

ACKNOWLEDGING
AOK
ACTS OF KINDNESS CLUB

Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter – October 2026

“A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.”

Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 8th at 12:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center. Our speakers will be Cheryl Williams and Marleen Wiggins from Dynamic Dogs along with one of their amazing dogs, Toby. They have a wonderful story of how their dogs spread kindness in our community – don't miss it!



And while you have your calendar in your hand, add our November and December meetings:

November 12th – LovExtension. Linda Krupsi and Nancy Hartkop will be our speakers. Learn about this incredible group of Givers! [LovExtension: "Serving to Improve Life!" for People in Our Senior and Disabled Communities](#)

December 10th – Christmas party. Food, Fun, and Festive gifts! All are welcome!

Welcome New Members

Let's welcome our new members:

Homer Bryant – Village of La Renalda

Marc and Donna Risman – Village of Tamarind Grove

Nancy Kaye – Village of Poinciana

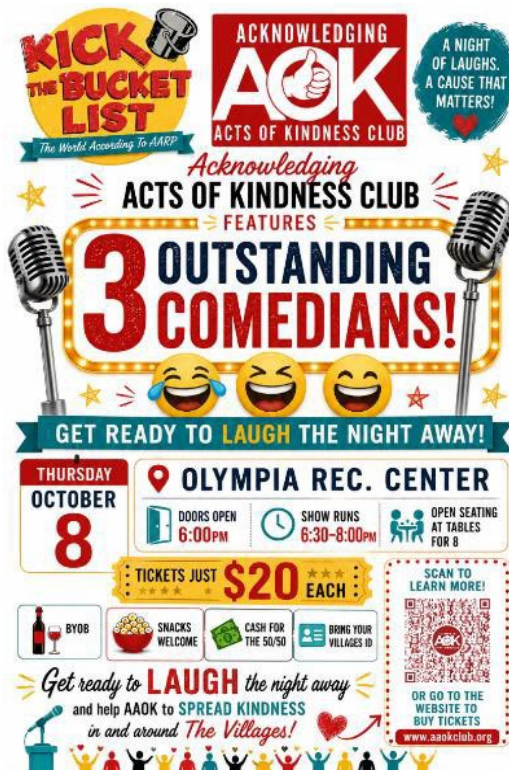
Diane Bray – Village of Osceola Hills

Our New Treasurer

Judi Higbee is our new Treasurer. We are so excited to have her aboard! She has already made some exciting upgrades to our financial overview. Our heartfelt thanks to Barbara Bickley for filling this position for several years.

Fundraiser

Also, on October 8th we have our fundraiser which has been sold out for a month. For those who have tickets, you are in for a night of laughter. "Kick the Bucket List; The World According to AARP" showcases 3 world class comedians that will keep you laughing all night.



Giving Clubs Expo

We sponsor 2 of these each year and they are extremely popular. On Saturday, October 24th from 10-2 we'll have our fall expo at the Everglades Recreation Center. Over 50 clubs and organizations will be there to share how they spread kindness in our community. Several of our members have signed up to cover our table for an hour but we could use a couple more. Let me know if you are interested or sign up at our meeting.



September Activities

We enjoyed a couple of exciting events in September:

Rev Gary Kadow made his annual presentation on his experience as a chaplain on 9/11 twenty-five years ago (hard to believe). A lot of our members were there to hear his heartfelt story of being at ground-zero, and we presented him with a \$500 check for Project SOS.



We also had several of our members participate in Feed My Starving Children, which is an annual event we like to participate in. In 2 hours, we, along with other volunteers, managed to pack 38,000+ Manna Packs, enough to feed 95 children for an entire year!



MAK's - 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 have several in the pipeline but are always looking for more.

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, 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, go to our website, aaokclub.org, and click [Acknowledgements](#). Believe me, you will be impressed – we have honored more than 50 pillars of kindness in The Villages so far!

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](#)

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. If you would like to know more, please go to their [website](#).

Plea For Help

We would like to have someone to help with the social activities of our club. You would keep track of the inventory of our supplies and help set up meetings that include goodies. This is not a big time-consumer – just a lot of fun. Let me know if you are interested.

AAOK Club Merchandise

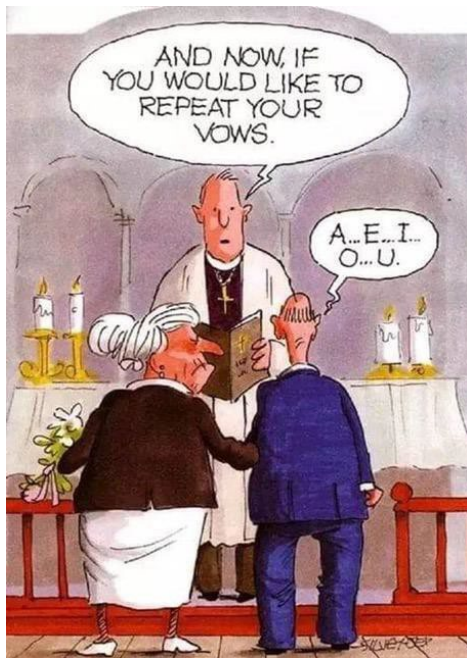
Our club merchandise is supplied locally through Custom Apparel. Their original store is in the Wedgewood Plaza, and they have opened their second one in Middleton. They have our logo and can apply it to any number of items (shirts, hats, sweaters, tote bags etc.)

You can order on line at [Acts of Kindess | Custom Apparel](#).

See you on October 8th at Big Cypress

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

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



"He's a Chihuahua/Great Dane mix."