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

**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

**delwebbnaplesveterans.com**

**President: Joseph Tillman**

**First Vice President: Bob Greiss**

**Second Vice President: Ed DeMaio**

**Treasurer: Rick Bachofner**

**Secretary: Helen Scorsone**

**Advisors: Bill Kaufmann Joe Rivera Jim Brodie Tracy Sunderlage**

 **John Alfonso Bobby White**

**The Meeting was called to order by Joseph Tillman, President at 10:00 AM.**

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

**Joe Tillman welcomed, Jerry Virgo, Army Veteran. Jerry is from East of Cleveland, Ohio. Jerry served in the Army from 1964 to 1966. Jerry was accompanied by his wife, Cheryl.**

**Guest: Joe Tillman introduced, Michele Chase, the new Lifestyle Director for Del Webb. Michele thanked the Board and Membership for the invitation to attend the Meeting. Michele stated that she would be happy to assist our Club in any way possible. She is a proud mother of a daughter currently serving in the Army.**

**There were 28 Member in attendance at this Meeting.**

**Joe Tillman requested a motion to approve the Minutes from the January 8, 2021 Meeting. Motion made and approved.**

**Rick Bachofner provided a current Treasurer Report: 12/31/2020 check book balance was $11,383.86. January total deposits were $ 1,225.00 that included dues and donations. January total checks written amounted to $1,264.22. Check book balance on 1/31/2021 was $11,362.64. Monies allocated were $3,300 for the 2021 Veteran’s Cup Challenge, Memorial Fund, $115.00 and Honor Flight, $1,200.00. Available balance for general expenses, $6,547.64.**

**Rick reminded the Membership that dues in the amount of $25 are now due.**

**Rick told the Membership that there are currently 113 Members of the Club, 72 Veterans and 41 Veteran Supporters. He reminded the Membership at all are welcomed to join.**

**Joe Tillman reminded the Membership about Reliable Pressure Cleaning to power wash their roofs. Reliable once again agreed to donate $10 per roof scheduled and cleaned to our Club. They donated almost $1,200 in 2020 to the Club.**

**Bill Kaufmann gave an update on the Golf Tournament scheduled for April 10, 2021. Bill stated that we are 64 days until the Tournament and he and his Committee are actively soliciting for sponsors. Bill said he has been getting donations from Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors. He asked if you are a hole sponsor or if you would like to be a sponsor, please get payment to him as soon as possible. Bill requested that the payment first go to him, he will record the payment and then give to Rick for deposit. Bill gave a recap on the money raised. In 2017, the Club raised $10,000, in 2018, the Club raised, $7,500, in 2019, the Club raised $19,765 and in 2020, despite COVID, we still raised $12,000. Damian told Bill that Hampton will pay for half of the luncheon following the Tournament this year and he will talk with his other suppliers to donate the additional cost of the luncheon. That was the agreement last year, however, due to COVID, there was no luncheon. Bill is looking to have a buffet in the Grand Hall following the guidelines that Pulte requires currently. There will be servers that Damian will provide. There will be a shotgun start. Gift presentations and trophy presentation will be in the Grand Hall. Bill encouraged the players from previous years to sign up again to play in this year’s Tournament. He encouraged Members to get their registration form to him or to any of the Board as soon as possible. He asked that no one go through the Pro-Shop. Registration forms can be picked up at the Pro-Shop only but should not be given back to anyone at the Pro-Shop. The Golf Tournament has raised close to $50,000 to distribute to Veterans.**

