



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

October 2021

Welcome to fall. **Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 14th, at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center.**

We will have a wonderful speaker, Ann Bosler, who will share with us the fine work of the Caring Neighbors Program. We also have a few exciting things to share with you which I know you will enjoy. We will begin as usual with our happy/sad exercise so don't forget to bring a couple of one dollar bills. Also bring along any stories you would like to share of kind acts you have observed.

New Members

In our September meeting we had a record number of new members. A warm welcome to:

Julie Branson – Silver Lake

Debra Haines

Sandy Harris - Santiago

Marguritte Desbrow - Duval

Polina Pochtar

Lynnn Wells - Ashland

Linda Roth

Kashi Yatto

Gale and Fame Arent - Sanibel

Carol Zagosh – Pine Ridge

AAOK Events

As you may know, we try to have at least one event every month to recognize someone who has shown exceptional kindness. We have two very exciting events coming up, one on October 5th and one on November 8th. We'll tell you all about the October event at our 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 does all the work and we would love to have other members play a part in these events. Our thanks to those of you who volunteered to play a part in the upcoming events. This is one of the best ways to become a part of our activities. It's fun, exiting, easy, and takes little time. Hopefully more of you will volunteer for future events.

We also have a process on our website for nominating someone you think should be honored for their kind acts. Send this information to aaokclub@gmail.com if you have a possible honoree in mind and we'll get the review process started.

Also, if you know of any potential speakers for our meetings who are engaged in kind acts, please let us know.

Speaker in September

Our September speaker was Sue Roper, US Navy (Ret), President of the Tri-County Women's Veterans. She gave us a moving presentation of what this group is doing to support women's veterans here in The Villages and surrounding area. We presented her with a Certificate of Kindness and a donation to her group.

We also had Gary Kadow, Chairman and Founder of Project SOS (Support Our Soldiers) give a quick overview of his work and presented him with a donation. It gives us real pleasure to be able to donate to these wonderful groups and plan on more in the future!



Honor Flight Event

On Wednesday, October 20th there will be an Honor Flight with 65 WW2 Veterans. They leave at 1:00 am and return around 11:00 pm. There is a wonderful celebration event to welcome them back at the American Legion on Rolling Acres Rd. There is great entertainment beginning at 10 pm on until their

arrival. And the arrival led by The Nomads is just amazing! You will be truly moved by this event!

We would like to have a big a contingent of AAOK members. **If possible please plan on joining us and put this date on your calendar.** Hear more about this at our meeting and we will have a sign up for those who would like to attend. **If you can't make the meeting and would like to attend this event please let me know (lindsaycollier@comcast.net).**



Card Challenge

In our September meeting Joe Santoro issued a challenge to members to distribute kindness cards to family, friends, and neighbors. This was followed up by a detailed message sent to all members on September 12th. Hopefully some of you have had the opportunity follow up on his challenge. We'll spend some time discussing this at our meeting.



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

Kindness Cards and Card Stations

The giving out of our Kindness Cards is one of the things that make us stand out and the process goes a long way in promoting our mission of creating a culture of kindness. We have a good supply of these cards but the challenge is making sure you can get them when needed. They are always available at meetings, but we are now trying to set up card stations at strategic locations around The Villages to make it easy to get them as needed. We now have stations at the following locations:

Linda Riccardi's home in Alhambra at 2795 Privada Drive in **The Village of Alhambra**

Lindsay and Jean's home at 383 Awendaw Loop in The village of **Tall Trees**

Marie Anderson's home at 1073 Nichols Terrace in the village of **Virginia Trace**

Judy Samuelson's home at 1817 Ashwood Run in the village of **Pennecamp**

Amy and Anthony Donato's home at 5441 Reynolds Rd in the village of **Marsh Bend**

We are looking for a few others in the following areas:

- The Historical Area east of 441
- The area between 466 and 466A
- The far south area currently being developed.

The only requirement is to be yearlong resident and have a sheltered area to display the cards.

Also, our website includes the ability for users to request cards and we have had requests for nearly 800 cards from this. Most are from The Villages, but some are from other parts of the country. Linda Riccardi is handling the distribution of these cards, and our warm thanks to her for this.

Need for a Website Advisor

We are in need of someone to be our Website Advisor. Our website is all set up but we need someone who can add information such as blogs, news items, newsletters, etc. All you need is a basic idea of website constructs and we will supply you with some training from our website designer. Please respond if you are interested.

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, masks, 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.

Education Focus Group

We created an Educational Focus Group to collaborate with local schools to encourage students and staff to use our process of acknowledging acts of kindness. This group, under the leadership of Margaret Wolfe, has been doing an outstanding job. **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. Margaret will update us on this effort at our upcoming meeting.

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. If you would like to do this let me know (lindsaycollier@comcast.net) and I will work with you to make it happen.

We now have a new design for these certificates that we will preview in our meeting. Our thanks to Jenny and Steve Robinson for their design!

Website and Facebook Sites

We have a terrific website (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.

Updating Membership

If you are getting this newsletter you are on our membership list. We currently have over 150 members! There are a good number of folks on this list that we have not heard from at all. **If you no longer want to be listed as a member please let us know**. We understand how busy so many of you are – retirement can be a lot of work.

See you on October 14th!

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, Lindsaycollier@comcast.net

