



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

November 2020

This has quite obviously been a challenging year. In October we had our first eyeball to eyeball meeting at the Bacall picnic pavilion after a six month lockdown. It was great to see the 14 of you who were able to attend. **We will have our November meeting in our normal room at the Bacall Recreation Center at 12:30 on Thursday, Nov 12th**. Appropriate guidelines will be followed for your safety, and the room is set up for social distancing. Wear a mask if you are more comfortable (you will need one to enter the facility). Once seated you will be socially distanced, and not need a mask if desired. If you are still not comfortable in meeting we understand and hope to see you soon.

Focus Groups

We are beginning to activate our Focus Groups which have all been inactive for the past 6 months. We developed these groups to enable us to maximize our potential to achieve our mission to create a climate of kindness in our community and beyond. We will have sign-up lists for those of you who would like to join any of these at our meeting. These are the Focus Groups:

Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Group

The purpose of this group is to oversee the selection of candidates who have shown exceptional kindness for acknowledgment, and to plan these events. We hope to have at least one of these events each month.

Education 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. In the future we may expand well beyond these boundaries. The future is with our children – just think of the effect this can have!

This group has already begun their work, and Margaret Wolf will tell us about it at our meeting.

Business Flier Focus Group

This group will explore opportunities to have local businesses display our kindness card fliers. Aligning with local businesses has a tremendous potential for both them and us! Here is an example of our flier.



Social Groups Focus Group

There are over 3000 clubs in the Villages. Within this grouping there are some who might be particularly interested in hearing about our club. The purpose of this focus group is to share our story with many of these groups and create synergetic relations with them.

Membership

We currently have 92 members! But to be honest, there are some on this list who have not been active. If you are receiving this newsletter, you are on the list. If you no longer want to be on it please let me know (lindsaycollier@comcast.net).

Certificates of Kindness

Just prior to the shutdown we developed our **Certificate of Kindness** as another way of acknowledging acts of kindness. Our sincere thanks to Chardell Kern for the major part she played in its development. This gives us a quick, easy, inexpensive way to acknowledge people who have shown extraordinary kindness. Attached is a template that you can use to print your own, or we can supply you with a printed, framed one upon request.

In our last meeting we presented one to Jen Smith to honor her for all she does for our club and our community. Thank you, Jen, for all your help.



Club Power Point Presentation

We have a Power Point presentation (attached) that tells the story of our club, our mission, our structure, and the various ways we acknowledge kind people. You can use this if you are involved in a group that may be interested in knowing about us. If you are interested in doing that let us know and we can help you.

Our Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors generally meets on the first Thursday each month as necessary to help provide guidance for our club. **We need to fill the position of Secretary. If you are interested please let me know.** Being a part of our board is not work – it's fun!

Upcoming Events

We have just received approval for our **Fund Raising Event, "An Evening with Suzie Casta"**. This will take place on Saturday, January 16th at 6:30 at the Hacienda Recreation Center. This should be a very exciting event, and we will keep you posted as we get more information

The 3rd annual **Giving Clubs Showcase** is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th from 9-12 at Lake Miona. We will again have a table to showcase our club. This is a wonderful event that just gets better each year. Plan on attending, or even helping us out if you can.

Last year we took part in the **Christmas Parade** and it was very successful. Those who participated had a great time. No word yet if there will be one this year but we will let you know as soon as we hear.

Last year we had a "**Himalayan Golf**" event that was very successful and we are looking to have another in early 2021. More about that to come.

Our Website and Facebook sites

We have an exciting new website that comes with the ability to easily make changes and additions. Explore it when you get a chance, and share it with your friends. If you have any suggestions for changes and additions please let us know at (aaokclub@gmail.com). Also, feel free to contribute to our blog on any thoughts you may have on kindness by sending them to this address. All of our newsletters will also appear on this website.

We also have a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AcknowledgingActsOfKindness>

Check it out, give it a big like, and share it with as many as you can! You will find a lot of interesting examples of kindness on this page.

Club Shirts

We have a limited supply of club shirts for anyone interested. The T-shirts are just \$10 each and the Polo Shirts are just \$20 each. This is a great buy and the money goes right into our treasury. We will have these available at the meeting. Also, the [Zazzle Kindness Store](#) has some interesting items (mugs, shirts, hats, masks, etc) and 10% of the costs of these will go into our treasury.

Nametags

We have magnetic nametags available for members. These are just \$6 each and can be ordered through our Membership Chair, [Carol Cholette](#) . Carol can also take your order at our meeting. **If you have previously ordered a nametag, Carol will have it for you at our meeting.**



Stay safe, and we hope to see you on Nov 12th. Lindsay Collier