**Ed DeMaio reminded the Membership that the Golf Tournament goes back to 2017. Bill Kaufmann was the President of our Club and Ed was a Member of the Board. Ed told the Membership that the Club was having difficulty raising money. Bill, John Shaffer, Mark Clayton, and Bobby Pitts put the Golf Tournament together back in 2017 and thanks to them, our Club has been able to serve hundreds of Veterans in Collier and Lee County. Over $50,000 has been given out in donations. Many donations have gone to homeless Veterans identified by the VA, Wounded Warriors of Collier County and the Hunger and Homeless Coalition. We have given donations for the Angel Tree. The Veteran’s Nursing Home has received over $6,000 from the funds raised. We have also given donations to the JRROTC from Palmetto High School of over $4,000. This included a scholarship donation of $1,000 each year to an outstanding JRROTC student.**

**Joe Tillman gave an update on the “Hunger and Homeless Coalition”, “Point in Time Count” that he, Bill Kaufmann, and Bob Wheeler attended. Joe was partnered with another gentleman and they drove around the areas of Walmart in the Naples area, the Target Stores and McDonalds. They only came across one homeless person and he was not a Veteran. Joe said that the time of day he went out, most of the homeless had already disbursed. Therefore, the homeless can be found around the Walmart and Target Stores and McDonalds. He spent time chatting with the 58-year-old gentleman who had been on the road for the last 9 years and he would only answer some of the questions given to Joe from a survey. Joe spent a half day at the Count. Bob was assigned to the main sight where he was the cook for the day and Joe was assigned to the North Naples Team. The count took place on January 29, 2021. Joe stated that later in the day, a lot of the companies will give the leftover food to the homeless instead of throwing the food away. Similarly, in the morning, coffee is often given to the homeless by McDonalds.**

**Bob Wheeler gave an update on the “Point in Time Count” also. He explained that the Count is held each year in every State in the Union sometime between January and June of each year. The purpose is to get an idea of the number of homeless people in each community. The “Point in Time Count” in Collier County encountered about 30 Veterans in homeless camps and shelters. A new regime has been set up to try to house the homeless Veterans. During 2020, 45 Veterans and their families were placed in temporary housing primarily in motels and hotels. Currently, Collier County is approaching 75 homeless Veterans. There is probably triple the number of homeless civilians. The count in Collier County is still going on and should be finalized by the end of February. Our Club donated 25 fully stocked backpacks and tents to the “Hunger and Homeless Coalition”. There are a few backpacks remaining, but Bob recently was told that a few more homeless Veterans have been identified and were given a backpack. Photos of the backpacks and the “Point in Time Count” were sent to Tad Duffy who posted them on our website. Susan Wheeler, a resident of Del Webb, donated 25 handmade masks for the backpacks and a thank you note was sent to her for her generosity.**

**Michael M. Bensing was our guest speaker. Michael is a friend of Bobby White and retired from the Army. He is a Viet Nam Veteran who served in the Army for two years and seven months. Michael was a patient at Walter Reed Hospital for approximately one year. He had sustained a serious injury to his right arm. Michael also participated in the “Point in Time Count” this year. Michael is a retired Veteran and is a Practitioner of Energy Healing Therapies, The Healing Trust, ThetaHealing, Esoteric Healing, Reiki and Seraphim Blueprint. He can be reached at** **mmbensing79@gmail.com** **or call / text 239-302-7612. Michael explained that Energy Healing Therapy is the channeling of healing energies from the Creator, or highest power, passing through the energy therapist into the client. The energy detected by the Healer helps unblock a client’s energetic levels and enables the body’s own healing capabilities to improve and deal with dis-harmony and disease. Michael explained that Spiritual Energy Healing Therapy penetrates the deepest levels of a person’s being where many illnesses have their origin, for example: stress, tension, anger, resentment, hurt, blame, shame, regret and fatigue. So, the symptoms disappear when the cause is revealed and ultimately removed. It is the power which spiritual healers seek to tap, addressing illness and injury at its source, thereby aiding recovery at all energetic levels of the patient’s being, serving mind, emotions body and soul. Michael’s objective is to offer his assistance to Veterans who would like to benefit from energy healing. Michael is also a tour guide at the Naples Car Museum. He is one of only three who is certified to give a Porsche only tour at the Museum.**

