



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

October 2022

Our September meeting was a great success with a pretty full house, a lot of new members, an exa lot of great ideas. Our October meeting will be on Thursday, October 13th in our room at the Bacall Recreation Center.

We again have an exciting speaker, Nancy Larger, of The Villages Big Brother/Big Sister Program who will share what this group is doing. We also will have a visit by Congressman Dan Webster who is quite interested in what our club is all about. Our member, Cindy Brown, is the Congressman's Community Relations Representative in The Villages and says he is one of the kindest persons she has ever met. We look forward to sharing with him some of the things we do to create a culture of kindness.

And we have a lot of news to share regarding a number of exciting plans and events we are planning for this year. Hope you can be there and don't forget to bring a couple of bucks for our Happy/Sad opener.

Welcome New Members

We had 12 new members sign up in September which brings us to 207 from over 62 villages! Please welcome:

Brenda Jackson – Lakeshore Cottages

Les and Denise Robinson – Santiago

Myra Franklin – Spanish Springs

Ellen Cronas – Alhambra

Lisa Kopp –Polo Ridge

Barbara Gardner - Sunset Point

Kathy Veloza – Palo Alto

Sherril Emmon – Polo Ridge

Debbie Currie

Joyce Riemersma

Cathy Krzyzek

September Meeting

One of the highlights from our September meeting was having Petrina speak to us about her iSparkle Foundation. See more about her foundation at:

[Petrina's iSparkle anti-bullying program awards three scholarships | \(lakeandsumterstyle.com\)](http://lakeandsumterstyle.com)

The real highlight was having our own member, Jeri Fraser, sing the song she co-wrote, “I’ll Be There for You”, to Petrina to thank her for her kindness. The look on her face tells it all.



Nominations and Elections

We have never had an election of officers but that will be changing this year. In our October meeting we will take nominations for officers and then vote in the November meeting. The new Board will take over in January for a term of 2 years. So think about whether you would like to run, or who you might want to nominate. The Board consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership. If you are interested in running for any of , or know someone you would like to nominate, here is your chance.

How Can You Be Involved?

We know 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 has done a wonderful job leading this group but needs to go on to other things. This is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of promoting kindness in our schools. Just think of the possibilities! If you have a background in teaching this may be particularly excited for you.

- 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. We hope to get this group going in the next couple of months.



- Suggesting 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.
- Volunteering to be a part of one of our monthly AAOK's. 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.

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.

- Coming to the meetings
- Being a part of our annual events - There are several events which we will schedule yearly which include:

- Wreathes Across America at the Florida National Cemetery
- Memorial Day Flags for Veterans at the National Cemetery
- Two Annual Fundraisers
- Villages Christmas Parade
- St. Pat's Day Parade
- Project SOS Christmas Party in Ocala
- Social events such as Himalayan Golf and Poker Runs



Fundraisers/Donations

We have our next fundraiser planned for November 11th at the Colony Recreation center at 6pm, so put it on your calendar. We began ticket sales in September and sales are strong. 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. See the attached flyer and sign up early – you will love the experience! Spread it around and share with you friends and neighbors.

Also, we need prizes for this event. Please consider donating a prize. A typical prize would be something worth \$10-\$12 and could be wine, chocolates, books, kindness do-dads, or just about anything. We will collect these at our September and October meetings.

Tickets will be on sale at our October 11th meeting for just \$10 a person.

We are also planning a fundraiser in 2023 (tentatively February 4th) which will be Petrina's Multimedia Music Show celebrating 100 years of music. This is an amazing show! More on this later.

Proceeds from our fundraisers help us to carry out or mission of creating a culture of kindness in the Villages and beyond.

Another fundraiser worth noting is the one planned by Abundance of Love, the 50's and 60's Sock Hop with Mel and the Musical Misfits. We have close ties with this wonderful club, especially since our treasurer, Jen Smith, is the prime mover of it along with our member, Bonnie Mulinex. Go to this website for more information:

[Abundance of Love Benefit \(lynnhavenvillage.org\)](http://lynnhavenvillage.org)



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.



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 Tees and polo shirts, full zipper fleeces, nametags, totes, and hats. And the prices are very reasonable. Their catalogue can be seen at [aokclub merchandise](http://aokclub.com) and you can order on line if desired. Visit

them today and checkout their great selections so you can show our AAOK Club colors. **Show off your club colors and logo!**

Website and Facebook Sites

We have a terrific website (<https://aaokclub.org>). 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 October13th!

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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**“There are three ways
to ultimate success:
The first way is to be kind.
The second way is to be kind.
The third way is to be kind.”**

Mr. Rogers

