



Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter – June 2026

“A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions
and the roots spring up and make new trees.”

Amelia Earhart

We are in our ‘wind down’ period so this week will be our last meeting until we return on September 10th. We do not meeting in July or August. Our next meeting is this Thursday, June 11th at 12:30 at our new location, Big Cypress Recreation Center at 3110 Hendry Drive.

This will be our annual Ice Cream Social where we do a little business and have a lot of fun activities (with prizes) plus a slide show of our past year. Let’s fill the room - please join us.

Our May meeting did fill the room with a wonderful speaker, Nancy Stampahar, an Enrichment Academy instructor and founder of “Empower Your Power”. Her presentation, “The Power Behind Thinking in Your Sixties and Beyond”, was very well received.



Welcome New Members

We also had a record number of guests and new members. Please welcome these new members:

- **Jules Taylor – Citrus Grove**
- **Barbara Cadle – Palo Alto**
- **Gigi Benefiel – Rio Ponderosa**
- **Judi Higbee – Belvedere**
- **Cathy Thorton – Liberty Park**
- **Doreen McSain – Mallory Square**
- **Cherie VanVliet – Monarch Grove**
- **Christine Mozza – Edenfield**
- **Joyce Riemersma – Fenney**

Flags For Florida's Fallen

Several of us participated in placing 'Flags for Florida's Fallen' at the Florida National Cemetery prior to Memorial Day. This is always a heartwarming experience.





Fundraisers

Our April fundraiser was very successful, and we are planning another one on Thursday, October 8th at the Olympia Recreation Center in Eastport. You won't want to miss this great show, the "Kick the Bucket Comedy Show - The World According to AARP". Put it on your calendar now! More information will come as we get closer to the date.

"A Salute to Our Veterans and Patriotism"

Our club's good friend, Rev. Gary Kadow, is sponsoring this wonderful event on Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 pm at the Hacienda Recreation Center. This event is focused on honoring veterans and saluting the resurgence of patriotism in The Villages. The featured speaker is Army Colonel Hary Lumkin.

Come if you can and tell your friends and neighbors!

MAKS – Monthly Acknowledgements of Kindness

We try to honor someone each month for exceptional kindness. We have an awesome one coming up in a few days and are looking for more possibilities to take us through the following months.

Do you know someone who deserves special recognition for their exceptional kindness? It's a snap to start the process of getting them in our focus. **Nominate them from our website by clicking [Nominate](#)**. This goes to Cathi Coy, our VP, puts a big smile on her face, and she gets the ball rolling.

If you would like to be involved in one of these, 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 in the past 7 years, go to our website, aaokclub.org, and click [Acknowledgements](#). Believe me, you will be impressed!

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:

wildwoodsoupkitchen.org

Our Butterfly Garden is our club's opportunity to show kindness to our earth. If you would like to help us maintain the garden we tend to in the Fred Funk Butterfly Garden, let me know.

Feed My Starving Children will be held at Live Oaks Community Church on the second week in September. This has been a favorite club activity for many members, so I thought I would give you a heads

up on it. I will update you with the specifics when they send me the schedule in late July.

We Could Use Your Help

As we begin our 26/27 club year we could use some help in three areas:

- A Treasurer for our Board to replace Barbara Bickley. All you need is some basic ability to handle finances.
- A Social Director to help with social end of our meetings, including helping to set up tables when we have food at our meetings.
- An Outreach Coordinator to help find FUN kindness activities for our members.

Please let any of our board members if you are interested or would like more information.

AAOK Club Merchandise

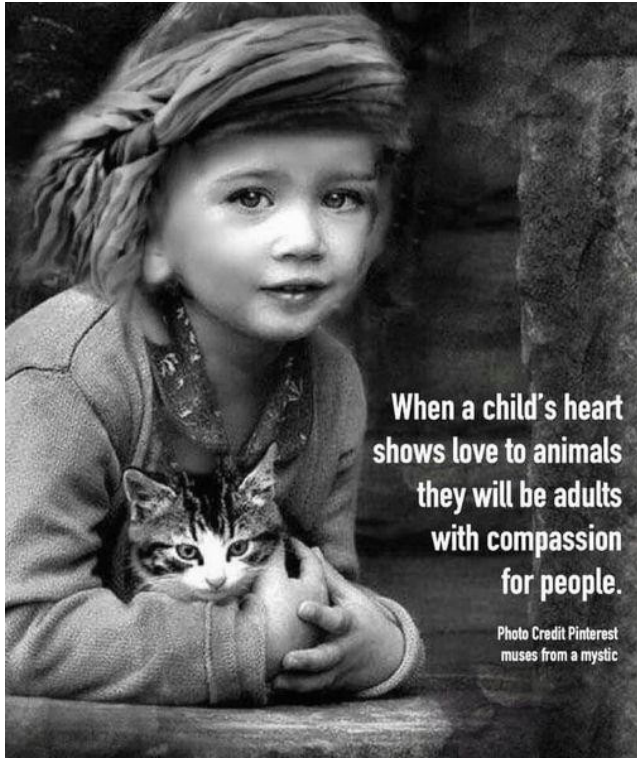
Our club merchandise is supplied locally through Custom Apparel. Their original store is in the Wedgewood Plaza, and they have just opened their new one in Middleton. They have our logo and can apply it to any number of items (shirts, hats, sweaters, tote bags etc.)

You can order these at <https://aaokclub.org/aaok-store>

See you at our June 11th meeting at Big Cypress

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

Lindsay Collier, President, lindsaycollier@comcast.net, 352-552-5973



**When a child's heart
shows love to animals
they will be adults
with compassion
for people.**

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