**Del Webb Naples Club Veteran’s Club**

**Friday, March 5, 2021**

**4 P.M.**

**delwebbnaplesveterans.com**

**President: Joseph Tillman**

**First Vice President: Bob Greiss (absent)**

**Second Vice President: Ed DeMaio**

**Treasurer: Rick Bachofner**

**Treasurer: Helen Scorsone**

**Advisors: Bill Kaufmann Joe Rivera (absent) Jim Brodie (absent) John Alfonso**

**Tracy Sunderlage Bobby White**

**The Meeting was called to order by Joe Tillman.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.**

**There were no new guests or members in attendance.**

**23 Members were in attendance.**

**Joe Tillman requested a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 6, 2021 Meeting. Motion made and approved.**

**Rick Bachofner provided a current Treasurer’s Report: As of January 31, 2021, the current check book balance was $11,362.64. Dues in the amount of $175.00 were received and $1,250.00 in donations for the Golf Tournament were received. This gave the Club a total deposit of $1,425.00. Total checks written for expenses amounted to $2,127.31. This included $70 to Joe Tillman, $1,259.28 to Ed DeMaio, $78.23 to Helen Scorsone for office supplies, Bobby Pitts, and John Shaffer $162.00 each for golf balls, $20.80 for new checks and $375.00 to Floyd Green, CPA. Check Book Balance, 2/28/2021 was $10,660.33. Monies allocated were $115.00 for the Memorial Fund, $3,500.00 for the Golf Tournament and $1,200.00 for the Honor Flight. Available balance for general expenses is $5,845.33.**

**Rick thanked Eve Mallardi for her time and talent. Eve audited the Club’s Books without charge to the Club. Rick asked Helen to send her a thank you note.**

**Ed DeMaio reminded Helen to send out a notice to Michele Chase, Lifestyle Director for Del Webb, Naples of the dates and times for Club’s Meetings in 2021.**

**Bill Kaufmann gave an update on the Golf Tournament. Billed stated that he has collect approximately $5,800 in donations. Bill stated that he as 4 new Hole Sponsors but unfortunately lost a couple from previous years. He received two new corporate sponsors. There is one new gold, sponsors, Bill LaMothe. Bill and his Committee are working on getting our Members to sign up for the Tournament. Hampton Golf will be sending out an announcement to all the Hampton Clubs along with a flyer that will describe our Golf Tournament and who we donate to from the proceeds of the Tournament. Last October there were 64 players. So far, there is 24 players signed to play.**

**Joe Tillman urged our Members to sign up to play at the Golf Tournament. Joe thanked Damian and Hampton Golf for their participation and is hoping to bring out a lot more players.**

**Ed DeMaio reminded the Membership that the Club presented in the budget an allocation of $8,000.00, $2,000 a quarter for Veteran’s Affairs at Bay Pines. We are working within the budget to provide what is requested. Ed got a call from Leslie Mufalli, (she replaced Frank Jones) Bay Pines Veteran’s Affairs, and she told Ed that the dynamics of dealing with the homeless Veterans have changed. She told Ed that she is not in need of backpacks at this time. She is finding more and more Veterans are interested in going to “Hud Vasc Homes”. And, because of that, Leslie told Ed that what is really needed are air mattresses and pillows. She asked our Club to provide 10 queen size air mattresses and 30 pillows. She feels this would make a big difference in bringing the homeless Veterans into the “Hud Vasc Homes”. Ed told the Membership that he was able to get a great deal on the mattresses and while we allocated $2,000 for the quarter as Rick reported in his Treasurer’s Report, Ed spent $1,200.00. We now have an $800 carry over for the next quarter. Ed met with Leslie and gave her the air mattresses and pillows and Ed asked Leslie to start thinking about what would be most needed for the second quarter. Leslie told Ed that she is sure she will need sheets and towels because they are seeing an increase in Veterans entering the Home.**

**Ann Hashagen gave an update on the Veterans Shirts. Ann said she is going to go with a new company to get the new shirts. She will get some samples from the company and bring the new shirts to a Meeting for the Membership. Ann feels that the original company making the shirts were too expensive and they were making a lot of mistakes. Ann is using the company that made up the new t-shirts and they did an exceptionally good job. T-shirts are still available for $10. Ann asked Helen to help with contacting the Members who have an ordered shirt that has not been picked up. Ann said that Members are welcomed to come to her house to pick up the shirts.**

