

Country Squires

Minutes of the November 14, 2024 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM sharp by President Art Scutro who welcomed all and gave highlights of the current college football stats.

A wonderful tribute to our veterans was given by Art Rosen as the Words of Wisdom for the meeting.

Past President, Joe Watts commented that this meeting attendance was the greatest he has seen in 5 years.

Garry Keane explained that a website glitch is in the process of being rectified and expects the site to function properly for our December meeting registration.

Two guests were introduced to the members. Harvey Best introduced Conrad Boulton. This was Conrad's first meeting attendance. Bruce Johnson then introduced Tom Hargis. Since this was Tom's second meeting attendance as a guest he was nominated for membership and was unanimously voted in as a new member. In addition, Jim Antell was welcomed back and unanimously voted in as a returning Squire.

The minutes of the October meeting were unanimously approved. Art reported that there remain 17 members who have not yet paid their annual dues. Executive Board members will reach out by phone and letter.

President Art Scutro introduced our speaker, Jared Golfarb.

Jared was born in Henniker, NH. He is Jewish. He told us that like many young Jews he went to Israel for what was to have been a short visit 30 years ago and it became his home. He found his calling there. He is a college professor in Israel and in the US. His focus is Israeli/Palestinian relations. He spoke at length about the long history of conflict. He said both the Israelis and the Palestinians are focused on their own "narrative" rather than the facts of history. Both have strong and deep religious faith which is critically important but...one's faith is not the only narrative. There is a lack of effort on the part of many on each side of the conflict to attempt to understand the narrative of the other. He said the October 7, 2024, attack on the Jewish people by Hamas has caused a regression of the parties and their political leaders into their own narrative. October 7th was not the beginning of the conflict. All parties must look back in history. He said there is hope in that many Palestinian and Israeli citizens are meeting and working toward peace but the current political conditions of both parties are not conducive to peace. Unfortunately, Jared told us it will be many, many years before permanent peace can come to the region. Poignantly he said, "A man does not plant a tree so he can harvest fruit. He plants it so his grandchildren can."

Jared then opened the meeting to questions from the members. There followed a 50 minute wonderful discussion. Several members raised concern of possible escalation of the conflict to

additional parties and the threat of nuclear weapons. Jared said, if there is a fix, it is education. Each side must teach their children the narrative of the other, not just their own.

Jared said a 2 state solution is the most practical but any resulting peace would be short-lived because that would not bring the 2 sides to live peacefully together. He cautioned that a 2 state solution is not a permanent fix. It would only maintain the current hatred, one side for the other. The sides must recognize and acknowledge that each have a right to existence. He suggested a solution similar in form to the European Union in which both states would exist under one entity as a cooperative solution.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Keenan
Secretary pro tem