



*Thank you for your kindness.*

## **Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter**

### **September 2024**

*“Being kind is giving even if it seems you have nothing to give.”*

Hope you all had a fun summer, and we look forward to seeing you all. **Our September meeting is on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center** as usual. We are looking forward to a great start to our 24/25 season so please, please join us.

Our attendance at meetings has been disappointing so your attendance will really be appreciated. We will be making some changes that should add a lot more excitement and we have a lot of things planned for the year that we look forward to sharing with you.

Our plans still call for having speakers, but we will alternate with meetings that have fun, creative events focused on kindness.

This month we have Pat Hayes, the founder of TLC Services (Transition Life Consultants), a group of retired licensed mental

health professionals who provide cost-free help to those in need. This is such a great service, and a great way to spread kindness in our community.

We also have a lot to share about the exciting things our club will be doing this year. And, if that's not enough, we have a very special guest with a very moving story as well as some members with their own stories.

All that and some home-baked cookies (including some gluten-free) from Chef Jen!! .

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome our three new members:

Francoise Hansen, Village of Lake Deaton

Tony Cirocco, Village of Rio Ponderosa

Sherry Wallon, Village of Rio Ponderosa

## Changes in our Future Meetings

Our goal for future meetings will be to have much more member involvement. We will be planning meetings that allow our members to carry out acts of kindness, share their own experiences, get to know each other, and give help to various organizations.

In our upcoming meeting we will have two or three members tell their story and try to do this at each meeting. Beginning in October we will begin asking members to bring items to help others in need. The October item will be socks, and there will be a prize for the wildest set. Abundance of Love will also be doing this, and the socks

will be distributed to those in need. Other months will feature food items, books, and more.

## Educational Focus Group

I am very happy to report that we now have an active Educational Focus Group thanks to Pearl Seavitte who has agreed to lead the group. Pat Hayes, Elaine Bongiovi, and Susan Sittmer will be a part of this effort. Working with local schools to help them develop kindness programs should be one of our most effective ways to promote kindness. Just think of the positive impact of helping children live a life of kindness!

## Upcoming Activities

Here are some of the special activities we have planned for the year. We'd love to see a lot of you involved.

- ❖ 9/11 Presentation by Gary Kadow – Sept 8th
- ❖ Christmas Parade – Dec
- ❖ Gateway to Hope Christmas party - Dec
- ❖ Wreaths Across America at Florida's National Cemetery - Dec
- ❖ Fundraiser – February
- ❖ St Pat's Day parade – March
- ❖ Feed Our Starving Children – March
- ❖ Flags for Fallen Vets - May

## HELP!

We really need your help this year. Our VP, Jen Smith, and our Treasurer, Linda Martin will be leaving their positions at the end of the year. They have both been tremendous assets to our club and

will be dearly missed. We need to fill these positions so, if you are at all interested, let me know. These won't take a lot of your time (we meet each month on the first Thursday) and I guarantee you'll enjoy the experience.

We also could use help in some other areas.

- Social Director – Help organize events involving food and social activities. You won't be alone – a lot of us will help you out.
- Website Manager – Update our website (AAOKClub.org) from time to time. Not a lot of time will be required. Minimal experience needed – we will train.
- Newsletter Editor – I've been doing this for 6 years. Time for someone else to take over.
- Fundraiser manager. Carry out a few tasks to arrange for the once-a-year event. You'll have lots of help.

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

If any of these possibilities sound good to you contact me at [lindsaycollier@comcast.net](mailto:lindsaycollier@comcast.net). We guarantee it will be a positive, fun experience for you.

## **Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Events (AAOK's)**

In our June meeting we had the honor of acknowledging one of our members, Kathy Belisle. One of Kathy's current endeavors is heading up the VHA Helping Hands and we invited her to our meeting to tell us all about this wonderful organization. She did not know that our plan was also to honor her for her kindness (you know how we love to surprise people). Kathy is also heavily involved in Honor Flight and she and Marguerite Desbrow have organized our trips to Flags for Fallen Vets for several years.



Our goal is to have one AAOK each month. Do you know of someone who deserves to be acknowledged for their exceptional kindness? Perhaps a friend or neighbor or even someone you have read about who has done something extraordinarily kind. If so let us know. We have a couple of people we plan on honoring but are always looking for more.

If you know of someone who we should honor just contact me or our Event Coordinator, Barbara Bickley at [bbickley969@gmail.com](mailto:bbickley969@gmail.com) and we will make sure it happens.

## 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 September 12<sup>th</sup>!*

*Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!*

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



A SINGLE ACT OF  
*Kindness*  
THROWS OUT ROOTS  
IN ALL DIRECTIONS,  
AND THE ROOTS SPRING  
UP AND MAKE NEW TREES.

- AMELIA EARHART