



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

May 2023

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 11th at 12:30 – 2:00 at the Bacall Rec Center. We've had an exciting year and there's a lot to share with you about some events and some upcoming opportunities.

We also have another wonderful speaker, Marie Hulsizer, who will tell us about a group she founded called Angel Wigs of Hope. We have heard from some wonderful people who have shared their stories of kindness in the past months, and it will be exciting to hear Marie's story.

Our June meeting will be our last before our summer break in July and August. It will be a fun, interactive meeting with some delicious food. And we will have some special guests to honor for their kindness. Don't miss it! **Attached is an invitation to this meeting.**

We wish all our snowbirds a very pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you come back.

We Need Some Help

Becky Nehring, our Membership Chair, had to leave because of other commitments so we are looking for someone to fill that board position. If you might be interested let me know and I'll fill you in with the details.

We also are looking for someone to be our website advisor. This involves updating the site from time to time. Some computer skills are required but we will provide all the information you need.

And, of course, we are always looking for members who would like to take part in our AAOK's (Acknowledging Acts of Kindness). Let me know if you would like to do this – it's a lot of fun and takes very little of your time.

Events

On May 28 our members, Marguerite Desbrow and Kathy Belisle, have filled 4 busses (over 200 people) to go to **Flags for Fallen Vets** at the Florida National Cemetery. A number of our club members are included in this trip which is an absolutely amazing experience. Thanks for all of you – wish there were more.

On April 22 we had the distinct honor of presenting a Certificate of Kindness to Irving Locker at an event at the American Legion. Irving is a 99 year old WW2 veteran who has become an icon here in The Villages. He gave a talk about his experiences which was wonderful and it was such a pleasure to honor him.



AAOK's

On April 14th we honored an amazing woman, Christine Pena, from the village of Hillsborough for spreading her kindness to her neighbors and others. We, along with a number of her neighbors, surprised her at a game night she was running at the Manatee Rec Center.



We have two exciting Acknowledgments planned in May. One will be on Saturday, May 13th at 11:30 at the Rose Plantation in Fruitland Park. We are looking for someone who has never participated in one of these. Let me know if you are interested – you will love the experience!

We also have one on Wednesday, the 17th, in the Village of Gilchrest.

These events are one of the highlights of our club activities. We invite you to recommend possible candidates. If you know of someone who has shown exceptional kindness, let us know.

Fundraiser

Our next fundraiser, the ‘Curly Girlies Musical Comedy Show’ is planned for Sunday, November 5th, 2023 at 6PM – and it may be the best show you will see all year! Tickets will go on sale in September, but put that on your calendar now. **An early flyer is attached.**

The funds we raise allow us to carry out all our activities and to donate to a number of organizations that help to create a culture of kindness in our community.

Giving Clubs Showcase

In February our club co-sponsored a very successful post-Covid rebirth of the Giving Clubs Showcase. We now have a list of over 80 clubs that help to create a kinder community. And the good news is that we will be doing two of these each year. We will have the usual February event, but have added a new one in October. This year it will be on October 28th at the Ezell Recreation Center in the Sawgrass area from 9-2. We'll keep you updated but mark your calendars now.

New Cards

During our summer recess our Board will be working on the redesign of our Kindness Cards. Suggestions for the design of these cards is always welcome.

Membership

We currently show over 215 members. However, the list includes many who we haven't seen or heard from in months. Being a member means coming to meetings when you can, being involved in events, and acknowledging acts of kindness in various ways. We typically have 25-35 people at our meetings with some of them being guests.

Some of you have conflicts with our meeting time and can't attend. And that's OK – you can still be involved in some of our events and activities. We know how busy many of you are. **But, if you no longer want to be a part of our activities, please let me know.**

Shoulder Taps

I posted this short video on our Facebook page and received a lot of great feedback. So I thought I would share it with you. Let me know if you like it.

<https://youtu.be/4OAAJwnMNRQ>

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness

We have several ways to acknowledge acts of kindness. We have our kindness cards that are available to all of you as well as people who request them through our website. We estimate that we have handed out over 40,000 of these!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE & KINDNESS

To promote a culture of kindness in your community please pass on this card.

FOR INFORMATION & FREE CARDS
CONTACT US AT
aaokclub.org

Sponsored by SantoroFoundation.org

We also have a Certificate of Kindness available if you know of someone who deserves special recognition.

And we try to have an acknowledgement each month of someone who was suggested to us for their exceptional acts of kindness. Our Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Focus Groups takes these recommendations and creates an event to honor them. We present them with a variety of gifts, and do it in a very creative way, and we would love to have your involvement in this.



Club Shirts, Hats, Nametags, and Much More

Custom Apparel in the Publix Plaza on 466 has a catalog of products with our logo and their prices are very reasonable. Their catalogue can be seen at [aaokclub merchandise](#). This includes men's and women's Tees and polo shirts, full zipper fleeces, nametags, totes, and hats. And you can order online if desired. Visit them today and checkout their great selections. **Show off your club colors and logo!**

Our Website and Facebook Sites

Our website has been recently updated so you should check it out and share it with your friends.

Website - <https://aaokclub.org>

Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/AcknowledgingActsOfKindness>

Facebook group - <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.

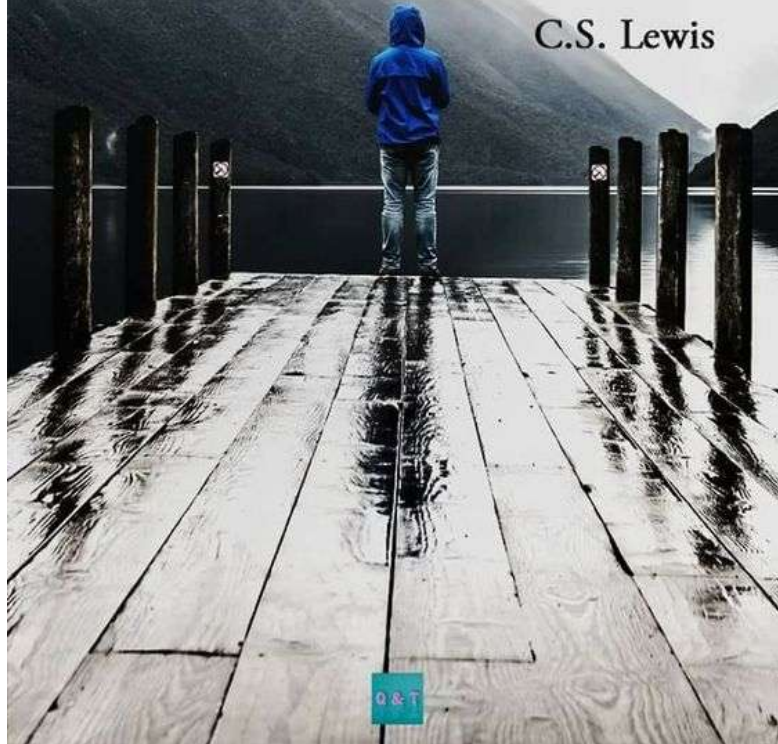
See you on May 11th

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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You can't go back and
change the beginning,
but you can start
where you are and
change the ending.

C.S. Lewis



Q&T