to gathering again at Holiday Lake State Park in June.



Good times, good friends – what more can you want?! -- Barb Foley, Wagon Master

May 19, 2023

**LoWs May Business Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order by President, Sherry, at 7:32 p.m. on May 19, 2023, at Caledonia State Park, PA. In attendance were:

Nancy	Sherry
Barb	Marsha M
Marsha G	Kathy
Joanne	

2023 dues were collected.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sherry reported that LoW National is going to have T-shirts made and sent to each group. We should be receiving 12 shirts. The recipient group decides how to use the shirts (distribute to members, use as 'awards,' promotionals). We wondered how sizing would be handled. Sherry clarified that the sizes would be large and extra large but did not know if the sizing was men's or women's or what design would be featured on the shirts. Our group decided that each dues-paying member would receive a shirt and distribution would be whenever we see the dues-paying member rather than mailing the shirts. We will try to accommodate sizing as the shirts are received.

Also from National, Sherry announced that they are installing a new roof.

At the April meeting, we explored the idea of posting garden-type flags featuring LoW or LoW emblem in front of each of our campsites to make it easier for first-time LoW campers to find us and to advertise LoW to passers-by. Kathy had offered to explore a possible source, and she confirmed that her friend can make the flags and will estimate pricing. (Each member would provide their own flag holder.) Joanne will also check into laminated signs which are displayed in one's windshield.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sherry reminded everyone that we need more members to volunteer as wagon masters.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Joanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Marsha G. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

**SHERRY McNEIL**  
President

**Apr 13-16 Chickahominy Riverfront Park, Williamsburg, VA**

Beth Hughes, Wagonmaster

Attendees: Beth, Kathy, Joanne, Anita, Barb, Nancy

Meeting started at 7:39 pm with a general question of what everyone wanted to accomplish this year. Responses were to exercise more, relax, camp more and keeping our minds curious. The \$20 regional dues were discussed as we have sufficient funds at this time. It was decided to pay the dues this year and discuss it again for next year at our September or October camp out. A suggestion that we use just fire logs was approached but it was agreed that we like seeing wood burn. It was discussed that it may be nice to have a little LOWS flag at each campsite. Kathy said she will as a friend on cost options. Usage of no last name was discussed for privacy/safety in correspondence to national. Meeting concluded at 7:59 pm with Joanne approving it and Anita and Kathy seconding it.