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

**November 6, 2020**

**delwebbnaplesveterans.com**

**President:**  Joseph Tillman

**Vice President:**  Ed DeMaio

**Treasurer:** Rick Bachofner

**Secretary:**  Helen Scorsone

**Advisors:** Mark Clayton Franciska Blankenfeld Joe Rivera Bill Kaufmann Barry Weaving

The Meeting was called to order by Joseph Tillman, President at 3:30 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Joe Tillman requested a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 3, 2020 Meeting. Motion made and approved.

Joe Tillman told the Members that today’s Meeting (Friday afternoon) was a trial to accommodate Members who requested a day and time change. He also explained that the Board was aware of the increase of COVID cases in the Del Webb Community and decided to go ahead with the Meeting, follow the guidelines for social distancing, wear masks but not have the Happy Hour for the safety of our Members. The decision to have the Meeting was made to give as many Members as possible the ability to cast their vote on many items especially for the Board, 2021 year.

Joe Tillman noticed that not many Members present had an Agenda. He asked that if you plan to attend the Meeting, print out the Agenda and bring it with you to the Meeting, however, he asked Helen to have a small amount available for Members who do not have the capability to print out the Agenda.

Rick Bachofner provided a current Treasurer Report. As of the end of September 2020, $18,787.60 was in the account with an available balance for general expenses of $16,572.60. Deposits made in the month of October 2020 amounted to $4,245.00: $3,900 from the Golf Tournament, Dues in the amount of $125.00, purchased shirts, $150.00, purchased flags, $20.00 and donations in Memory of Dick Manton, $50.00. $1,290.61 were the total expenses in the month of October. On October 31, 2020, the check book balance amounted to $21,741.99. $115 went to the Memorial Fund and $1,200 to the Honor Flights. Available balance for general expenses is $20,426.99.

Rick informed the Membership that the Golf Tournament took in $13,750. Included in this were two “Gold Sponsors” who donated $1,000: John Schaffer and his wife Claudette Sang and Valerie and Barry Taintor. There were three Bronze Sponsors in the amount of $500 each: Army OCS 32E1 Platoon – Corp of Engineers, (friends of Rick Bachofner that Rick served with) the First Florida Integrity Bank and Storm Smart. Storm Smart will have a free Bronze Flag in the 2021 Tournament since their donation came after all the flags were made. Included in the donations to the Tournament were approximately 20 “Hole Sponsors”. The list of names can be obtained from the Board. John and Gail Cady donated $400 for the Tournament. Because of the COVID pandemic this year and fewer participating in the Tournament, the Golf Tournament Committee did not contact all the previous sponsors but hope to contact them next year for their help. Rick recognized Ed DeMaio along with John Schaffer and his team for all they did this year with the Golf Tournament despite the pandemic.

Rick Bachofner reminded the Membership that dues are now due for 2021 in the amount of $25. If you are not able to bring Rick the dues, you can mail your payment to his home.

Joe Tillman told the Membership that the Golf Tournament is the largest money maker for our Veteran’s Club. The Tournament started back in 2017 with Mark Clayton who worked on the Tournament for 4 years. John Schaffer also worked on the Tournament. It was started when Bill Kaufmann was President of the Veteran’s Club to raise money and to date the Tournament has raised close to $40,000. It has been successful and next year we are hoping to hold the Tournament on April 10, 2021. The Committee will ask Pulte for this date.

Joe asked for the approval for the $3,000 in Walmart Gift Cards for the Veterans Affairs. Motion made and approved.

Joe asked for the approval for the $1,000 in Walmart Gift Cards for the Douglas Jacobson Nursing Home. Motion made and approved. The Gift Cards will be used by the Nursing Home to purchase goodies for the Veteran’s “Happy Hour”. Because of the COVID, the Nursing Home will not permit our Club to visit the Veterans at the Nursing Home and bring them their gift bags.

Flags will be displayed around the Del Webb Community by various members of the Club for Veteran’s Day. Paul and Ann Hashagen, Mike Maxfield, Mark Clayton, and Ed DeMaio will place the flags around the community on November 10th the day before Veteran’s Day and remove them on November 12, 2020.

Ed reminded the Membership that there will be no Veteran’s Day Celebration this year due to the COVID. Pulte is still limiting the number of people to gather in the Oasis and Grand Hall.