**Joe Tillman thanked Ann for all her work with the Veteran’s Shirts and T-shirts.**

**Claudette Sang, Oasis Travel Club, gave an update on the “Fundraiser Cruise” for February, 2022. 74 passengers signed up for the Cruise. Holland America extended the “View and Verandah Package” until April 5, 2021. Claudette contacted Tina Raymond, Activities Director for the Quarry to promote the Cruise with her residents. Tina would like to promote this Cruise to her residents. Claudette will arrange busses from Ave Maria and the Quarry, if needed, to bring passengers directly to the Port in Fort Lauderdale and return to Ave Maria at the conclusion of the trip. Cost is to be determined. Claudette is thinking the cost would be approximately $25 per person each way. Please contact Claudette Sang at** [**Claudette.Sang@Avoyanetwork.com**](mailto:Claudette.Sang@Avoyanetwork.com) **or 772-633-6340 to sign up for the Cruise or for any questions.**

**Claudette Sang also arranged for a “Donation to Win A Cruise” raffle for the same Cruise on Holland America. Tickets will go on sale on March 18, 2021. Donation is $25 for one ticket and $100 for five tickets. This Giveaway Cruise is valued at $2,500.00 and it is a Cruise for two in a balcony stateroom and includes: The Signature Beverage Package, valued at $384.00 per person, free one-night specialty dining valued at $32 per person and 10% off the offshore excursions. Unfortunately, the onboard credit deal of $125 per person expired the end of February and was not renewed. The Club will have a “Happy Hour” on November 5, 2021 from 5 PM to 6 PM at the Grand Hall and serve wine and cheese and then draw the winner for the “Donation to Win a Cruise”. You do not need to be present to win. Claudette will keep a detailed record of the donors. The Oasis Travel Club will donate $50 for every cabin sold to the Del Webb Veteran’s Club. Claudette asked for volunteers to sell the tickets.**

**Ed DeMaio talked about an event at the Golf Course on March 18, 2021 and he would like to volunteer to sell tickets for the “Donation to Win A Cruise” at this event. Bill Kaufmann also volunteered to sell tickets at this event. Joe asked Claudette to contact Michele to send out a notice to the Community that we will be selling tickets at this March 18, 2021 event. Joe reminded the Membership that the Club made almost $4,000 from the “Donation to Win A Cruise” previously. It was also suggested that the tickets be sold at the Fashion Show on March 19, 2021 at pool side. Claudette will contact the Committee who is running the Fashion Show to see if they would allow us to sell tickets at their event. Ed DeMaio asked Claudette to work with Michele to communicate to the residents about the “Donation to Win A Cruise” and make sure the residents or anyone else buying the tickets are aware of the value of the Cruise. Claudette will talk to Board Members and find out what golf events they want to have the tickets available for people to donate to “Win A Cruise” and have Michele promote those events for the Club.**

**Helen, Annette, Mary Pat, Ann, Paul, Jim, and Tracy volunteered to be at the Golf Tournament on April 10, 2021 to sell tickets for the “Donation to Win A Cruise” and the Golf Tournament Raffle.**

**Bill Kaufmann wanted a table set up at the April 10, 2021 Golf Tournament for 50/50 tickets. Ed DeMaio feels that asking people to purchase a 50/50 ticket and to donate $25 for the “Win A Cruise” would be in conflict of one another. Ed said the decision should be entirely up to Bill because he is running the Tournament. Bill does not feel there is a conflict because 50/50 is an immediate win. Ed then asked for two of the volunteers to sell the 50/50 chances on the day of the Tournament.**

**There were some items left over from last year’s Golf Tournament that John Shaffer gave Ed for the 50/50 drawling. There is a golf jacket, a golf travel bag, a shoe bag, and a small golf bag. So, in addition to the cash 50/50 drawling there will be prizes also.**

**The guest speaker, Robert Klucik, cancelled.**

**Ed spoke about the Veteran’s Club Meetings in the past. In the past we always had up to 70 Members in attendance. The COVID has reduced our attendance to only 20 plus in attendance. Ed made a challenge to the Members present to contact a Veteran and or Supporter of the Club who have not been coming to the Meetings and bring them back to the Meeting next month. Mark Clayton asked why our Members are not coming to the Meetings? He sees our Members at other activities around the Club. Mark feels it is not the pandemic. (Maybe for some) Joe sent out an e-mail asking the Membership why they are not attending the monthly Meetings. Only 5 answered the e-mail. Bill Kaufmann said he spoke to Members who had different reasons. Some did say COVID, others would rather play golf than attend the Saturday morning Meetings, etc. Joe reminded the Membership that at the request of the golfers we move the Meetings to Friday afternoons and the golfers still did not attend to the Meetings. Ed DeMaio said the future of this Veteran’s Club depends on participation. He feels if this situation does not turn itself around, there will be fewer people participating and helping with the mission of the Club. Ed does not feel our situation is at a crisis currently, but we need to be talking to the Membership one on one to bring Members back to the Meetings. Joe Tillman would like to continue every other Friday afternoon Meetings and reassess the options of staying with only Saturday morning Meetings, every other Friday afternoon or just Friday afternoon Meetings at the end of July. A couple of the Members present really like the afternoon Meetings.**

