

# The Exchange Club of Kiawah-Seabrook

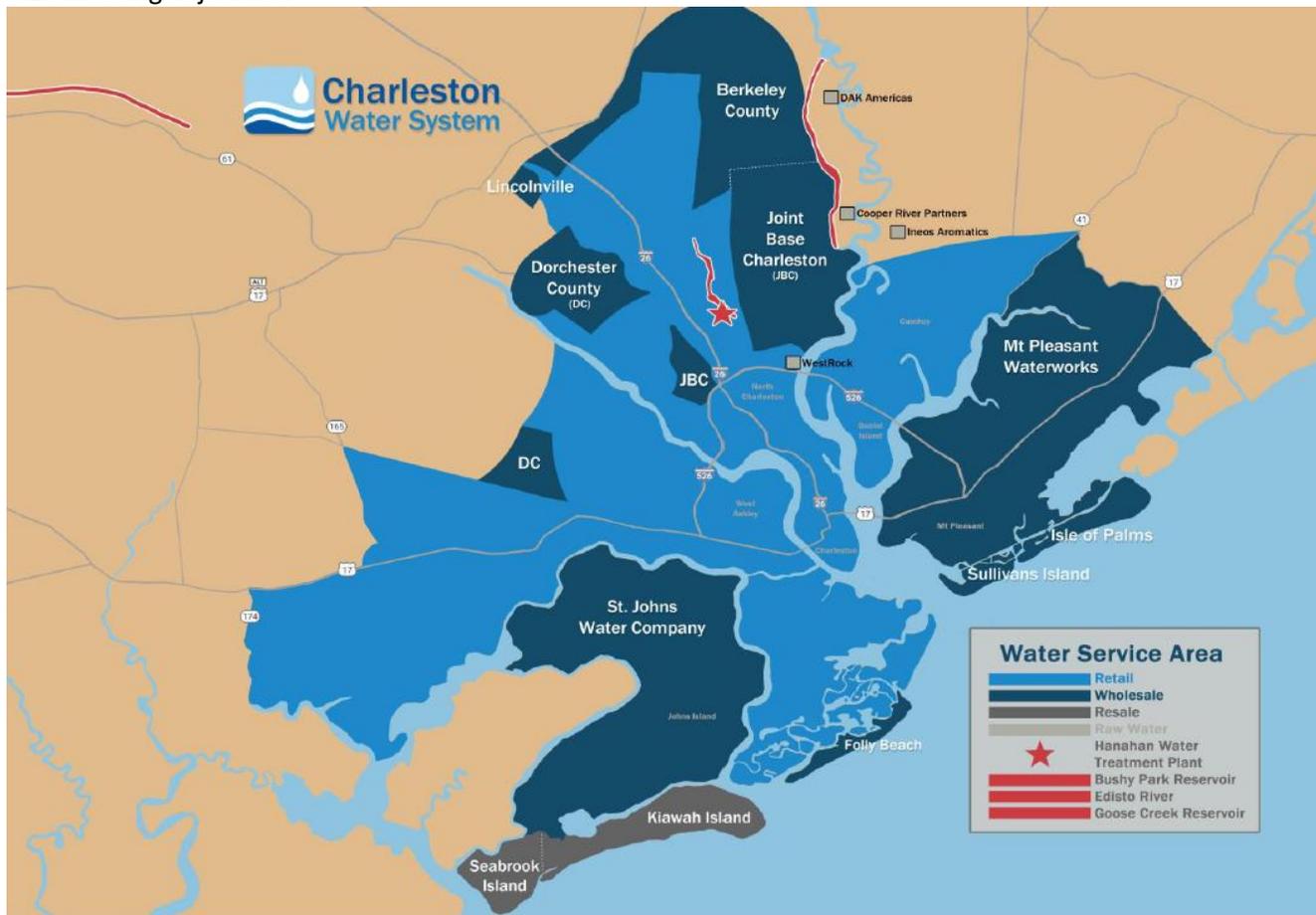
Box PMB-J 130 Gardener's Circle Johns Island, SC 29455

## Member Meeting 07-19-2023 @Seabrook Island Club

6:28PM Thad Peterson, President-Elect, called the meeting to order and opened with a moment of silence follow by prayer. (Thad was standing in for Ray Hoover, newly elected President not able to attend).

- Chris Stephenson honored South Carolina fallen hero, Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Bradford Thomas-Army National Guard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. See Bio attached
- Guests and Dinner Attendees welcomed, see attendance list attached
- Roger Steele reminded members about tickets for the CSO event Jan 19, 2024
- Bob Mason spoke briefly about the movie, Sound of Freedom. Relates to Child Abuse Prevention service committee.
- Jack Wilson thanked the membership for his send-off last meeting.
- 7:33PM: After dinner, our speaker for the evening Mike Saia of Charleston Water System was introduced. He presented an overview of how CWS has been treating and distributing water since 1917. Seabrook's water is purchased from wholesaler of CWS, St. Johns Water Co.

