



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

March 2024

"Leave footprints of kindness wherever you go."

Leo Biscalia

Our March meeting is on Thursday, March 14th at 12:30 at Bacall Recreation Center. This is a social meeting for our club which will include ice cream and brownie sundaes. Peggy Cunningham has put together a couple of fun kindness exercises that I am sure you all will enjoy. We will also share some exciting opportunities that are coming up.

At our last meeting we had a survey and learned a lot about our member expectations. So, you are going to see several changes which will make the AOK Club more exciting. Our newsletters will be shorter and less repetitive, and our meetings will also have some changes. Your ideas on how to improve our club experience are always welcome.

Feed My Starving Children Event

Our first "Day of Service" event, FMSC, took place on Tuesday, Feb 27th at the Live Oaks Community Church. It was an amazing event and our groups along with a few others in attendance packed 34,500 meals, enough to feed 93 kids for a year! Thanks to all of you who volunteered. I got some great feedback on how much you all enjoyed it! We also gave them a donation of \$500.

We will be planning more "Day of Service" events in the future, and we also have some other possibilities in mind. We are looking into a team activity at the Chase Wildlife Sanctuary in Webster. If you have some ideas for future events let us know.





March Fundraiser

We have two fundraisers each year to provide funds, most of which are donated to various causes we feel are helping create a culture of kindness in our community and our world. All of these have been very successful, and this one will probably sell out quickly. The show will be on Friday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm at Colony Cottage Rec Center and the cost is just \$15pp. Tables of 8 can be reserved so why not buy a table for a group of friends or neighbors?

Jen Smith and Linda Martin will have some tickets at our meeting, or you may contact Jen at 352-250-3431 or Linda at 864-337-6808. Attached is a flyer for the event which you can share with your friends.

To whet your appetite a bit, visit Mike's website at <https://www.mikepalmaventriloquist.com/>

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness (AAOK'S)

This month we had our first posthumous acknowledgement. We acknowledged Nancy Barbuto at a Singles in The Villages Club

gathering of over 200 members at the Waterfront Inn. Nancy had been described by her friends as "Kindness Personified" for all her kind acts, and tragically lost her life several months ago. Two Certificates of Kindness will be sent to her daughters in New Jersey. Our thanks to Cindy Dillon for her recommendation and help.



Our goal is to have one AOK each month. Do you know of someone who deserves to be acknowledged for their exceptional kindness? If so let us know. We have a couple of people we plan on honoring but are always looking for more.

Our AOK's (Acknowledging Acts of Kindness) are some of our most exciting events and we would love to have more of you volunteer to be a part of them. It takes little time, and it will make you feel good all over!

Basket for Villagers for Veterans

Thanks to Jen Smith for assembling a beautiful gift basket for the upcoming Villagers for Veterans golf tournament. Is there any limit to your talents, Jen?



Ways to Get Involved in Our Club

Here are a few upcoming opportunities to be more involved in our club:

- Social Director – Help organize events involving food and social activities.
- Website Manager – Update our website (AAOKClub.org) from time to time.
- Newsletter Editor – I've been doing this for 5 years. Time for someone else to take over.
- Fundraiser Director – help plan and organize our 2 yearly fundraisers.
- Educational Focus Group – your chance to help promote kindness in our local students.

If any of these possibilities sound good to you contact me at aaokclub@gmail.com. We guarantee it will be a positive, fun experience for you.

Club Sites to Visit

Our club's website

Our Facebook page

Our Facebook group

Custom Apparel

(go to businesses/groups A-L for our catalogue)

See you on March 14 th

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, Lindsaycollier@comcast.net

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate." - **Albert Schweitzer**