



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

June 2022

Our June meeting is on **Thursday, June 9th at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center**. This will be our last meeting before we take a summer recess with no meetings scheduled for July and August as we huddle up to our air conditioners. We are planning a rather different meeting to include a look at our past accomplishments, some incredible stories of kindness, and a chance to brainstorm some ideas for going forward in the future. Come and show your support for our club. **It's also a great chance to pick up enough Kindness Cards to get you through the summer.**

May Meeting

Our speakers for May were Kathy Ingram and Charlotte Rupekus from the Pocket Pillow Case Club. They gave us a wonderful presentation of the work they have done making some incredible garments from a variety of hand-me-downs (such as dust ruffles, curtains, sheets, gowns etc) that are sold to raise funds for **The Mission to Heal**. This mission was created by Dr Glen Geelhoed to bring medical needs to parts of the globe in dire need. Through the sale of these dresses they have donated \$30,000 to the Mission to Heal Foundation! To learn more about this foundation go to [Mission to Heal](#).



Welcome to Our New Members

In May we welcomed 3 new members! We now have **190 members from 61 different Villages!** Please join me in welcoming:

Deni Ralston – Santa Domingo

Nancy Kirchdoerfer – Country Club Hills

Camille Lloyd – Tall Trees

190 members are quite impressive, but in reality there are a lot of you we haven't heard from in a while. If you no longer wish to be a member please let us know – we understand how busy many of you are.

We have a growing number of members in the fast-growing area of The Villages south of Rt 44. At some point we may want to have some club activity in this area. Your thoughts on how to best do that are welcome.

We have a number of members that are snow birds and we wish you a wonderful summer season, and look forward to your return. **If you are a snow bird please let me know by sending me a reply (I am a snowbird) so I can note that on our membership list.**

How You Can Help

We realize that many of you have busy schedules since there are so many activities here in The Villages that keep us busy. But there are a few areas where you can help us. **Please let me know if you are interested in being involved! WE NEED YOUR HELP! Just send me a note that you are willing to be involved and we will work something out. Some possibilities for involvement include:**

- Being a part of one of our Focus Groups.
 - Our **Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Group** plays an important role in making our AAOK events happen. Barbara Bickley heads this up. They review requests and plan and schedule our AAOK events – one of the most exciting things we do as a club.
 - Our **Educational Focus Group** plays an important role of introducing our kindness techniques in local schools. Margaret Wolfe heads up this group. This is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of promoting kindness in our schools. Just think of the possibilities!
 - Our **Business and Organizational Flyer Group** has not really gotten off the ground yet. The idea of this group is to find groups that would like to use our kindness card flyers. This is a great opportunity to get our story out to the community.



- Suggest candidates for special acknowledgements. Use our Kindness Whistleblower form (see attached) to get the process started for acknowledging someone you know who has shown exceptional kindness.
- Volunteer to be a part of one of our monthly AAOK's. These are a lot of fun, very rewarding, and consume little of your time.
- Come to the meetings.

Flags for Fallen Veterans

On Sunday, May 29th we participated in **Flags for Fallen Veterans** at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. This was truly an inspirational event! Our members, Marguerite Desbrow and Kathy Belisle worked tirelessly to give Villagers the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful event and there were 4 buses with over 200 people attending, our AAOK Club and friends filling one of those buses!



This will be an annual event for our club along with **Wreaths Across America** at the Florida National Cemetery and the **Project SOS Christmas Party** for kids of Veterans in the Ocala Forest.



Future AOK Events

These events are one of the most exciting things we do, and we usually like to have 5 or 6 members involved in each one. We try to make these events very creative, and always a big surprise to the recipients. We need your suggestions for people or groups we should honor.

There are so many acts of kindness here in The Villages. In the past we have acknowledged people who have worked tirelessly to help their neighbors, have donated their time to help those in need, have worked hard for our veterans, and much more. I'm sure many of you must know someone who deserves our acknowledgment.

If you know of anyone that has shown exceptional kindness please let us know. See the attached *Kindness Whistleblower* form or pick one up at the meeting. If you would like to be part of one of these events send me a note at (lindsaycollier@comcast.net). I guarantee you will enjoy it!

Fundraiser/Donations

We have our next fundraiser planned for November 11th at the Colony Recreation center at 6pm, so put it on your calendar. We will begin ticket sales in September and keep you updated. This will again be Jukebox Bingo with Ric Mitchell which is so popular that we had to turn away dozens of people in our last one.

Donating to groups in The Villages and surrounding community that are spreading kindness is becoming one of our key goals. In the past month we have donated \$500 to [Project SOS](#) (Support Our Soldiers) which aids families of Veterans living in the forest and [Carpenter's House](#) in Leesburg, an amazing couple that provides a home for kids in need. They have been taking kids into their house for 30 years, and currently care for 18 children. Jen Smith also added a check for \$500 from ***Abundance of Love***.

We have also purchased a \$150 AAOK Club engraved brick that will be a part of the walkway to Ashley's House, a home for women Veterans in need being built in Tavares. See more about this wonderful project at [Villagers for Veterans](#).

Education Focus Group

We have an Educational Focus Group to collaborate with local schools to encourage students and staff to use our process for 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. **We need a few volunteers to work with Margaret so, if you are interested, please let her know** (mackmom3@aol.com).

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](#) and you can order on line if desired. Visit them today and checkout their great selections so you can show our AAOK Club colors.

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 framed 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 (<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 June 9th!

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN SOMEONE'S LIFE, YOU
DON'T HAVE TO BE BRILLIANT,
RICH, BEAUTIFUL, OR PERFECT.
YOU JUST HAVE TO CARE