8:20 meeting adjourned



**Next Meeting:** 8/2/23 @ Seabrook Island Club

Speaker – Mayor John Tecklenburg

### Addendums:

Attendance

Fallen Hero

Speaker Bio

Minutes submitted on 7/25/23 by Lisa McDonald, Club Secretary

**ATTENDANCE**

| Attended? | Member             | Attended? | Guests/Special Meals           |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| X         | Phyllis Barber     |           |                                |
| X         | Wayne Billian      |           |                                |
| X         | Herb Boehm         |           |                                |
| X         | Kevin Boyle        |           |                                |
| X         | Ed Brett           |           |                                |
| X         | David Cruse        |           |                                |
| X         | Bob Driscoll       |           |                                |
| X         | Frank Farfone      |           |                                |
| X         | Dick Fleming       |           |                                |
| X         | Joe Foti           |           |                                |
| No        | Derek Fyfe         |           |                                |
| X         | Richard Gwyn       |           |                                |
| X         | Edward Hescamp     |           |                                |
| X         | Bill Huff          | X         | Pat Huff - <u>\$40 Paid</u>    |
|           |                    | X         | Barbara Willis                 |
| X         | Maurice Isaac      |           |                                |
| X         | Phyllis Kaupp-Seas |           |                                |
| X         | Ed Leary           |           |                                |
| X         | Bruce Ludwin       |           |                                |
| X         | Bob Mason          | X         | Sherrie Mason                  |
| X         | Lisa McDonald      |           |                                |
| X         | Rick McDonald      |           |                                |
| X         | Joy Millar         |           |                                |
| X         | Bill Nelson        | X         | Cathy Cleary                   |
| X         | Lisa Owens         |           |                                |
| X         | Thad Peterson      |           |                                |
| X         | Dustin Plunkett    | X         | Victoria Pulliam               |
| X         | Joel Pondelik      |           |                                |
| X         | Russ Preston       |           |                                |
| X         | Robert Quagliato   |           |                                |
| X         | Chris Quinn        |           |                                |
| X         | Sam Reed           |           |                                |
| X         | John Reock         | X         | Bob Carroll                    |
| X         | Ed Rigtrup         |           |                                |
| No        | Shirley Salvo      |           |                                |
| X         | John Sesody        |           |                                |
| X         | Roy Sessions       |           |                                |
| X         | Walter Sewell      | X         | Karen Sewell                   |
| X         | Robert Spizalie    | X         | Mike Saia – Speaker            |
|           |                    | No        | Laura Clifton – Speaker Assoc. |
| X         | John Smock         |           |                                |
| X         | Roger Steel        |           |                                |
| X         | Chris Stephenson   |           |                                |
| X         | Marj Stephenson    |           |                                |
| X         | Dick Trent         |           |                                |
| X         | Stan Ullner        |           |                                |
| X         | Bruce Van Voorhis  |           |                                |

| Attended? | Member        | Attended? | Guests/Special Meals |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------------|
| X         | Jack Wilson   |           |                      |
| X         | David Woodman |           |                      |
| X         | John Woychick |           |                      |
| X         | Mela Wyeth    |           |                      |

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| Attended? | Guest            | Member          | Type     |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| X         | Bob Carroll      | John Reock      | Prospect |
| No        | Laura Clifton    | Robert Spizalie | Speaker  |
| X         | Pat Huff         | Bill Huff       | Wife     |
| X         | Sherrie Mason    | Bob Mason       | Wife     |
| X         | Mike Saia        | Robert Spizalie | Speaker  |
| X         | Victoria Pulliam | Dustin Plunkett | Guest    |
| X         | Karen Sewell     | Walter Sewell   | Wife     |
| X         | Barbara Willis   | Bill Huff       | Prospect |

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### TRIBUTE TO SC FALLEN HERO

Good evening fellow club members and guests. In our last meeting we paid tribute to 1st Lieutenant Ryan D. Rawl, one of 3 South Carolina Army National Guard soldiers killed in a suicide attack during Operation Enduring Freedom. Tonight, we're paying tribute to the second fatality - Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Bradford Thomas. Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Bradford Thomas, died on June 20, 2012 in Afghanistan along with two other South Carolina Army National Guard soldiers - 1st Lieutenant Ryan D. Rawl and Sgt. John Meador. Born in Asheville, NC, a son of Bud and Marsha Thomas, Sgt. Thomas was a graduate of Travelers Rest High School and attended Greenville Technical College. He was with the 133<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company of the South Carolina Army National Guard in Timmonsville and was stationed in Afghanistan. Their mission was to train members of the Afghan police. The unit was activated a year earlier and due to return home in August 2012. The suicide bomber attacked the soldiers in the city of Khost, about 90 miles southeast of Kabul. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Thomas and his platoon were operating a checkpoint in a crowded market where they were doing fingerprinting and retina scans, looking for insurgents and searching for explosives. The attack claimed 24 lives in all. The assailant detonated his vest packed with small ball bearings and explosives as he approached Afghan and U.S. soldiers at the traffic control point. Quoting Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston "These men died serving their country and I want to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to their families, who are the unsung heroes of our war effort. These deaths are grim reminders that our military, to include our South Carolina National Guard, is still in active defense of our country. We are privileged to have such heroes in our midst." Brad's aunt, wrote a poem honoring Sgt. 1st Class Thomas and posted it on his tribute page.

Here is an extract from that poem:

I stand respectful and so proud  
I know I'm only a civilian  
And I don't even know if it's allowed  
But I salute you;  
Allow me the honor to salute you  
With permission let me say  
Even though I hold no rank know that from my heart  
My humble gratitude comes from the deepest part.  
I salute you.

As an indication of our respect for Sgt. 1st Class Thomas and others who gave their lives for our country, the club places US flags around our community several times a year. Each flag has a yellow ribbon attached with the name of a fallen hero. Sgt. 1st Class Thomas, we salute you and your sacrifice on our behalf. Please stand and join me in reciting the pledge of allegiance.



## Charleston Water System

Mike Saia - Public Information Administrator

Laura Clifton - Communications Coordinator



**Mike Saia** (pronounced Say-uh) has led communications efforts at the Charleston Water System since 2017, where he serves as Public Information Administrator. His 20+ years of executive level communications and public relations work includes a decade at the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament and five years at Select Health of South Carolina, our state's largest Medicaid managed care organization.

**Laura Clifton** has been the Communications Coordinator at Charleston Water System for five years, where she works closely with the public to educate them about their water and wastewater services, and other operational impacts. Her prior public relations experience includes work in the tourism and publishing industries.