Ken Rice informed Ed DeMaio that an e-mail will go out to all residents in Del Webb thanking our Veterans for their service.

Ed DeMaio spoke to the Membership about the upcoming Del Webb Naples Veteran’s Club “Diaper and Baby Care Items” collection. He thanked the Membership and all residents for their generosity during the last Diaper Drive. The Club was able to provide more than 12,000 diapers and several thousand baby wipes to Immokalee moms in need. The Club learned recently that Guadalupe Center Social Services, which is located at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Immokalee, has distributed everything that was donated. We have another opportunity as a community to make a difference by providing these items to those families in need. Beginning Monday, December 7th through Saturday, December 12th, we are asking for your support in donating diapers (preferably sizes 4, 5 and 6) and related items such as baby wipes, baby power and vaseline. Ed DeMaio (5892 Constitution Street) will be collecting donations daily from 8 AM until 5 PM. He will have a collection table set-up in his driveway for the entire week. Amazon has excellent pricing for diapers. Any questions can be answered by The Club at Del Webb 239-455-2001.

Ed informed the Membership that there are two agencies asking for our help in the form of providing backpacks. The Veterans Affairs is requesting backpacks and the Wounded Warriors of Collier are requesting backpacks. Last year, in January, we supplied 25 fully stocked backpacks with items such as socks, first aid kits, towels, wash cloths, flashlights and personal items. Each backpack with tents run about $125. The Board discussed this matter and are now asking for the General Membership to approved $5,000 for the cause. Currently, we are looking to supply 25 backpacks to the Wounded Warriors of Collier County and 15 backpacks to the Veterans Affairs. Bob Wheeler said that there may be a need for tents for the Wounded Warriors of Collier County in the future. Ed asked for a motion to spend $5,000 for 40 backpacks. Motion was made and approved and the vote will take place at the December 2020 Meeting.

Joe Tillman gave the Membership a recap concerning the meeting with Dale Mullins, President of Wounded Warriors, Collier County. Joe Tillman, Bill Kaufmann, and Bob Wheeler met with Mr. Mullins to get a little more information about his organization, Wounded Warriors of Collier County. There have been some concerns that this organization is associated with the National Wounded Warriors. Dale Mullins said that there is no affiliation with the National Chapter. People had concerns about the National Chapter and the controversy from several years ago that the National Chapter was spending too much money on travel and entertainment, so Joe wanted to get definite clarification on this local Wounded Warriors Organization. During the Meeting, they spoke about the Alpha House located in Naples that came into existence last January. At present, there are four Veterans in residence. The Veterans are homeless Veterans who were taken off the streets and taken into the home to hopefully turn their lives around. The home can hold up to eight, however, the City Council of Naples has vetoed the request to house more than four Veterans. Currently the Board of the Wounded Warriors is trying to get the Council of Naples to reconsider their decision and increase the number of Veterans to at least six in the Alpha House. This is now the second set of Veterans in the House. The first set of Veterans went through the program, got jobs, and went back to their families. The Veterans can stay up to one year. After that, the Veterans are asked to leave Alpha House if they cannot help themselves in one year. The house is managed by a subcontractor, a non-profit organization. They provide counseling and do mandatory weekly drug testing. The Veterans are truly being monitored. The House is not owned by the Wounded Warriors. The House was refurbished by the Wounded Warriors (volunteers and donations) of Naples. The house is still owned by the original owner and the Wounded Warriors pay rent to this owner. The house took about six months to refurbish. The yearly operations cost for this house is about $60,000 not including food. We had talked in the past about possibly giving a donation for a month rent. The Board is still considering this. Food is donated to the house by Publix and other food stores. Once the residents have a job and can afford food, they are asked to contribute for their food and other expenses. Bob was asked to obtain more brochures on the Alpha House for the December Meeting.