**Virginia Patterson wanted to thank, Dale Mullins for sending our Club information for obtaining the COVID vaccination. Virginia said it was so well organized. Virginia also thanked Bob Wheeler for sending out Dale’s information to our Membership.**

**Bob Wheeler also thanked Dale Mullin for the COVID Vaccine info for 70+ Veterans and their spouses. The vaccine was first offered to Veterans over 75. Back in February, Bob received an e-mail from, Dale Mullin, informing him that the Senior Center had COVID vaccine openings for Veterans who are 70 and older and their spouses. Bob was willing to have the Membership contact him with questions and he would prepare the spreadsheet to forward to Dale. 16 Veterans and or their spouses from Del Webb received the vaccine thanks to Bob Wheeler and Dale Mullin. Recently, Bob received a call from Dale that the new criteria was lowered to age 68 and over. Bob sent this notice out to both Ave Maria and Del Webb and now has an additional 6 more Veterans signed. Bob Wheeler asked Helen to send out a thank you note to Dale for sending out the information to our Club.**

**Bob Wheeler gave an update on the “Homeless Coalition”. Bob was asked to do an indoctrination for all the homeless in Collier County including Veterans. The report was to be out the end of February. Bob has not heard the numbers yet. Bob will contact the “Homeless Coalition” to obtain this information. The group interviewed approximately 45 homeless Veterans. One good thing is that the Coalition is attempting to place the homeless Veterans in housing. Last year there were 40 individuals placed into housing. The Coalition’s goal is to reduce the population of homeless Veterans within Collier County.**

**Joe Tillman addressed the number of e-mails he has received concerning disposal of American Flags in Ave Maria. We can give our damaged, aged, or used American Flags to the Homeowners Association of Ave Maria. We can take the flags to the Homeowners Association’s Office in Ave Maria. They give the flags to the Ave Maria Veteran’s Club who will then dispose of the flags. The Ave Maria Veteran’s Club will build a fire, and they have a formal ceremony. Also, ACE Hardware Stores have a box in their stores to put American Flags into that need to be disposed.**

**Tracy Sunderlage went over the VA changes from Tri West to Optima, United Health, and the Community Care Program and the need to obtain new contracts. Please refer to the Minutes from our February 6, 2021 Meeting for that information. Additional information from Tracy is the primary care physicians in Naples need to request a new consultation. The contract with Community Care is for only 180 days then it expires. Your current provided needs to request an extension. Tracy stressed the importance of having all contracts updated for proper payment for all services. In an emergency, the Veteran is given 72 hours to notify the VA. It was strongly suggested that Veterans do not cancel their secondary insurance. Travel reimbursement is currently being paid for this past December and just starting January for this year. Disabilities for agent orange: Congress went over the VA and made it affective January 15, 2021 that bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson’s Disease like symptoms are now covered. When the new Secretary of the VA took over on February 23, 2021, he decided to employ a new Under-secretary on Diversity. Statistic wise, there is a 134 thousand Veterans who decided to be transgender and are under VA care. These Veterans still need care, and the question is, under what gender are they given care? There are currently 15 thousand transgenders in active duty in the Military. The other question is when these service people leave the Military, do they continue to get care? They need considerable hormone treatment, etc. Kayla M. Williams has been appointed Assistant Secretary, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs on January 20, 2021, at the Department of Veterans Affairs. (OPIA) Prior to this appointment, she was a Senior Fellow and Director of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at the Center for a New America Security focused on issues facing Veterans, military readiness, and civil-military relations. Ms. Williams was enlisted for five years as an Arabic linguist, serving in a Military Intelligence company of the 101st Airborne Division. Part of her responsibility now is to assist those who identify as transgender. Now, all the Veteran Offices must have an LGBTQ coordinator in their offices to help make sure these Veterans are taken care of. At present there is a staff of 95 employees who help to build and maintain public confidence in the VA by developing, routinely updating and communicating the Department’s key messages to Veterans and their families.**

**Joe thanked Tracy for the update.**

**Joe is looking for volunteers for the “Volunteer Transportation, (VTN Program) in Naples. This was requested by Leslie Mufalli, VA Healthcare Center. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Helen or Joe and the information will be provided.**

**The next Meeting will be on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Coffee and donuts will be served at 9:30 AM. This is the Saturday before our Golf Tournament.**

**Joe thanked all for attending the Meeting and the Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.**