**Joe Tillman thanked, Michael Bensing, for coming to speak to the Membership.**

**Joe thanked, Mark Clayton, for volunteering to take care of the “Flag Duties” for the Del Webb Community.**

**Claudette Sang from the Oasis Travel Club and a Member of the Veteran’s Club gave the Members the information on the “Fundraiser Cruise” for 2022. Claudette has put together a seven-day Southern Caribbean Cruise with Holland America on the Nieuw Amsterdam, a four-year-old ship, and approximately 2,600 passengers, sailing on February 26, 2022 from Fort Lauderdale and returning to Fort Lauderdale on March 5, 2022. Ports of call will be Half Moon Cay, (Holland America’s private island in the Bahamas) Aruba and Curacao. Interior Stateroom start at $899 per person, Ocean-View Staterooms are $1,099, Verandah Staterooms are $1,099 per person and Suites are $1,999 per person. Taxes are additional at $140.00 per person. All prices are subject to availability. View and Verandah package includes the “Signature Beverage Package” valued at $384 per person, Free one-night specialty dining valued at $32.00 per person, 10% off all shore excursions, free and reduced fares for children, plus, apply $750 over the regular deposit and receive $125 per person onboard credit. Deposit is $350 per person. This offer expires on 2/28/2021. Claudette is hoping Holland America will extend this offer past the February 28, 2021 date. The Oasis Travel Club will donate $50 for every cabin sold to the Del Webb Veteran’s Club. There are already 8 cabins sold and she has 66 cabins remaining to be sold. The deposit is fully refundable until mid-November of this year. After that date, Holland America would give a cruise credit. Claudette will arrange for a bus or two to transport passengers from Ave Maria to the port in Fort Lauderdale. Cost to be determined. The last “Fundraiser Cruise” took place on February 29, 2020 with 120 passengers from Ave Maria. All had a great time, no complaints and all came back healthy. In addition to the $50 donation back per cabin from the Oasis Travel Club, Holland America will donate the value of a bed for every 16 cabins sold. The amount donated back to the Club in 2020 was just under $4,000. Claudette is not sure what the protocol will be with sailing next year regarding COVID, but she will obtain all information and inform the Club.**

**Joe Tillman thanked Claudette for all her work in putting the cruise together and encouraged the Members to sign up for the cruise in 2022.**

**Tracy Sunderlage gave a brief update on the VA and the change with the Community Care Program. The VA changed providers from Tri West to Optima, United Health. Optima has a new rule that if you have a contract, it is only good for 180 days. You will then have to go to your VA, PCP and request an extension and then another consultation will be arranged. Tracy also gave an update on the COVID. There are therapeutics now available to Veterans if one should contract COVID. Tracy went over the information he obtained about blood testing and deficiency especially with Vitamin D, Zinc and Vitamin C and the ability to fight the COVID virus if someone is deficient in these areas. He also learned that most people are deficient in Iodine and Selenium and the COVID could then overcome your system with these deficiencies. The VA is strongly suggesting ingesting Vitamin A, D, E, Selenium, and Iodine.**

**Joe thanked Tracy for his update.**

**Ed DeMaio asked Tracy if he had any information for obtaining the COVID vaccination. Ed feels that there are many of our Members who have not been able to get the vaccination. Tracy said the Veterans are to go to the VA Clinic to register. He found there are lines. You will be asked if you have a VA Health Card and you can only register if you have one. If you do not have a Health Card, you will be given forms to fill out. There is a priority system, and the Veteran will be placed on that priority list that he /she falls into. VA is not giving out shots to anyone under 75 currently with some exceptions. You can go on myvahealth.com to register.**

**Our next Meeting will be on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 4 PM followed by a Happy Hour that will include, wine, beer, soda, and some snacks.**

**Joe thanked all the Members for attending the Meeting and adjourned the Meeting at 10:50 AM.**