



PKS Fire Chief and EMS Director Bill Matthias (center) makes a point as he outlines the functions of his department for the military officers on the other end of the telephone hookup. Town Manager Brian Kramer and Mayor Joan Lamson are at left. By increasing their knowledge of local government in the U.S., members of the military group seek to be more prepared if called upon to help officials in places like Iraq establish stable local governments capable of providing necessary services.

PKS Officials

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situation are vastly dissimilar. In the case of a North Carolina community like PKS, essentially deriving its authority from the state, it has years and years of experience and precedents to fall back on and well-developed standards that guide it and that it has to meet.

In Iraq, where a far different culture, ethnicity and religious influence prevail, there is no such road map. Essentially there is a blank slate, signaling where do we go from here?

Army Infantry Major Matthew Brown got right to the point when he asked those on the PKS end of the line what they would do first if they were faced with a situation where public services were intermittent, often interrupted, or non-existent. To a man the PKS participants opted for pure water and sanitation first, a position voiced earlier by Public Services Director Ernie Rudolph who noted that maintaining and protecting the municipal water supply was one of the most important duties PKS officials had to perform and that a parallel probably existed in places like Iraq.

The second choice of the PKS participants

was security, and that led to comments that you would have to pursue both goals simultaneously if you hoped to succeed.

Collaboration seemed to be an important point with the Fort Leavenworth group, one of them asking if towns like PKS had any interaction with similar communities. PKS Mayor Joan Lamson pointed out that North Carolina communities have many conduits for interacting with other communities, regularly exchanging information and experiences through the League of Municipalities and other organizations. It was also noted that neighboring communities support each other in the public safety area, particularly with fire department mutual aid programs.

Collaboration is stressed in Command and General Staff College classes. Participants, averaging about 16 per class, are picked for their diversity in experience and military specialties. Marzano's classmates include a submariner, chaplain, Air Force navigator, civil affairs officer, two quartermasters and two international military students, one from Morocco the other from the Republic of Georgia. The idea is to create an environment of different viewpoints in which people learn how to think, not what to think.

How you pay for what you want to do was also on the minds of the Fort Leavenworth group. The answer in PKS is that while the town derives its powers and some funds from the state it raises the bulk of its finances locally through property taxes. The local officials agreed that the ability to levy taxes was the most important tool communities have.

In Iraq, the host country is listed as one of the resources from which support for stabilization will come. Asked how the national government of Iraq is performing in this regard, one of the military officers reported that in a recent tour in Iraq he found "light years" of improvement in the way financial support is now filtering down from the top to the bottom as opposed to when he was there in 2003.

All in all, the military group was optimistic about the future of stability efforts in Iraq, in which the military is playing a leading role. By the time the cross-country telephone conference came to a close, participants on both ends of the line had a great deal more food for thought.

PKS Women's Club

By Veronica Stanley

The Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club met on January 23 at town hall. President Gail Halada's theme for 2009 is "Things Will Be Fine in 2009." She thanked Donna Belanger, Pat Filan and Barbara Bagby for the hospitality and refreshments they provided for the social prior to the meeting. Elaine Temple donated a vest and Mary Kanyha donated a plant for the scholarship raffle items. In addition, members contributed funds to the Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased member Doris Blackwell.

Priscilla Livingston of Crystal Coast Wines, Morehead City, spoke on the topic, "Wine Makes the Meal." She gave an informative talk enhanced by the wine sampled.

This month's meeting will be March 27 at town hall with a social at 9:30 a.m. The meeting convenes at 10 a.m. Martha McAdams of Crystal Coast Crafters will demonstrate "Stained Glass Creations." The Supper Club will have an Irish dinner on March 15. Contact Pat Ruggiero if interested. Cook's Night Out will meet at Floyd's 1921 in Morehead City at 6 p.m. on March 27. Contact Barbara Bagby. All PKS women are invited to join the club.

Book Clubs

The Beach Book Club will meet at Sue Walsh's house March 12 to discuss Conald McCaig's book, *Rhett Butler's People*. Between the Bookends group will meet March 9 at the home of Liv Stephens with Moni Bottlinger leading the discussion of *Beneath a Marble Sky* by John Shors.

In Memoriam
Marie Bernice Garry
George Riggs



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