



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

April 2023

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 13th at 12:30 – 2:00 at the Bacall Rec Center. We have a lot of great stuff going on, and you will learn about it all. We also have a wonderful speaker with a very different story to tell.

Julie Anderson, founder of Patriot Service Dogs will share her story of how they train service dogs and you will have a chance to meet one of these dogs. Their mission is to train quality service dogs for military veterans struggling with mobility, PTSD, and MST, using the skills and dedication of women incarcerated in Florida's largest women's correctional facility. This dual purpose allows them to serve veterans and to uplift incarcerated women with life and job skills.

We have 2 meetings following this before we take out summer break in July and August.

Put the following club meetings on your calendar:

May 11th – Our speaker will be the founder of Angel Wigs of Hope, Marie Huisizer.

June 8th – We plan a great social event (more about this later).

We will take a summer break in July and August.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome these 2 new members:

- Teri Wegand – St Johns
- Debby Obine -

We currently show over 215 members. However, the list includes many who we haven't seen or heard from in months. Being a member means coming to meetings when you can, being involved in events, and acknowledging acts of kindness in various ways. We typically have 25-35 people at our meetings with some of them being guests.

Some of you have conflicts with our meeting time and can't attend. And that's OK – you can still be involved in some of our events and activities. We know how busy many of you are. **But, if you no longer want to be a part of our activities and on our membership list, please let me know.**

Events

St Pat's Day Parade – March 17th

On March 17th our club marched in the St Pat's Day parade at Spanish Springs. As usual, it was a great time for all and we handed out all the Kindness Rocks we made in our March meeting along with hundreds of our kindness cards. Thank you to all of you who participated! We hope to have you all in the Christmas Parade in December.



Himalayan Golf- April 1st

We had our bi-annual Himalayan golf event on April Fool's Day which is our one social event. Everyone had a great time and there were a lot of holes-in-one, including someone who had never held a golf club. We will probably set up another one in the fall, so don't miss it. Our thanks to Jen and Terry Smith and Linda Martin for all their help in making this such a wonderful event.



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness (AAOK) Event

On Sunday, March 26th we honored an incredibly kind man, Bobby Kinsey, from Polo Ridge. This took place at a service at Immanuel Baptist Church in Oxford. His list of kind acts is long and includes kindness to his neighbors (setting up an AED program, bringing food and baked goods to those who live alone, leaving water and snacks for the trash collectors and much more) along with his work with the church as choir director and more.



These AAOK's are one of the best events we sponsor. We invite you to recommend anyone who you think qualifies for an award. We also like to have 4

or so members involved in each event. They are fun, consume little time, and are guaranteed to make you feel good all over.

Our next event will be on Friday, April 14th at the Manatee Recreation Center in Hillsborough at 6 pm. If you would like to be involved let me know and I will get the specific info to you.

Upcoming Events

Flags for Fallen Veterans

On Sunday, May 28th we will participate in this wonderful event at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. We hope to get at least 50 people from our club and their connections. Buses will be leaving from the Ameran Legion Post 347 on Rolling Acres Road and the Lowes parking lot off Rt 466A at 7 am and return by 11:30. The bus cost is \$12 pp. Please let me know if you want to be a part of this event and I will get you more info including how to get your tickets. I will be keeping a list of attendees so I can keep you informed.

We guarantee you will love this event!



Fall Fundrasier

We are planning another fundraiser on Sunday, Nov 5th at 6 pm at Lake Miona Recreation Center. These fundraisers allow us to finance our activities and to donate to groups that carry out acts of kindness, while keeping membership in our club free of charge. Our donations include Project SOS, Villagers for Veterans, Our Memory Café, Tri-County Women's Vets, Ashley's Home, and Patriot Service Dogs. We will get the details to you as soon as we have them, but put it on your calender now.

Oportunties for Kindness

Our member, Maria Dekimpe, recently brought up a great idea for our club. There are numerous volunteer opportunities to help out clubs and organizations that engage in kind acts. This is a long list, but we thought we would start by sharing one of these possibilities on each monthly newsletter.

One of these groups is Operation Shoebox. They send hundreds of packages to our troops deployed overseas. They meet at the Lake Miona Rec Center from 11:30-1:30 every Monday, except the first Monday of the month, to do a variety of tasks. You can see more information and see how you can be involved at their website. <https://osbtv.org/>.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness

We have several ways to acknowledge acts of kindness. We have our kindness cards that are available to all of you as well as people who request them through our website. We estimate that we have handed out over 40,000 of these!



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR POSITIVE
ATTITUDE & KINDNESS**

To promote a culture of kindness in your
community please pass on this card.

**FOR INFORMATION & FREE CARDS
CONTACT US AT**
aaokclub.org

Sponsored by SantoroFoundation.org

Our Board has a project during our summer recess to redesign these cards. If you would like to help us, please let me know.

We also have a Certificate of Kindness available if you know of someone who deserves special recognition.

And we try to have an acknowledgement each month of someone who was suggested to us for their exceptional acts of kindness. Our Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Focus Groups takes these recommendations and creates an event to honor them. We present them with a variety of gifts, and do it in a very creative way, and we would love to have your involvement in this.



Club Shirts, Hats, Nametags, and More

Custom Apparel in the Publix Plaza on 466 has a catalog of products with our logo and their prices are very reasonable. Their catalogue can be seen at [aaokclub merchandise](https://www.aakclub.com/merchandise). This includes men's and women's Tees and polo shirts, full zipper fleeces, nametags, totes, and hats. And you can order online if desired. Visit them today and checkout their great selections. **Show off your club colors and logo!**

Our Website and Facebook Sites

Our website has been recently updated so you should check it out and share it with your friends.

Website - <https://aaokclub.org>

Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/AcknowledgingActsOfKindness>

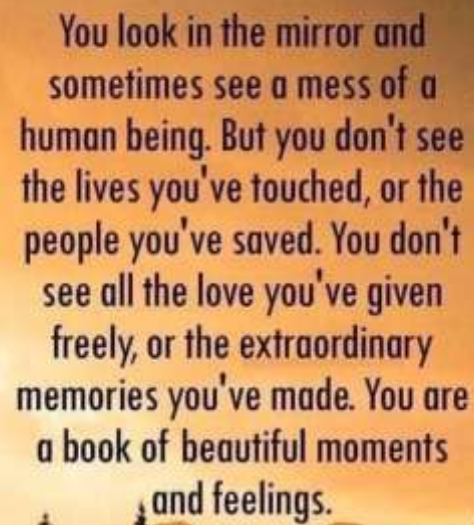
Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2392926004127163>

Check them out, give a big like, post some good stuff, and share it with as many as you can! You will find a lot of interesting examples of kindness on these sites.

See you on April 13

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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You look in the mirror and
sometimes see a mess of a
human being. But you don't see
the lives you've touched, or the
people you've saved. You don't
see all the love you've given
freely, or the extraordinary
memories you've made. You are
a book of beautiful moments
and feelings.

Positive
outlook