Joe also told the Membership that the Wounded Warriors of Naples are not an organization like ours. They have a Board of Directors with only four members. Joe asked Dale how the donations to the organization are spent. According to Dale, 90 % of donations given will go to an event / Alpha House and 10% to administration. Joe did ask Dale if we donated to the Alpha House, we would like all monies to go to the House and no money to administrative expenses. Dale did agree if we donated to his organization, all money would go directly to the Alpha House. Dale told Joe that his organization has a Golf Tournament also and had the Tournament about three weeks ago. This is their major fund raiser. They also get a lot of donations from major corporations and they also work on grants from the government, companies, and foundations. They do have a good source of revenue coming into their organization. The Alpha House is their main activity. They are involved in the “head-count” for the tents and backpacks for homeless veterans. This is done twice a year. This is a good way to find out how many homeless Veterans are out there and to provide them with help. At this time, our Veteran’s Organization will hold off on any major donations except for the backpacks and consider a possible donation for the Alpha House in the future.

Mary Pat Kaufmann suggested that a possible way to help with the mission of the Wounded Warriors of Naples is to provide a catered turkey dinner for the residents at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. These Veterans are working hard to get their life back in order and to move from the House to their own residents. The Board agreed and will donated $100 to $150 to providing these holiday dinners for the Alpha House. We will work with Dale Mullins to coordinate the best day, etc. for delivering these dinners.

Bob Wheeler informed the Membership that due to the restrictions of Collier County with limiting only four Veterans in Alpha House, the Wounded Warriors of Collier County are looking into leasing another house to hold four additional Veterans. This house will probably be called “Bravo House”.

Ann Hashagen gave an update on the shirts. She is working with the original shirt company to correct the mistakes make on our order. The company has agreed to make good on their mistake. Once the mistakes are corrected, the Board can decide to either keep this company or order from a different company. The new tee-shirts ordered came out nice. The Club is selling the tee-shirts at cost, $10. All sizes are available.

Unfortunately, there were not a lot of volunteers for positions on the Board. We did have Bob Greiss volunteer to run for the position of First Vice President that John Cady vacated. Since there are no other volunteers, the Board will stay the same with Joe Tillman, President, Bob Greiss, First Vice President, Ed DeMaio, Second Vice President, Rich Bachofner, Treasurer and Helen Scorsone, Secretary. The above officers were unanimously approved. The Board will be looking for Members for the Advisory Board for 2021. They will be looking for six Members to help in the position of Advisors.

Bill Kaufmann will be running the Golf Tournament for 2021. Bill will be taking over for John Schaffer and Bill will be looking for volunteers to help on his committee.

Joe asked for a motion to approve $2,000 for the Angel Tree for the Veterans Affairs. Last year we donated $2,200 for this cause. Motion made and approved. Voting will take place at the December Meeting.

Rick Bachofner spoke about the budget for 2021. In 2020, $3,000 was set aside for the Veteran’s Steak Dinner, however due to COVID, the dinner was cancelled. $3,000 is budgeted for 2021. $5,500 was set aside for the Veteran’s Cup Challenge in 2020 and only $1,153 was spent. There was no luncheon following the Tournament. There was $3,000 set aside for the Veteran’s Cruise Raffle in 2020 and $1,017 was spent. There is, currently, no money allocated for 2021. $2,400 was set aside for Christmas VA Gift Cards in 2020 and $1,000 was spent. $1000 is set aside for 2021. $2,000 is budgeted for the Angel Tree in 2021. $8,000 for backpacks, bus passes, etc. is budgeted for 2021. $1,500 is budgeted for ROTC Grants in 2021 and 2 $500 ROTC Scholarships is budgeted for 2021. Total is $22,000. We will again go over the Budget at the December Meeting. Joe reminded that we only spend and donate if we have the money.

Joe would hopefully like to have the steak dinner next year in the Grand Hall. The committee is possibly looking into having a Prime Rib dinner to accommodate more guests.

The Cruise Raffle will be discussed at a later Meeting. Much will depend on the COVID situation. We did make over $3,000 from the previous raffle.

Rick Bachofner told the Members present that currently there is 113 Members of the Del Webb Veteran’s Club.

The next Meeting will be on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 10:00AM. Coffee, juice, and donuts will be served prior to the Meeting at 9:30 AM. We will vote to either keep the Meetings on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM with a 9:30 AM social or moving the Meetings to a Friday at 3:30 followed by a Happy Hours. Another possibility to consider would be to alternate the Meetings.

The Rusty Putter will extend to all Veterans a 20% discount on Veteran’s Day, November 11th. It is not just for Club Members, but for any Veteran in Del Webb.

Oil Well Brewery is offering a free draft to all Veterans on Veterans Day. You can also donate money for a Veteran to receive a second beer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.