

# Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter – November 2025

"Be someone's sunshine when their skies are gray."

We hope to see you at our next meeting this Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center as usual. We have a lot of exciting opportunities to discuss. and Sumter County Sheriff, Pat Breeden, who is visiting various clubs in The Villages, is going to give us a ten-minute update of their activities.

We have a lot of upcoming activities to tell you about too. Be there or you may miss out on some of these.

We will also see a slide show of some wonderful acts of kindness that will pull on your heartstrings. Don't miss it.

#### A warm welcome to our new members:

Marilyn Lowell from Sunset Pointe

Robin Blanchard from St Catherine

Andrea Flanagan from Bonita

Randy Atkins from St. Charles

## **Giving Clubs Showcase**

Our October Giving Clubs Showcase was an educational opportunity for our greater community to share the good they have been doing, and to entice new volunteers. Fifty-five clubs and organizations took part in this event, and there was a large crowd in attendance. The feedback from participants and attendees was that they appreciated having all these giving clubs under one roof to learn about volunteer opportunities. We are really making a difference with this event. Thanks to all of you who helped.





### **Annual Fundraiser**

Our annual fundraiser with Petrina and her Outrageous Musical Trivia Show was more fun than a barrel of monkeys (I may really be dating myself with that old saying). It also provided us with the finances to help us carry out our Club's goals of spreading kindness in our community! Thanks to all of you who made this possible.









## **Upcoming Activities**

**Parades:** Our club has marched in the annual Christmas Parade every year, but this year it occurs at the same time as our monthly meeting. So we have decided not to participate. But we WILL participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade on March  $17^{th}$ , so put that on your calendar now.

## **Project SOS (Support our Soldiers) Founded by Rev. Gary Kadow**

Each Christmas, Project SOS has been involved with giving presents to military families and children living in the Ocala National Forest. The coordinators of this year's event have decided to give families GIFT CARDS, instead of gifts, so that the families can purchase what they need most and make it easier on those who want to give.

If you would like to donate, please write a check to "Project SOS". You can send it to me at 383 Awendaw Loop, The Villages, FL 32162 or bring it to the November 13<sup>th</sup> or December 11<sup>th</sup> AAOK meeting. Rev. Gary Kadow will be at our December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk about the event and receive our donations. You can be absolutely sure that every penny goes directly to help these children!

Click here to learn more about this organization: Project SOS USA

Also, our members are welcome to attend the Christmas party on Saturday, December 13 at 12:30 at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 3803 NE  $7^{th}$  Street, Ocala, Fl 34470. This is an amazing, heartwarming experience with lunch and the presentation of the gift cards.

#### **Wreaths Across America**

In the last couple of years, we have had a small number of members attend the 'Wreaths Across America' event at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. This year it is on the same date as the Project SOS party, Saturday, December  $13^{th}$ .

In addition to Bushnell National Cemetery, there are 4 local cemeteries that will be participating. We are thinking that if you don't have so far to drive that maybe you could attend both events on 12/13!

If you would like to place wreaths, select a cemetery and register on the website www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.us/About/Waysto Support or click this link: <u>Place Wreaths - Wreaths Across America</u>

The 4 local choices are:

FLLALK - Lady Lake Cemetery FLLNOC - Lone Oak Cemetery

400 W. McClendon St 306 Thomas Ave

Lady Lake, FL 32159 Leesburg, FL 34748

FLHTEC - Holy Trinity Episcopal Church FLSCFP - Shiloh Cemetery

2201 Spring Lake Rd 194 W Fountain St

Fruitland Park, FL 34731 Fruitland Park, FL 34731

Please let me know if you register so I can keep track of our club's involvement.

Monthly Acknowledgements of Kindness (MAK) we have a MAK coming up soon! If you would like to be involved, we will have more information and a sign-up sheet at the meeting. These acknowledgments consume little time and will warm your heart.

To see all the people we have honored over the years, click here <u>Acknowledgements</u> or go to https://AAOKClub.org/acknowledgements

Do you know someone who is exceptionally kind? You can nominate them by clicking <u>Nominate</u> or go to https://AAOKClub.org/nominate

## **Chase Sanctuary Tour – Social Event**

We have another possible social activity for our members that involves a 2-hour interactive tour of the Chase Sanctuary in Webster. You can learn more about this at our meeting on Thursday.

See their website at Chase Sanctuary | Webster, Florida.



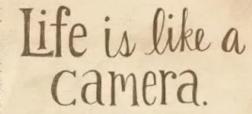


#### **Club Sites to Visit**

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

Hope to see you at our meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>! Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

Lindsay Collier, President <u>lindsaycollier@comcast.net</u>





Just focus on what's important.

Capture the good times

Develop from the Negatives

& if things don't work out...

just take another shot