



*Thank you for your kindness.*

## **Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter - May 2025**

*“Be somebody who makes everyone feel like somebody.”*

We are nearing the end of our 2024-2025 year, and it's been a great one.

Our May meeting is this coming Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 – 2:00 at the Bacall Recreation Center and we have some great things to share. We will have an update on some of club activities and a look at some coming up in the future. This will be followed by a mini-version of the course I teach at the Enrichment Academy.

In May I will be giving a mini version of the course I teach at the Enrichment Academy on "How to Live a Life of Kindness" based on my book of the same name. My book will be available for \$10 (\$5 to be returned to our club). We will look at the nature of kindness, its benefits, and a variety of creative ways to bring kindness into your life.

Our June meeting will be a "no business – just fun" Ice Cream Social to help us say goodbye for the summer since we will have no meetings in July and August.

## Welcome to Our New Members

A warm welcome to our new members, Marietta Mandracchia from Poincietta, Martin VanLaven from Poinciana, and Karen Heihen from Collier.

We have recently updated our membership and have about 90 active members. We are always looking for new members who want to be active in our events, so feel free to pass the word to friends and neighbors.

## Board Change

Our VP, Kathy Cohen has decided to resign from her position. Our thanks to Kathy for her service, and we look forward to having her as a valuable member of our club. I am excited to say that Cathi Coy will be our new VP and continue to serve as our Candidate Selection and Events Coordinator as well.

## Recent Activities

In our last meeting we learned about a new process of making beds for the homeless from used plastic bags. We also had the opportunity

to have some training from Jen Smith and on-line experience in making these beds. A very different meeting and an amazing process for being kind to our earth while helping the homeless.

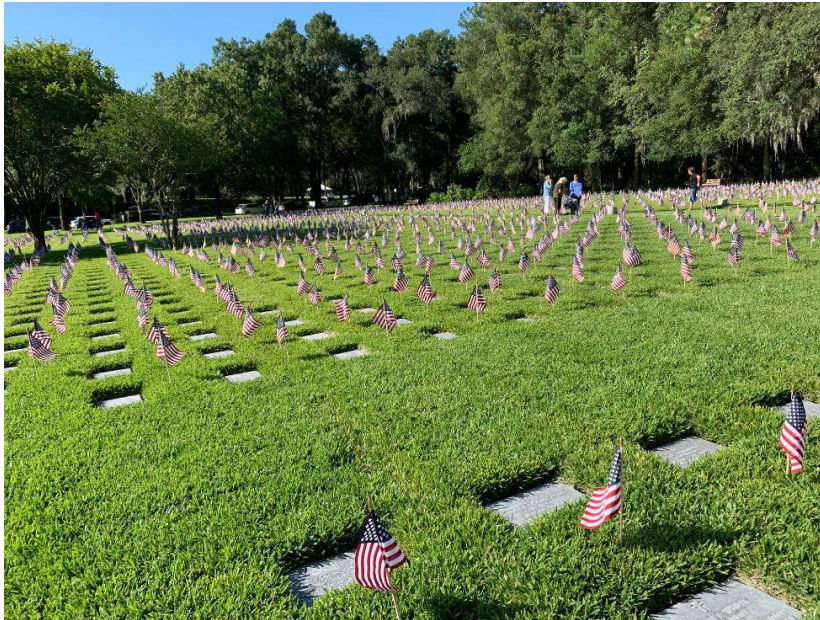






## Flags for Fallen Veterans

One of the most exciting events of the year is our bus trip to the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell to place Flags for Fallen Vets. We have 10 seats available for our club (and guests) and, if you have never been, I guarantee you will love this event. Bus tickets are \$20 PP and you can get them by sending a check to Margurite Desbrow at 1316 Hollyberry Place, The Villages, FL 32162. The event is on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and the bus (the White Bus) leaves from the American Legion on Rolling Acres Road at 7 am. Be there by 6:30 am. Placing of flags is at 9:00 am and the bus will be back by 11:30. Contact Margurite at 352-633-0882 or [maggied61@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maggied61@sbcglobal.net).



## Follow the Need Shoe Drive

Follow The Need is again having a shoe drive to collect shoes which this year will be sent to women in Kenja to start their businesses. They are looking for a donation of used or new shoes of all sizes (men, women, and children) and ask that they be dropped off at 552 Burnside Place in the Lauren Villas between Charlotte and Sanibel by May 14<sup>th</sup>.

An even better alternative is to drop them off at our next meeting and we will get them there.



