



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

August 17, 2025

The regular Board Meeting of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc., was called to order by President Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, at 3:02 pm on Zoom.

Present were Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, President; Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, Vice President; Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ, Secretary; Dirk Basting, N4AN, Treasurer; Tom Savoca, K9TJS, Public Information Officer; and Jeff Stahl, K4BH, Director at Large. Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, Repeater Trustee, was absent, excused.

Minutes of the July 13, 2025, Board Meeting were approved as submitted.

Security cameras for John Knox Village will be purchased by Dirk Basting, unless Ricky Eaton has already done so.

The equipment inventory remains a work in progress.

Mike Meeks has been paid for the rack and power supply that were approved at the last Board meeting. Ricky Eaton has the power supply; a pick up truck is necessary to get the rack. Bill Mercer will be asked for assistance since he has a truck of sufficient size.

The Board agreed to try to assemble a repeater team of club members with technical abilities that could assist Ricky Eaton, who currently has substantial work demands, with troubleshooting problems with the repeaters.

The Board agreed to use the GCARA website and the SEFTN announcements to encourage learning opportunities available through other local clubs, such as the POTA events of the Palmetto Club and the Parrot Club. It was agreed that Field Day

does not work well for new hams to learn how to make and log contacts because there is an impatient contest atmosphere, notwithstanding the ARRL's directive that it is not a contest. POTA events held by various local clubs, being more casual and stress free, are being used effectively to teach contact skills.

Hospitality and Sunshine committees are needed; email appeals so far have not elicited a response.

The Board agreed to begin a donation request toward a memorial brick for silent key, Rhonda Pitone, commemorating her years of service as a Volunteer Examiner. The Board also agreed to give a certificate of appreciation and a Life Membership to Mike Wolf (who has moved out of the area) in recognition of his many years of service to GCARA.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary Pro Tem