



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

June 2020

Status of our meetings

There obviously won't be a June meeting and it is still up in the air as to when and how the Villages Recreation will give a green light to group meetings. They are supposed to let the leaders know sometime soon, but I wouldn't be surprised if we don't get started until September. It's frustrating since we had such momentum before this all happened. But I do believe The Villages is doing a great job with their phased reopenings. We did try a Zoom meeting but it was poorly attended. If you would like to try it again please let me know. I might note that those of you who are snow birds in faraway places can also attend these meetings. It is quite easy to use Zoom. Just go to Zoom.com and download the app to whatever device you would like to use. It's best to use a device with a camera, like your smart phone, so you will have a video feed. Then, if we meet you will get an invitation and you just sign in. **If I get a dozen or more positive responses I will schedule one soon.**

AAOK Club Scrapbook

We have a lot of articles about our club which I've been collecting since our inception. I think it would be nice to start a scrapbook to archive these. Are any of

you out there into scrapbooking? Would you be willing to give it a try? The club will pay for your supplies. Please let me know.

Also, we have a very nice **Journal of AOK's** which Chardell Kern put together for us a while back. The thought was to track some of our more interesting experiences handing out our kindness cards. **If you can, think of some of the more interesting situations you have experienced handing out cards, send me a short description (2-3 sentences – lindsaycollier@comcast.net).** Chardell will add these to the journal. When we start meeting again it would be nice to have the journal and scrapbook there for everyone to see.

Sumter School activity

We have an Educational Focus group that was poised and ready to begin interacting with local schools to introduce our AOK process to students. The school closings put that on hold but I am glad to report that we have some interest from a few Sumter County Schools to get something going when the school year resumes. This includes:

- The Villages Charter Elementary
- Wildwood Elementary
- Lake Panasoffkee Elementary
- Bushnell Elementary
- South Sumter High School

My guess is that we can grow this idea very quickly as it is introduced in a few schools. Remember, kindness is contagious.

In Memorandum

Roberta Farmer, sister of club member. Pat Phillips, passed away on May 12, 2020 from COVID 19. She did have other health issues but while being a patient in a nursing home in MD contracted the disease. She was a registered nurse for 35 years and after retirement she helped develop a "Healthy Life Style " program for Cecil Co. ,MD health department.

Our thoughts are with you, Pat.

Kindness Certificates and Cards

This may be a prime time to be handing out cards since there are a lot of people performing kind acts during the pandemic. **I have a good supply of cards and. If you would like some, just send me a note** (lindsaycollier@comcast.net). We'll figure a way to get them to you.



Our new Kindness Certificates are available to all of you as well. These were introduced just prior to the shutdown and we haven't been able to get a real good start with them. The first one was given to Anne Sheehan just before she left to return to Akron. I have one to present to a very special person at our next live meeting. I also presented one to a couple from Tall Trees during a Susie Casta concert in our driveway. This couple, Harry and Fran Young, took it upon themselves to carry out a fundraiser for the Wildwood Food Bank during the shutdown.

And our member, Jane Murphy, took it upon herself to print out and distribute these to a number of people – along with a 'Thank You' note from our club:

Red Sauce Restaurant – treated kids during Christmas celebration
Cane Garden Country Club – cooked free food for the community

New Covenant United Methodist Church – food donations
Citizens First Bank (Fruitland Branch) – worked on Love Week
Lake County Firefighters – calendar to benefit no-kill animal shelters
Francesco's Ristorante and Donna Dream Cakes – catered dinner for Humane Society
Tri County Senior Outreach Services – donated to helping place service dogs for Autistic children
Pathington Clothing Store – hosted fashion show for Mary Kay Foundation
D.J. Scooter – helped with Electric Slide for Lymphoma
Bonifay Country Club Dennis. Dennis Spinile – organized Toys for Children
Sugar n Spice members – free concert to help breast cancer patient
Miller's Ale House – donated 100 meals
OutBack Steakhouse – 15% given to Honor Flight
Parady Financial Group – donations to Salvation Army
St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church members
Havana Club and Legacy Restaurant David Suleimen – gave to Hands of Mercy
North Lake Presbyterian Church – raised money for CERT and Honor Flights
Southern Trace. Spanish Plains, and Colony Cleaners – provided free masks
The Rose Plantation – donated to the Humane Society

Thank you, Jane, for all you do!

So, if you would like to give out some Kindness Certificates please let me know and I will get the artwork to you.

Members Making the News

In the past few weeks a number of our members have had nice articles written about them in The Villages Daily Sun based on their kind acts. This includes Lois Rose, Jen Smith, Bonnie Mulneix, Shirley Knight, and Pat Phillips. We have established a great relationship with The Villages Media and they love what we do, and I will continue to feed them possibilities for stories about our members. Publicity like this is great for our club.

Stay safe and hope to see you all (y'all) soon. Lindsay Collier

Kindness is behaving in a way that makes people feel good when they are around you.