



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

April 2022

Our April meeting is on **Thursday, April 14th at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center**. We will have a lot of exciting things to discuss and a look at some wonderful stories of kindness. Our speakers will be Linda and Dennis Ryan from the Sumter Lions Club. They will share some of the kind work done by their club with a look at some of the amazing ways they fight blindness and some of the equipment they use. Don't miss this one. You are invited to bring any eye glasses and hearing aids that you no longer use.

Welcome to Our New Members

In March we welcomed 6 new members! We now have 182 members from 61 different Villages! Please join me in welcoming:

Peggy Cunningham – Citrus Grove

Barbara Lutz – Pine Hills

Jack Bell – Bonita

Bonnie Gaspari – Bonita

Sandra Johnson –Orange Blossom Gardens

Donna Guldenstern - Poinciana

St Pat's Day Parade

Our club had the pleasure of being a part of this parade which took place on St Pat's Day at Spanish Springs. This, along with the Christmas parade, will be an annual event for us. Our thanks to all of you (17) who were a part of this. We had a great time, handed out over 1,000 kindness cards and over 100 kindness rocks and got some wonderful reaction from the crowd. Our thanks to Jan Masterson for all the "Kindness Rocks".



Update from Our Board

We have been working on developing our club by-laws and it is now complete. We will share some of the highlights in our meeting. The most exciting thing to report is our new Secretary, Peggy Cunningham, from Citrus Grove. Peggy is a brand new member and we are excited about having her on our Board. One thing that is new is that we will have nominations for a new board every 2 years beginning this November. So think about whether you may want to run or nominate someone as we get closer to that date.

We are still in need of someone to be our website person. You don't need a lot of computer skills for this and we will provide you with the training needed.

Upcoming Events

Flags for Fallen Veterans

Last year a few of us participated in this event, and it was an absolutely wonderful experience! This year there will be bus transportation to the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell which will make it much easier, and a lot more fun. We would like to sponsor a full bus (53 seats) and currently have about 20 who have said they will be involved. If you are one of these, that's great. If not please think about being a part of this. And think about asking friends, neighbors, and family members etc to also be involved. This would be an amazing experience for grandchildren too!

It a nutshell, here is a summary of what to expect. We will leave early in the morning (7:30) on Sunday, May 29th, on buses from the American Legion on Rolling Acres. Tickets for the bus are just \$12 PP. Everyone will receive 25 flags to place at graves in our area. At 9:00 am after the playing of taps we will begin placing flags. Busses will return by 11:30.

If you would like to participate, or have someone who would, please let me know (at lindsaycollier@comcast.net) and I will send you more detailed info. Please help us fulfill our goal of filling a bus for this event.

AAOK Event

We have an upcoming AAOK event on Sunday, April 24th that will take place at the beginning of a morning service at a local church. Participating in these events is a wonderful way to contribute to our club and it is quick, easy, and a lot of fun. Please let me know if you are interested. We like to have 4 or 5 members be a part of these events so let me know if you are interested.

Also, we invite you to be a **Kindness Whistle Blower** if you have someone in mind that deserves one of our monthly acknowledgments. We've asked several times for recommendations with virtually no response. Surely some of you must know of someone, or some group that deserves a special acknowledgement from us for their kindness. Attached is a form you can use to make a recommendation or you can always download it from our website, aaokclub.org. They will also be available at our meeting.

Our monthly Acknowledgement Events are one of the most exciting things we do. We have a lot of fun doing these and we are always looking for people to be involved. **Any member can be a part of these events.** Our Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Focus Group reviews the recommendations and plans the events. We pride ourselves on making these events very creative, fun, and full of surprises. They take little time and are very rewarding.

Education Focus Group

We have an Educational Focus Group to collaborate with local schools to encourage students and staff to use our process of acknowledging acts of kindness. This group, under the leadership of Margaret Wolfe, has been doing an outstanding job during a relatively difficult period. **Just think of the possible impact on our future in helping kids learn how to live lives of kindness!**

They have distributed 3500 cards to schools in Lake Panasoffkee, Webster, South Sumter, Fruitland Park, and Lady Lake. They are also working on Villages Charter, Bushnell, and Wildwood schools.

The Lady Lake Elementary School has a particularly innovative use of our Kindness Cards which Margaret reviewed with us at our last meeting. The highlight of our March meeting was when Margaret mentioned the fact that there were 10 students who didn't have the means to purchase the school's \$20 yearbook. One kind member walked up and gave her \$20 – then 9 others followed. At the schools event last week we were able to present a check for \$200 to help these students buy their yearbook (see picture below). Thanks for such a fine display of kindness. This is a chance for some of you to get involved in a very exciting monthly activity at the school. I had the pleasure of attending one of these and it was a wonderful experience!





Club Shirts, Hats, Nametags, and More

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

Social Events

From time to time we like to have some social events for the purpose of getting to know one another and just having fun. In the past we have had Himalayan golf, gatherings at restaurants, etc. **If you have any ideas for future social events, please let us know. Our golf event on April 2nd was cancelled due to impending bad weather, but has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 30th. We will have a sign-up for this at our April meeting.**



Kindness Certificates

Our Certificates of Kindness are another very easy way we use to acknowledge acts of kindness. If you have someone you know who has shown exceptional kindness you can use this to acknowledge them. We will provide you with a copy complete with the recipient's name. If you would like to do this let me know (lindsaycollier@comcast.net) and I will work with you to make it happen.

CERTIFICATE <i>Of</i> KINDNESS	
Recipient Name	
The Villages Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club thanks you for your extraordinary kindness. Your kind acts and positive attitude serve as a model for others to promote a culture of kindness in our community and beyond.	
	PRESENTED BY: _____
	ON THIS DAY: _____
<i>Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring - all of which have the potential to turn a life around. - Leo Buscaglia</i>	

Website and Facebook Sites

We have a terrific website (<https://aaokclub.org>) and **we need someone to update this site. If you are interested, and have some skills on websites please let us know. We will supply training and this job won't take a lot of your time.**

Visit this often to see the latest events and news. Our blog is a way of sharing interesting articles on kindness, and **we invite you all to contribute to this.** The latest blogs include articles from two of our members and a story of kindness that will bring tears to your eyes. If you have something you would like to share sent it to aaokclub@gmail.com and we will make sure it is added (with your name of course). While you are on the site check out the latest blogs and enjoy.

We also have a Facebook page at:

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

and a Facebook group at:

<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 14th!

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, Lindsaycollier@comcast.net 352-552-5973



lifenelle
Some stranger
somewhere
still remembers you
because you were kind
to them when
no one else
was.