



O.B.G. P.O.A.
The Property Owner's Association for
All Residents of the Villages of Lake-Sumter
"Neighbors United for Their Common Good"

Bulletin • March 1996

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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RECAP OF THE O.B.G. P.O.A. MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM with President Dorothy Hokr presiding.

Invocation was offered by The Reverend Doctor Steve Raulerson, pastor of the Episcopal Church on the Square, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A short business session consisted of reading the minutes of the January 16th meeting by the Secretary and the report of the Treasurer.

Bob McKee, Lady Lake Town Manager, presented detailed information relative to how the cost of building a new town hall and its infrastructure would be handled. He cited the inadequacies of the existing building and the crowded working conditions of employees.

Hugh Gibson, newly-elected commissioner, expressed his views on remodeling the present town hall.

Mayor Bill Reed related the procedures followed by the Town Commission in determining their recommendation for the Fennell site.

Questions were directed to those officials present with a view to learning the facts on which to base their vote in the Special Election scheduled for March 19th.

Residents of South Lady Lake were invited to attend this meeting as they also have an interest in the outcome of the vote to select the site of the new town hall.

P.O.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS ENDORSES THE FENNELLS PROPERTY SITE

At its February 6th meeting, the Board of Directors discussed at length the sites proposed for the new Lady Lake Town Hall.

After exploring all options, the members agreed upon endorsement of the Fennell property site as the most suitable.

It should be noted the referendum which provided for the vote of residents on the issue offered the choice of three sites for the building of a new town hall; and the ballots will be worded accordingly.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do you sometimes feel you fall back two steps for every three you take forward? Or that no one pays attention to your problems unless you raise your voice in frustration? Does it seem as if it takes an eternity to solve a problem?

It certainly is easy to become discouraged when these questions pop into your mind as you are trying to resolve conflicts or facing challenges.

A favorite saying is: "Give me patience and I want it RIGHT NOW! Patience is essential or the solutions to problems will elude us. Even when obstacles are placed in our way as we work to accomplish specific goals, we need to "hang in there!"

I faced such an obstacle recently when Bob Thurgaland called the P.O.A. a "litigious organization" and stated announcements of our meetings would not be aired on VNN.

Since VNN is owned by the developer as a private cable station, it does not fall under FCC regulations. Therefore, it can refuse to air our meeting notices; and it is not required to grant equal time for presentation of opposing views on issues.

This is their right. Perhaps we would do the same if we had a monopoly on the dissemination of information. BUT the P.O.A. will, as long as I am President, strive to give you as much information as we can gather in order to keep you informed on matters pertaining to your best interests.

The P.O.A. has been involved in only one lawsuit which was settled out of court with satisfactory resolution of the charges brought in behalf of residents affected by loss of services. All our tempts to negotiate were doomed to failure due to lack of cooperation. We were left with no choice but to file suit.

Since Webster's definition of litigious refers to lawsuits in the plural, the labeling of the P.O.A. in this manner is totally undeserved and invalid.

Patience, determination and hope will provide the impetus needed to work through road blocks placed in our way. I can be patient and determined as long as I have the hope the P.O.A. will one day be recognized and judged solely on its merits.

Dorothy Hokr
President

VNN REFUSES COVERAGE TO P.O.A.

We feel residents are entitled to know why no coverage of P.O.A. events appears on Villages News Network.

The decision to exclude us came as a surprise when we submitted an announcement of our special plans to celebrate the **20th anniversary** of our founding last November.

When it appeared in The Villages Sun but not on VNN, we checked with Bob Thurgaland and were told it was not aired because it was a closed meeting and did not involve the entire Villages.

It was a closed meeting due to the fact our anniversary coincided with our annual meeting at which we would hold an election. It still was a momentous occasion for a great many of our residents.

Lady Lake Town Manager Bob McKee had been invited to appear at our February 21st meeting to address the financial aspects of building a new town hall. Members of the Town Commission were also invited to answer any questions which might arise regarding the selection of a building site.

Since it was a subject important enough to warrant the interest of all Lady Lake residents of The Villages, we submitted a news release to VNN. Bob Thurgaland not only refused to air it but we were informed none of our meeting notices would be aired as we are a "litigious organization."

The following totally different reason was given to a reporter with an area newspaper. VNN had been ordered away from our meetings. The truth is we never objected to the coverage but to the editing of it to make us appear in an unfavorable light. Too, members were uncomfortable with being scanned on camera for fear of retaliation.

It would appear we are being ostracized for our efforts to inform residents of all views of issues as well as to protect their best interests.

RESULTS OF P.O.A. SURVEY OF RESIDENTS' INTERESTS

A report of the results of the survey of residents' interests in future programming of P.O.A. meetings will appear in the March bulletin.

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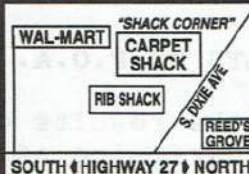
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KUDOS TO VOLUNTEERS NO. 2

For five years, **DOROTHY HOERST** has been the person to call if you need units of blood through the P.O.A. Blood Bank Program established in 1979 with the Leesburg Blood Bank to provide units to residents and employees free of charge.

She also provides information to potential donors who are interested in giving the "Gift of Life" for fellow residents.

Her interest in the need for blood donations extends to volunteering at Civitan blood drives in Bellview.

She is involved in the Early Intervention Program of the Sunrise ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens of Lake County) which is devoted to children to the age of three.

To raise funds for their building program, she organized the first annual bowling tournament at Fiesta Bowl last year and the second one is scheduled for April 13th.

As a Kiwanian, she is active in the BUG (Bring Up Grades) program for two schools - - Rimes and Fruitland Park.

For more information on any of her interests, she can be reached at 753-9021.

