**LAST STAND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**January 28, 2023 at Rooftop Venue at The Studios of Key West**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Ann Olsen, and she declared a quorum of members was present. She welcomed attendees and encouraged them to volunteer and become involved.

Presenting the Annual Report, Ann Olsen and Vice-President Andrea Strawn highlighted major issues and activities of the prior year, including water quality and its impacts to marine life (provided input to the Sanctuary Blueprint; attended Sanctuary Advisory Council sessions; submitted comments to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission; supported like-minded organizations, and educated the public about harm from use of shallow injection wells) and quality of life issues (monitored agendas and submitted written input to the Monroe County BOCC and Key West City Council on land use issues; attended meetings of both policy bodies; and supported the ROGO legal challenge that has impacts for overdevelopment, traffic, and safe hurricane evacuation)

Strawn noted this year’s Special Recognition Award went to Safter, Cleaner Ships, in recognition of the hard work, consensus-building approach, and real results the group had been able to accomplish over the past three years, noting their common-sense limitations to the size and number of cruise ships visiting Key West were endorsed by a majority of local voters. The award was accepted by Evan and Arlo Haskell and Will Benson.

Treasurer Mark Songer noted the Annual Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2022 were posted on the website, keyslaststand.org. He asked for objections and/or corrections, and, hearing none, declared those Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Songer gave a concise overview of the financial operating results for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, citing the overall strength of reserves and noting areas of operating expense savings during that period. He thanked the major donors and members for their ongoing support. The full financial report was posted on the website keyslaststand.org.

Songer opened the nomination process for Board Members and Alternates. After hearing no nominations from the floor, the slate to elect Dottie Moses, Chris Hamilton, and Ann Olsen as Board Members, with terms expiring in 2026, Roger McVeigh, as Board Member, with a term expiring in 2024, and Denise Werling as Alternate Board Member, with a term expiring at the annual meeting in 2024, was approved by unanimous consent.

Shifting to the evening’s program, Board Member Chris Hamilton introduced the panel emcee/moderator Gwen Filosa. Filosa then introduced each of the local storytellers (Rita Troxel, Lucy Burdette [aka Roberta Isleib], Hayes Blinckmann, Linda Grist Cunningham, and Nancy Klingener) who presented their interesting, unique experiences in the Keys and shared perspectives about changes they had observed over the years. The panel conversed with each other and fielded questions from the audience.

Filosa turned the meeting over to Olsen, who acknowledged donors of the raffle prizes, and several raffle prizes were awarded to attendees. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Newman, Secretary