



Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter – February 2026

*“Being kind is giving, even when it seems you have
nothing to give.”*

Our first club meeting was on Valentine's Day, 2019. It's hard to believe we are having our 7th anniversary. So please join us to celebrate. We have a lot of accomplishments to tell you about, some exciting upcoming events, a delicious cake with refreshments, and a great speaker to boot.

Our speaker will be Lisa Lee who started Nicole's Hope in honor of her daughter. Her story is heartwarming and the kind acts of her group are amazing. Please join us – you'll be glad you did.



Our year got off to a great start with our January speaker, Mary Ellen Shea, who calls herself "The Widow Mentor" and does an amazing job in supporting widows, widowers, and caretakers who are dealing with loss. Her work is just amazing! And we had the pleasure of honoring her for all her wonderful kindness.



We would love to see more of you at our meetings. We currently have about 100 members but there are several of you that we have never seen at all. I understand that some of you may have other commitments but please come if you can. You may be surprised at what you experience.

We have some exciting activities (including painting Kindness rocks in March!), and opportunities coming up that will help you really fire up your kindness.

MAKs (Monthly Acknowledgements of Kindness)

We try to honor someone each month for exceptional kindness and, with the guidance of Cathi Coy, we are doing a very good job at it. We honored Mary Ellen Shea at our January meeting as described earlier. On Jan 19th we had the pleasure of honoring two members of the Tri-County Women's Veterans, Crystal Martin and Annette MacMillan (and husband Jim). Their stories are amazing and you can hear all about it at our meeting.



And we have a MAK scheduled for Friday February 27th! If you would like to be involved in this one, or one in the future, we would love to hear from you. These acknowledgments consume little time and will make you feel good all over.

To see all the people we have honored, go to our website, aakclub.org, and click [Acknowledgements](#). Believe me, you will be impressed!

Do you know someone who is exceptionally kind? You can nominate them by clicking [Nominate](#).

Giving Clubs Showcase

Our winter Giving Clubs Showcase took place on February 7th at the Lake Miona Rec Center and was one of the best yet. Fifty groups took part in the event to include five who were brand new. These have become the premier events in the Villages for groups to display their kindness. Watch for some media coverage in the next few days in the newspaper and on Villages TV. Check out our new poster board and tablecloth complete with logo and more.





Some Volunteer Kindness Activities

The Wildwood Soup Kitchen provides an amazing amount of food for those in need in the community. They are looking for volunteers to help in some areas. If you are interested, go to this site and check out the opportunities:

[Wildwood Soup Kitchen - Current Openings](#)

The St Pat' s Day Parade will take place on March 17th at 1:00 at Lake Sumter Landing prior to the St. Patrick's Festival which is at Spanish Springs from 4-9pm. We will be taking part in the parade and will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. You can walk or take your cart but, either way, it will be the fun experience of the year.



Our Butterfly Garden has a couple of events coming up soon too. On Sunday, March 15th there will be a pruning and clean-up event at the garden at 11am-1pm. This has been a challenging winter and there will likely be a lot of pruning. And on Sunday, April 19th there will be a mulch laying event to get ready for the summer months. Sign up for these events even if you don't have a green thumb.

Feed My Starving Children will be held at the Live Oaks Community Church on September 9, 10, and 11. This has been a favorite club activity for many members, so I thought I would give you a heads up on it.

If you know of a kindness spreading event our members would like to be involved in, please let one of our Board members know.

Future Meetings

In April we will move our meetings to a new Recreation Center, Big Cypress located in The Village of Pinellas at 3110 Hendry Dr. This location is a bit closer to The Villages center but not too much farther from our northern sector members. I think it will work well for us.

We have a couple of exciting tentative speakers for April and May and our usual 'No Business - Just Food and Fun' meeting in June to welcome in the summer before we take July and August off and huddle next to our air conditioners.



Your ideas for meeting speakers and activities are always welcome.

Club Sites to Visit

- Our website - <https://aaokclub.org>
- Our Facebook page
- AAOK Store for logo'ed shirts, hats, bags, and more!

See you on February 12th

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

Lindsay Collier, President, lindsaycollier@comcast.net

