

**Junaluskans General Meeting
Warren Center
March 5, 2025**

Jan Lemasters called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Caring and Sharing – Jan presented a long list of persons who are ill, recovering, grieving, or who have died.

Opening Prayer - Rev. Mark Schultz offered the opening prayer as the season of Lent begins.

Guest Speakers – Chuck Lipp and Junior Woody made a presentation, with slides, about the dam. Chuck began with the impact of Hurricane Helene. The water overtopped the dam, making it over the top of the slabs at the maximum height of the dam, but not to the bridge above the dam. Before the storm, the lake level was lowered, which helped to prevent further damage. We had about 7.5 inches of rain in 24 hours, which is something between once in a hundred year and once in a two hundred year event. (Asheville had a once in a thousand year event.) The Tuberville Bridge acted as a trash boom, preventing much debris from reaching the dam and clogging the spillway. During the storm, Chuck and Junior were in Denver at a national dam safety meeting. They learned that there are 90,000 dams in the United States. It is better to improve dam safety than to clean up after a dam failure.

Junior addressed what improvements are envisioned for the Junaluska dam. He reviewed items that have already been accomplished. Junipers have been removed from the earthen dam, and rock covering has replaced it, to cover the earthen embankment. The priority list is: (1) sluice gate valve renewal with trash rack (2) engineering assessment of options to increase spillway capacity (3) spillway protection from flood debris (4) downstream dam face renewal and spillway condition assessment (5) dam monitoring instrumentation upgrades (6) inspection and repairs to the upstream dam face slab junction. 2025 objectives for basic engineering package is projected to cost \$100,000. Next phases will follow from this, including cost estimates which can be used to apply for grants.

Chuck asks, “How can we achieve a major increase in spillway capacity, and not break the bank?” The current spillway could be increased in stages to provide greater capacity. How do we get support and funding for this? At the dam safety conference, Chuck learned that we need consensus of support from the stakeholders: Junaluska community, greater community, county, state. Take time to educate and engage, answering the questions of why and why now?

Funding of Lake Junaluska Dam Improvements includes government agency grants, as well as a funding from residents, conference center and guests, specific donations, lake endowment, annual fund. Raising the funds is a marathon, and not a sprint.

He reported that the Lake Junaluska Dam Operations and Maintenance Manual has been completed, as a repository of information specific to our dam, and a prerequisite for some grants.

Birthdays, anniversaries and first-time attendees – Larry Roberts recognized Rick and Lisa Yates as first-time attendees. March birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.

Chairperson reports

Jan announced that **revisions to constitution and by-laws** will be presented next month.

Worship Opportunities Gary Phillips announced that the first Junaluskans worship event of the year will be next week, Thursday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m., at the Memorial Chapel, to rededicate the newly refurbished baptismal font; the service will include baptismal reaffirmation. Also, on May 15, 6:30 p.m., a hymn sing is planned for the Biblical Gardens.

Lake Cleanup Steve Crites announced Saturday, March 15, 9:00 to 11:00, meeting at Stuart Auditorium. Preregistration is available. He asked for two more area coordinators.

Membership Margaret Amick reported that on March 3, 2024, we had 292 members. As of today, we have 415 members!

New Business

Jan announced an **April 15 NOMAD salad and sandwich “potluck” at noon at the York Dining Hall**. Junaluskans are asked to bring salads, sandwiches, and desserts. Drinks will be supplied.

Jan reminded us of the Holiday Friends Group, anticipating the Easter holidays.

Old Business

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast – April 30 at 9:00, as a gift from the Lake to appreciate all who have volunteered.

Administrative updates - Ken Howle shared the following:

1. He thanked Chuck and Junior for one of the best dam reports he has heard.
2. He highlighted the Lake Cleanup day as a way for people to get involved.
3. Department of Transportation update: Crosswalk project at the golf course could take place this summer. Stoplight and crosswalk at the main entrance may begin as early as May with utility work, but real work will probably not begin until after Thanksgiving. A tree-planting project is planned for next year, to buffer the golf course from the highway.
4. We have a huge variety of events, 30 this month with 8 different denominations and other groups. Red trucks parking at York belong to Aims Construction Group, repairing I-40.
5. We prioritize disaster recovery groups who will continue their work.
6. The new *Discover Magazine* will be coming out soon.
7. Seven years ago, as Ken Howle began his work, Ken was inspired by Chuck Lipp to adopt as his prayer for LJ: Psalm 133:1: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.”

Judy LaFountaine announced Saturday, June 14 as the flea market. The storage space is nearly full. Please store items at your house.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Mickle,
Recording Secretary