



## Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

**September 2022**

We hope you have enjoyed your summer and had the time to let your kindness show. We are very excited to getting started on what we think will be a banner year for our club. We have some great plans to add zest to our efforts to create a climate of kindness in The Villages and beyond and, in **our September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting you will hear about them all. This meeting will be at the Bacall Recreation Center at 12:30** as usual. Put it on your calendar. We have a great speaker along with some surprises for you.

Our speaker will be one of the most popular entertainers in The Villages, Petrina. She will be telling us all about her **iSparkle Foundation** which she formed to make scholarships available for kids who meet certain requirements. iSparkle, which stands for inclusion, support, protect, act, respect, **kindness**, lift spirits, and encourage, is an anti-bullying program co-founded by Petrina. Scholarship funds are awarded to candidates who help create atmospheres of inclusion for their peers. This will be truly exciting and I might also add that we have some surprises up our sleeve for it, but you need to be there to find out.



In addition we plan on hearing from any of you who have observed or participated in kindness acts over the summer. Bring your stories with you – prizes will be available for those who participate.

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

We now have 194 members from 61 different Villages which is pretty impressive. That said, there are many on the list that we haven't seen or heard from. In the next few months we will be contacting some of you in this category to see if you still want to be a part of our club. We understand how busy many of you are and that you may have conflicts in attending our meetings. But there are lots of ways for you to be involved. If you would prefer to be taken off our list just let me know.

A special welcome to our new member, Cindy Brown. Cindy, from The Village of Liberty Park, is the Community Relations Representative in The Villages for our Congressman and has been a friend and advocate of our club for a long time. Also

welcome Maria Alexander and Joyce Riemersma who are both from the Village of Fenney.

We have a growing number of members in the fast-growing area of The Villages south of Rt 44 and are working on plans to have club meeting in the southern sector which is rapidly growing. You will learn more about this at our meeting and any thoughts you may have are welcome. **If you happen to be from this area please don't miss this meeting!**

## Our August AOK

We had a wonderful AOK on August 26<sup>th</sup> for a member of our club who happens to be one of the kindness persons I know, Bonnie Mulneix. Bonnie has been playing a major role in Abundance of Love (AOL) for a long time and also is the founder of Caring Neighbors in The Village of Tall Trees. This will forever be known as the "What are you doing here, Lindsay" event. We were able to surprise Bonnie at one of the AOL meetings at Big Cypress. Our thanks to Carol Cholette, Barbara Bickley, and Jean Collier, and Jen Smith for being a part of this event.





## 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, Treasurer, and Membership Chair.

## 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! 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 months

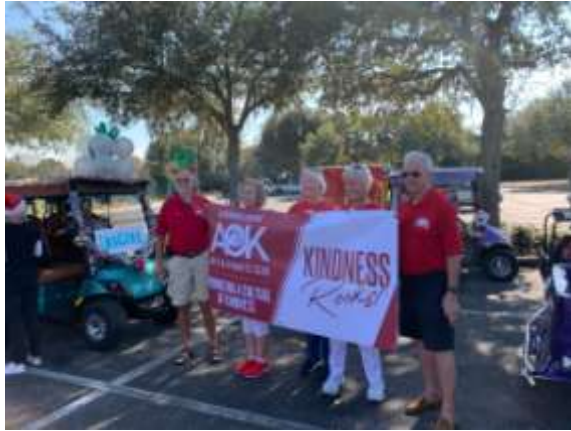


- Suggesting candidates for special acknowledgements. Use our Kindness Whistleblower form (see attached) to get the process started for acknowledging someone you know who has shown exceptional kindness.
- Volunteering to be a part of one of our monthly AAOK's. These events are one of the most exciting 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 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. 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 September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting for just \$10 a person.**

We are also planning a fundraiser in 2023 (tentatively February 4<sup>th</sup>) which will be Petrina's One Woman Show.



Donating to groups in The Villages and surrounding community that are spreading kindness is becoming one of our key goals. Our operating costs are actually quite small, and so our plans are to donate to clubs and organizations that are devoting their time to kind acts. We will share these with you at our monthly meetings.

## 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 [aaokclub merchandise](http://aaokclub.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>) 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 September 8th!**

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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