

**Property Owners Association of The Villages  
General Membership Meeting  
February 25, 2020**

**Called to order:** by Cliff Wiener, President at 7:00 pm.

- All Board members present; except Bill Schikora and Peg Tackett, excused.
- Organizations present: Seniors vs. Crime, Foxfire Realty, Shine and District Gov.
- January Membership meeting minutes read and approved unanimously by members present.
- Treasurer Report (Donna Kempa): Stated January income: \$41,587; expenses: \$16,198; net gain: \$25,388; operating funds: \$175,665. Bulk of income from ad renewals (25% have renewed to date). About \$192,000 of the \$238,105 CY2020 budget is for bulletin expense with the rest covering other POA items. Regarding a question on if a profit was generated in 2019, Ans: No.
- Membership Report (Cliff): Covering for Bill, Cliff stated a 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal notice was just mailed out to about 2,200 folks and mentioned the POA has been around since November 1975, the longest running volunteer organization in the Villages.
- Raffle: 3 winners of \$30 cash each.

**Announcements:**

- Cliff asked folks to contact himself or Sal Torname if their neighborhood or group would like an AED program presentation; and, to also contact him if interested in being a Board member.
- Cliff mentioned the Vials for Life Program, hoping all will participate; and that the printer raised their price \$3,000 per month so the POA is going with a new printer for the March bulletin.
- Reed Panos discussed the Political Action Committee (PAC) and it's three candidates running against the three incumbent Sumter County Commissioners up for election. He requested volunteers and financial support and mentioned the website, FG4S.org, for more information. He stated the plan is to repeal the 25% tax increase and don't forget the August 18<sup>th</sup> primary. Vote for these republican candidates, not the incumbents. There was a question on if you had to be a registered Republican to vote for these folks in the August primary, Ans: Yes.
- Cliff stated checks to the PAC cannot be written to the POA. The PAC is not part of the POA.
- Cliff mentioned if folks in the Villages of Pine Hills and Pine Ridge have a leaking roof underlay, the March bulletin will provide information on how to seek resolution to this situation.
- Cliff announced speakers for upcoming meetings: Mr. Don Henderson, CEO of UF/Villages Health, on March 17<sup>th</sup>; Reed Panos, PAC, and Sumter County Commissioner candidates in May; Len Hathaway on lightening in June; Bradley Arnold, Sumter County Administrator, in July; and, Candy Dennis, Community District Standards, in August.
- Cliff announced at the end of the meeting the eight winners of a Foxfire Realty gift item.

**Member Questions:**

- Resident had an issue that was not Villages related; was referred to Sumter County administration.
- Resident mentioned SECO notice of rate increase to cover substation construction in newer Villages areas should be looked into as to why developer is not paying for necessary utility installation.
- Resident asked who to address \$44/month cost for exercise rooms at Recreation Centers? Ans: Call District offices - this is a contractual related item so don't expect they can help.
- Resident stated they are starting a petition "Operation Victims of Trust" and looking for residents south of SR44 to sign up. This is in reference to shopping center and bridges promised in 2019 and still not complete, with no feedback on when they will be done. It was stated that the developer doesn't usually let District management know what they are doing in their controlled areas.

**Speaker:** Dale Grafton, Assistant Warden at Coleman Prison.

- Started by apologizing for not making February 2019 Finney Town Hall Meeting – ongoing federal budget issues; and, for having to tell folks their Community Relations Board meetings are not for residents - contrary to a Sumter County Commissioner telling folks to attend.

- Coleman Federal Corrections Institute is the largest complex in the country.
- Complex includes these facilities: female work program, low-security male, medium-security male, and two United States Penitentiaries (high-security); with 6,800 inmates and a staff of 1,410.
- Total budget: \$175,000,000 with \$32,000,000 for operations; plus, inmate generated Trust Fund.
- Many volunteer programs...about 9, with most helping at reducing sentence time.
  - Challenge (coping skills); Focused Re-entry to Exemplify Excellence; Drug Abuse; Reintegration Housing Unit; Resolve (female); Threshold (faith-based); Skills (academic); Veterans (honorable discharge inmates); and, Inmate Financial Responsibility.
- Several departments...about 20, with Correctional Services being the largest and it's 24/7/365.
  - Business Office; Case Management; Unit Management; Computer Services; Correctional Services; Emergency Preparedness; Education; Facilities; Food Services; Health Services; Human Resources; Inmate Systems; Legal; Psychology Services; Recreation; Reentry; Religious Services; Safety; Trust Fund; and, Recycling.
- Inmates must get GED if they don't have one; lose 12 days/year of good credit if they don't get one.
- Prison receives \$2.35/day/inmate to feed them three meals a day.
- Must be under 37 years of age for federal prison hiring, due to age 57 mandatory retirement.
- Questions; there were many asked, some of the key ones were:
  - Why no free-weights for recreation? Ans: Restrictions on upper body strength.
  - Have there been any security lapses? Ans: No escapes in the 25-year history of the prison.
  - Do we get a warning if there was an escape? Ans: Yes, contingency plan to ensure all informed.
  - Where do inmates come from? Ans: about 50% Florida; most others from gang-related areas.
  - Do you work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)? Ans: Yes.
  - Are there education programs for men and women? Ans: Yes.
  - Just let them leave the gate when done? Ans: No, put them on bus in Ocala and they must report to halfway house and/or probation officer within 72 hours.
  - Ever say no to release if making threats? Ans: No, don't have authority; pass any concerns to probation officer and/or law enforcement.
  - Looks like cost of about \$26,000/inmate/year; how does this compare across the country and how many inmates end up back in prison? Ans: Hard to address either one; too many variables.
  - Do inmates collect social security? Ans: No, only exception is that some veterans get a little bit.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.

Submitted by: Reb Benson