INVINCIBLE ROOFING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20TH MEETING

Representatives of Invincible Roofing will make their annual appearance at the P.O.A.'s March meeting to present information regarding their roofing and security system services.

They will award two door prizes and provide special refreshments for the occasion.

CORRECTION OF FEBRUARY SAFETY TIPS ITEM

Our hand has been called and we shamefacedly admit and apologize for our error in stating pedestrians have the right-of-way when we should have stated they have the right-of-way at crosswalks.

Thank you for calling this oversight to our attention.

DIGEST OF V.C.C.D.D. FEBRUARY 5th MEETING

Randall Thornton, V.C.C.D.D. attorney, advised that Bond Underwriters have questioned lawsuits filed against Florida development districts' issuance of bonds. The result is denial or a hold up of bond insurance and interest rates on bonds could be increased.

He asked the Supervisors to approve appointment of a committee composed of Thornton and Pete Wahl to consult with the developer's attorney, Dewey Burnsed, regarding what should be done to get the bond issue off dead center. Wahl recommended Gary Moyer also be a member of the committee.

Thornton raised the possibility of legal action by the developer and/or V.C.C.D.D. to recover legal and general losses of revenue if the Village Action Committee files suit to stop overcharge of amenities fees. Attorney Steve Roy asked what such losses could amount to, and Thornton estimated between \$2.5 to \$3,000,000.

Appointment of the committee was approved to investigate legal action against the VAC and to report results on February 16th.

DIGEST OF V.C.C.D.D. FEBRUARY 16th MEETING

Chairman Stewart asked Pete Wahl to report the results of discussions with Thornton regarding possible legal action against the Villages Action Committee.

Wahl stated they had concurred the V.C.C.D.D. should retain the services of Macfarlane, Ausley et al, a Tallahassee law firm used by the developer, should the V.A.C. take legal action.

It appears the threat of legal action by the V.A.C. has caused the bond insurance people to back away, and a higher interest would have to be paid without bond insurance.

With Thornton out of town, Chairman Stewart was authorized to sign an agreement with Macfarlane, Ausley, et al, following approval by Thornton and based on the estimate of losses of between 2.5 and three million dollars.

Submitted by Robert Conner who represents the P.O.A.
Board of Directors at V.C.C.D.D. and C.D.D.#1 meetings.

PLEASE MARK THE FOLLOWING DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH:

March 20 - 7:30 p.m. - P.O.A. (open meeting)
(3rd Wednesday) Paradise Recreation Center

APRIL:

April 2 - 7:00 p.m. - P.O.A. Board of Directors
(1st Tuesday) Charlie Chaplin Room

April 4 - 9:00 a.m. - P.O.A. Liaison Committee
(1st Thursday) Lucille Ball Room

These meetings are open to all residents of The Villages.

Meetings of the V.C.C.D.D. and V.C.D.D.#1 are, by law, open to the public. A schedule of their meetings is available by calling **753-4508**.

TWO IMPORTANT ELECTIONS IN MARCH

We are scheduled to vote in the Presidential Primary on **March 12th**.

Residents of the Town of Lady Lake are scheduled to vote in a Special Election on **March 19th**. **The results of this election will determine the site for a new Town Hall.**

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 2ND

The P.O.A. Board of Directors invites all volunteers to attend a special gathering for an appreciation day which will be held from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 NOON in the Henry Fonda Room in the Paradise Recreation Center.

We hope you will plan to join us on this special occasion to accept our thanks for the efforts you make in our behalf.



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Profile of P.O.A. Members

A Continuing Series

We are featuring Frank Swenton this month as the third of the three newly- elected members of our Board of Directors.

Frank and Marilyn moved to their retirement home in Sumter County from Hughes town, Pennsylvania in 1993. They reside at 527 Alameda in the Rio Grande Courtyard Villas.

Frank was a native of Pennsylvania while Marilyn was from Long Island where they lived during their employment years.

Marilyn worked for Grumman Aerospace and other electronic companies. Frank is retired from Grumman where he was involved in the development of sheet metal prototypes for aircraft

companies and the space program. The prototype charts he invented remain in use today.

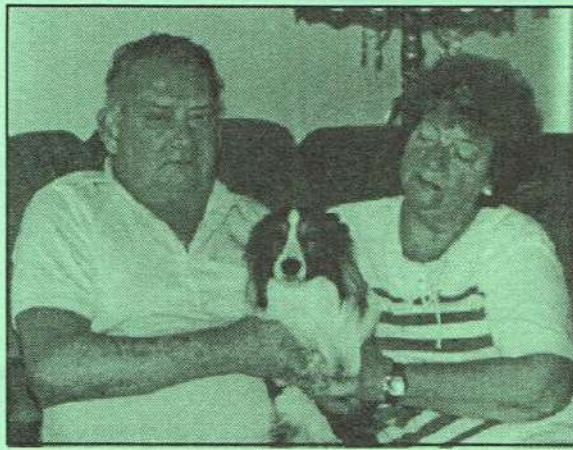
They have five children and are expecting their eleventh grandchild in April. Their son, Christopher, is a water purifier specialist with the Marines in South Carolina. He spends as much time as possible in The Villages with his parents.

Frank enjoys country music and, in earlier years, was an artist. Marilyn's hobbies are crocheting and ceramics. They both enjoy their nine-month old Sheltie, Buttons.

They became P.O.A. members because they wanted to be involved in the organization which they believe is the most interested in what benefits the residents of The Villages.

TO JOIN POA: You may join at our meetings or simply fill out the membership form below, pay dues of \$6.00 per household, and place in the **OBG/POA** Drop Box in the Recreation Hall or mail form and check for dues to: **P.O. Box 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158-1657**

Photo by Jane Mills



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