



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

February 2022

Our February meeting is on **Thursday, February 10th at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center**. We will be celebrating our 3rd anniversary and will have goodies available so come early for the snacks. We will have a presentation of the history and accomplishments of our club up to know and a number of our past honorees have been invited. This should be a fun event and we hope to see a lot of you there to help us celebrate.

Included will be a couple of surprises, and Jen Smith will also be sharing the story of her club, Abundance of Love. You will be amazed at what this group does!

Upcoming Fundraiser

Our fundraiser, Jukebox Bingo, is planned for Friday, February 18th at 6 pm at Rohan Recreation Center. **Attached is a flier for this event. PLEASE, PLEASE** share this with as many as you can (friends, neighbors, social groups etc.)! We are aiming at having over 200 people attend this event! The funds will put us in a

great position to carry out our events as well as to continue donations to other caring clubs here in The Villages. Everything we do is focused on our mission to create a culture of kindness in The Villages and beyond.

If you haven't bought tickets you will be able to purchase them at the meeting – just \$10 per person. This event will be a great deal of fun – even if you don't consider yourself a 'Bingo Person'! I guarantee you will have a wonderful time, and be amazed at how Ric Mitchell orchestrates this event.

Also, we need prizes for the event. Please consider contributing a prize worth about \$10. Wine is always a good choice or be as creative as you'd like. Bring your prize to our meeting if possible.

Our January Meeting

Our speaker in January was Linda Casey, President of Friends of SoZo Kids. Linda shared some very compelling information about the SoZo Kids who live in the Ocala Forest and all that is being done to help them. If anyone would like to volunteer please contact them via their website.

<https://www.friendsofsozokids.com/contact-us.html>



Welcome to Our New Members

In our January meeting we welcomed a lot of new members! We now have close to 170 members! Please join me in welcoming:

Lori Lynch – Tamarind Grove

Debra Heath – Hadley

Pat Waters – Osceola Hills

Sherry Janssen – Woodbury

Cat O’Neil – Pine Ridge

Judy McNiece – Virginia Trace

Laura Latus – Virginia Trace

Terry Walker – Sanibel

William Clark – Osceola Hills

Bob Wilson – Hadley

Marianne Graves – Hadley

Beth Allen – Largo

Matt VanSlyke – Largo

Sara Fink - Citrus Grove

Cathy Vestrand - Ashland

AAOK Events

We have two tentative acknowledgement events in the offing for February and March but need your help to recommend new possibilities. We invite you to be a **Kindness Whistle Blower** if you have someone in mind who deserves one of our monthly acknowledgments. 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. Margaret will update us on this effort at our upcoming meeting.

The Lady Lake Elementary School has a particularly innovative use of our Kindness Cards which Margaret will review at our meeting. It's a chance for some of you to get involved in a very exciting monthly activity at the school. I had the pleasure of attending on of these and it was a wonderful experience!

Kindness Rocks! book

Several people have asked me if I can make my book, **Kindness Rocks! How To Live a Life of Kindness**, available for sale at the meeting. To be honest, I am somewhat sensitive about this because it's a bit of a conflict, being President. That said, I will have some available for just \$10 (about ½ of what Amazon would charge) at our next meeting. **For those who buy the book and leave a review on Amazon I will give back \$5 to our club.**

Kindness Is the New Cool!

This new book will give you all you need to live a life of kindness!



It's been said that 'Kind' is the new cool. The main thrust of this book is to help you to raise your own level of kindness and promote a culture of kindness wherever you go. This book takes a unique look at the nature, characteristics, and benefits of kindness. Most importantly, it details dozens of ways that you can use to lead a life of kindness. These techniques will help you lead a more fulfilling, happier life, and also to become a prophet of kindness with all those you impact. You will also have fun along the way and experience some wonderful stories of kindness.

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, masks, totes, and hats. And the prices are very reasonable. Their catalogue can be seen at [aaokclub merchandise](#) and you can order on line if desired. Visit them today and checkout their great selections so you can show our AAOK 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.

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.



Website and Facebook Sites

We have a terrific website (AAOKClub.org) and we now have a new Website Advisor, Jan Masterson. Who will be helping to keep it updated. 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 February 10th!

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, Lindsaycollier@comcast.net

SMILES, LAUGHTER, AND KINDNESS
ARE HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS.
CATCH AND SPREAD SOME TODAY!

- LINDSAY COLLIER