



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

February 2020

It's hard to believe, but our club will be celebrating its first year anniversary this month. So it's time to celebrate! Our next meeting is Thursday, February 13th at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center as usual. Come to our birthday party (cake and all). The Villages Sun will be there to cover this for an anniversary article they are putting together for our club. Exciting!

This is going to be a great year for us. We have a lot of plans and the talent and enthusiasm we have in our group to help carry out these plans is just amazing!

Our membership is growing (76) and you can all help by getting the word around. The best advertisement is word of mouth and my experience is that folks just love what we do.

A warm welcome to our new members **Lynne and Pat Cianicullo (Bellvedere)**, **Donna Lettier (Polo Ridge)**, **Sheila Hayes (DeSoto)**, **Bonnie Mulneix (Tall Trees)** and **Kathy Petroff (Caroline)**, and **Kathy Belisle (Sunset Ridge)**.

Giving Clubs Showcase

The second **Giving Clubs Showcase** took place on February 1st It was a pleasure to participate with 50 other clubs who give of their time to create the kind, giving environment we enjoy in The Villages. Thanks to all of you helped us

out. We were also able to display our new banner. We gave out hundreds of our cards, made some great connections, and also developed a list of 33 potential new members!



Himalayan Golf Social

From time to time we like to have club social gatherings. In January we had our Himalayan golf event at Arnold Palmer's and the 28 participants all had a great time followed by lunch at Palmer's. Our thanks to Jen and Terry Smith for setting this up. We counted some 5 holes-in-one (including one from someone who had never played the game). Do you have an idea for another social event? Let us know.





St Patrick's Day Parade

The Villages has two parades each year. The Christmas Parade was our most successful event of 2019, so we decided give the St Pat's Day one a try. We have been approved and It takes place on March 17th at Spanish Springs at 3:15 and our plan is to have 4 carts and ten or so walkers . Those who participated in the Christmas Parade absolutely loved it! So far we have Pat Bonneau and Ellen Mowles so let me know if you are interested. This is a wonderful way to promote our club and get a ton of our kindness cards in the hands of people. Bob Wolfe has already purchased green leprechaun hats which should go nicely with a sea of red shirts.

If you are interested, send me a message (either at aaokclub@gmail.com or lindsaycollier@comcast.net) and let me know if you want to drive a cart or walk.



Committees and Focus Groups

We have 2 active committees, the **Candidate Selection Committee** (Barbara Bickley, Carol Walsh, and Jean and Lindsay Collier) and the **Events Coordination Committee** (Jen Smith, Carol Cholette, Shirley Knight, Judy Samuels, and Jean and Lindsay Collier). The first meets as needed to evaluate the nominees we have for Level 2 AAOK's, and the second meets to work out details of these. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of either of these.

And to really move us forward we are looking to have **Focus Groups** for various tasks at hand. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of any of these.

Educational Focus Group. This group will communicate with schools in the tri-county area (Sumter, Lake, and Marion) to explore ways to use our ideas and processes to get students involved in kindness. The future is with our children – just think of the effect this can have! We have a pretty good group started here with Margaret Wolfe, Vickie Yates, Carol Walsh, Jane Murphy, and new members, Sheila Hayes, and Bonnie Mulniex. We had the opportunity to meet with Sumter County's School Superintendent and Principals several days ago to tell our story. It now looks like we may have a wide-spread distribution into their schools.

Business Flier Focus Group. This group will explore opportunities to have local businesses display our kindness card fliers. Jane Murphy has taken a lead here but we would like others to help out too. Aligning with local businesses has a tremendous potential!

Social Groups Focus. There are over 3000 clubs in the Villages. Within this grouping there are some who might be particularly interested in hearing about our club. Attached is a list of possible clubs based on my own speaking experiences. If any of you have a club or group you belong to, or would like to pick some from this list, we would love to have you share our story with them. If you need help or cards to pass out let us know. We also have a Power Point Presentation that you may use.

Kindness Card Fliers

The idea of displaying our Kindness Card Fliers is catching on rather nicely. We currently have these on display at several social clubs as well as a few businesses. These include Angel Snugs (4 locations), Boomer Loomers, Twiddle Pockets, Brylah Fashions, Bella Hair Studios, Chicken Salad Chick, Havana Country Club, Hair Works Pros, The Waterfront Inn, VCR Buffalo Ridge Animal Hospital, and more. If any of you have an idea of a place to display these we will supply the cards and holders. **Please help to promote our cause and do what you can to promote this idea.**



Nomination of Possible Level Two AOK's

Do you know of someone who has displayed extraordinary kindness who we should consider for our next Level Two AOK? We have had four of these events so far and each one has been hugely successful. We are getting better and better

at this with experience and those club members who have been involved have all left very excited by the process. We have several candidates in line now but can always use more. Nominate someone today – it will make you feel good all over!

Nametags

We have magnetic nametags available for members. These are just \$6 each and can be ordered through our Membership Chair, Carol Cholette (carolcholette@yahoo.com).



AAOK Card Journal

Chardell Kern is keeping a journal of experiences distributing our cards. Please let her know in a few words any interesting experience you have had distributing our Kindness Cards. Send a note to Chardell at mckern1@hotmail.com with the subject line 'AAOK Testimonial'.

Dayton Club Update

Anne Sheehan is still hard at work distributing cards in the Dayton, Ohio where she is working with a dozen or so schools. She says she has distributed 27,000 cards to date! You can learn more about this by checking her blog on their website, <https://aaokdayton.org/>.

She and her husband will be spending March and April in The Villages so we will all get a chance to meet her then.

A Possible New AAOK Satellite Club in SouthAfrica

A number of years ago I had the pleasure of having 4 speaking tours across South Africa and made some very good friends. One of my friends is a lecturer in Education and Life Skills at the Peninsular College of Technology in Cape Town. She trains teachers who focus on disadvantaged kids and she is very interested on introducing our program to this effort. This is quite exciting – during my time in this country I toured a number of Townships and I can fully understand the enormous potential that creating a culture of kindness may have there.

Do you know of some community, perhaps in your hometown area that might be interested in starting a club of their own? If so, let us know and we will help you explore the possibilities.

Kindness Rocks Hat

Several people have asked where to get the Kindness Rocks hat. Here is the link for the hat if you are interested.

https://www.zazzle.com/kindness_rocks_cap-233987730172834750

Random Acts of Kindness Week

The week of February 16th is Random Acts of Kindness Week and the 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Day. This is good to keep in mind, but an even better thought is that every day is Random Acts of Kindness day,



One more thing

Maybe it's time to give our newsletter a creative name. We have a couple of possibilities but could use more. Here's your chance to get those creative thinking juices going and suggest some possibilities. Anyone want to give it a shot?

See you at our meeting? Lindsay Collier

“To the world you might be just one person, but to one person you just might be the world”.

Mark Twain