

Vista Royale Computer Club
Minutes of the Meeting
March 24, 2016

Mike Johnson, President, welcomed 38 members and guests; we now have 185 members. Please use the calendar on our website www.vrcc.info to see who will be our next speaker or read all about it at the end of this message.

Vicky will be having a 3 part class this coming week on 'Spreadsheets' which all of us would benefit from. Sign up for it in the Lab; it starts Monday night. This will be the last classes of the season. Also the Genealogy Group will have their last session on March 30th. You will still be able to use the Ancestry subscription until the Lab closes.

Our guest speaker was James Covey, Esq, [JD, MBA] a local attorney who is licensed to practice law in Florida and Maryland. He presently has offices in Vero Beach [772-770-6160] as well as Okeechobee and Stuart. His presentation was the 'Pros and Cons of Florida Residency', a subject he is well versed in.

If you did not attend, you missed a great presentation that was quite fast paced and covered everything the members asked him about at the beginning. There was so much information that was quite detailed that I will only touch on the main subjects in this email. If you are truly interested in changing your state residency, go to one of his seminars or find an attorney & accountant to advise you. Every situation is different and plans will need to be personalized for you.

He started by explaining that FL has no state income tax, no estate tax and can by law only raise property taxes by 2% per year. Property tax is tagged to the CPI, Consumer Price Index. There is a 6% state sales tax and sometimes a 1% county sales tax. To 'Homestead' your property and save money on your property taxes, you need to own your condo and have a driver's license and a voter registration card. He also pointed out other aspects of getting out of your present state and establishing FL Residency.

You should know what the current Federal and state Capital Gains tax would be when you sell your property up north and the ramifications of how you do it. He wanted all of us to know that FL Medicaid has no 'in home' care provisions so your financial choices for assisted living/nursing are different here from other states if you are going to have to rely on government help.

Even if you do not change your residency, you should also have an additional FL Power of Attorney for any problems while you are here temporarily. Couples, each considering having different state residencies, should know that they will have to file taxes separate, etc. It is somewhat like being divorced and very risky. If caught doing it, it is considered fraud and you would be punished/fined by both states.

Auto insurance: He recommends carrying uninsured motorist insurance to protect you from uninsured drivers in FL where 25% of people are driving around with no insurance and very likely no license. He also suggest a \$500,000 liability umbrella or more depending on your net worth. He is an advocate of flood insurance for everyone.

Mr Covey discussed Revocable/Irrevocable Trusts and Will options available to you which will protect your children from inheritance attacks and gave some scary real-life examples of why not to put your

child's name on your deed. Because every state has different laws, you should update your "Out of State" Wills/Trust to ensure your assets are protected based on your "New" Florida Residency.

The discussion of legal documents to implement "Your" end of life decisions was interesting and his handout included copies of what people will need to implement them. They will require being signed and notarized to be legal. There are a few copies left in the lab. He gave several examples of his legal fees and how and what steps he takes on your behalf.

There was a lot of open discussion to address the audience questions regarding estate planning issues and he covered all the the audience concerns and comments in an amusing and easy to understand way. You might find this move to be financially advantageous to you depending on your circumstances and the state you live in currently. We hopefully will be able to entice James Covey to return again next year.

New week, Jurgen Schwanitz of ACT Computers and his 'Apple" special tech will be joining us for the morning. Bring your questions and concerns as well as your iPhone & iPad. Your friends and neighbors are welcome too.

For those of you traveling north, have a safe trip. We will see you in the fall.

Regards, Sandy McKenny, Sec.

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