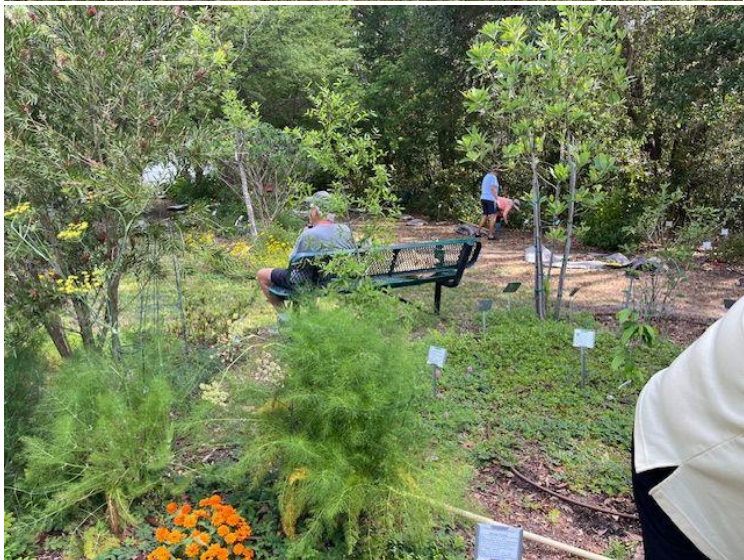






## Fred Funk Butterfly Garden

We celebrated Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> by tending gardens and placing mulch on a portion of the Fred Funk Butterfly Garden in Lady Lake. We were amazed by the size of the garden and those who attended had such a wonderful time that we offered to adopt our garden. So let Jen Smith, our outreach coordinator at [Jpsmith5@comcast.net](mailto:Jpsmith5@comcast.net) know if you would like to be a part of this group. We plan on checking on our adopted section, doing trimming, planting for enhancements etc. Put your green thumb to work to add kindness to our world!





## AOL Fundraiser

It's no secret that we are joined from the hip with Jen Smith's Abundance of Love Club. They are having a fundraiser on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Colony Cottage Rec Center at 6 pm. This will be an amazing variety show, and our club will honor an amazing person during the show. We have one table filled but would love to have our AAOK Club well represented. Tickets are just \$20 PP. Call Jen at 352-250-3431 or email [jpsmith5@comcast.net](mailto:jpsmith5@comcast.net) to get yours. Why not fill a table with your friends?

## Acknowledging Acts of Kindness (AAOK) Events

Our Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Leader, Cathi Coy, has put together a list of upcoming AAOK's through October so there will be lots of opportunities to join us in these events. These are fun and consume very little of your time (a normal AAOK takes about 15 minutes). We promise you will leave feeling good all over. Contact Cathi if you would like to be involved or if you have someone you'd like to nominate for their amazing kindness. Cathi can be reached at [Cathi Coy](#).

## Giving Clubs Showcase

It seems like a long way away but save the date on your calendar for our bi-annual Giving Clubs Showcase. It will be on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 at Everglades Recreation Center.



## Website Updates

Chris Coy has been doing a great job of making some changes that will ease navigation, enhance the club information, and make everything easier to find. Here are some of the things you will now find on the site:

- All newsletters will be there with the current one posted on the "Home" page.
- All kindness presentations will be easily accessed.
- Our calendar will include all our upcoming events.
- The form for nominating those to be acknowledged will be easy to download.
- And much more!

Thanks so much, Chris, for your help! Keep checking the site at [aaokclub.org](http://aaokclub.org) for more updates and pass it on to others.



## Fundraiser

Here's another date to save. We have a very exciting fundraiser coming up in November with Petrina and her **Crazy Trivia Show**. For those who have never seen Petrina perform, you will be in for a real treat. The date is Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Colony Recreation Center. Our fundraiser will help us carry out our events, and also to contribute to other groups we support such as Project SOS, Honor Flight, and more.

We could really use a few volunteers to help us with this. Please let me know if you can help.



## Our Kindness Cards

When we started our club 6 years ago, we were all about handing out our kindness cards to people we spotted doing kind acts. This is still one of our strengths. Every time you acknowledge someone

increases the chance they will continue their kind acts. People love to be recognized, and it makes you feel great too.

We always have plenty of cards at the meeting and, if you can't make the meeting, let me know how many you want, and we will figure out how to get them to you.



## Areas Where We Need Your Help.

We could use your help in a couple of areas. I know many of you are busy, but we could really use some help in these areas. None of them will take a lot of your time.

- Social Director – Help organize events involving food and social activities. You won't be alone – a lot of us will help you out.
- Newsletter Editor – I've been doing this for 6+ years. Time for someone else to take over.

Let me know if you are interested or would like to know more about a position. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

## 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 of shirts and other AAOK stuff)

See you on May 8th

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, [lindsaycollier@comcast.net](mailto:lindsaycollier@comcast.net).



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