



## Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

**May 2022**

Our May meeting is on **Thursday, May 12th at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center**. We've had some very successful events and some that are planned, so join us to hear about them and hear some kindness stories shared. We also have some very interesting speakers, Kathy Ingram and Charlotte Rupakuf, who will tell us all about some of the wonderful work of the Pocket Pillowcase Club.

The following meeting will be on June 9<sup>th</sup>, so put that on your calendar too. After that we will be taking the months of July and August off.

### Welcome to Our New Members

In April we welcomed 5 new members! We now have **187 members from 61 different Villages!** Please join me in welcoming:

Tina Rechi – Hickory Head Hammock

Jaqueline Pariseault – Citrus Grove

Deborah Hilfiker – Woodbury

Julie West - Hillsborough

Rosemary Sikucinski – St. Catherine

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.

## 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:

- Be a part of one of our Focus Groups.
  - Our **Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Group** plays an important role in making our AOK events happen. Barbara Bickley heads this up.
  - Our Educational Focus Group plays an important role of introducing our kindness techniques in local schools. Margaret Wolfe heads up this group.
  - 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.



- 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 you time.
- Come to the meetings.

## April Meeting

We had the distinct pleasure of hearing Linda and Dennis Ryan from the Lake Sumter Lions Club tell about the wonderful work of their club. Dennis gave a very interesting demonstration of an amazing camera used for free vision screening for children. Jen Smith presented them with a Kindness Certificate to show our thanks.





Also, our VP, John Maiorino, acknowledged Scot Roberts for the kindness he has displayed in the entertaining of those in our many assisted living centers.



## Events

### April AOK Event

On Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, we honored Leslie Adams during a service at the Congregational Church on Rt 301 in Summerfield. Leslie spends countless hours running the Infant-Toddler Pantry which supplies clothing, books, and other needs to children of families in need. Our many thanks to Bonnie Pearson, Barbara Bickley, and Jean Collier for being a part of this celebration. These events continue to be one of the most enjoyable and valuable things we do.



## Himalayan Golf

On Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> we had our third Arnold Palmer Himalayan Golf social event. We had 9 foursomes participate, and had a great time followed by lunch across the street at the Bridgeport picnic pavilion. We'd like to have several social events each year, so if anyone has an idea for one, let us know. Thanks to Jen and Terry Smith for organizing this.



## Flags for Fallen Veterans

We are very excited that our club is playing a major role in Flags for Fallen Vets. This event is on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Marguerite Desbrow and Kathy Belisle have worked tirelessly to give Villagers the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful event and there will be 4 buses with over 200 people attending!



It a nutshell, here is a summary of what to expect. We will leave early in the morning (7:30) on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, on buses from the American Legion on Rolling Acres. 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. For those attending, you will receive an update as we get closer to the date.

## Future AAOK Event

We will have an AAOK event sometime in late May that should be quite exciting. We try to make these events very creative and this one will have some interesting twists. Please let me know if you would like to be involved at [lindsaycollier@comcast.net](mailto:lindsaycollier@comcast.net).

As of now there are no other events planned so we need your suggestions. See the attached **Kindness Whistleblower** form or pick one up at the 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.

## Fundraiser/Donations

We have our next fundraiser planned for November 11<sup>th</sup> 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***.



## 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](mailto:mackmom3@aol.com)).**

The Lady Lake Elementary School has a particularly innovative use of our Kindness Cards. The Villages Sun had a very nice article about this program in the May 3<sup>rd</sup> newspaper.





## 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 [aokclub 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 May 12th!**

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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