

**Property Owners Association of The Villages  
General Membership Meeting  
June 15, 2021**

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

- Board members present: All; except Karen Lambert and Dan Warren, excused.
- Members present: Approximately 30.
- Organizations present: Seniors vs Crime, Villages Shrine Club, UF Health Auxiliary Foundation, SECO and A-1 Lightning (Danny Mack).
- May membership meeting minutes read and approved unanimously by members present.
- Treasurer Report (Donna Kempa): May income: \$9,250; expenses: \$15,128; net loss: \$5,878; year-to-date net gain: \$11,278 with operating funds: \$142,406; and, total funds: \$403,218.
- Raffle: Three winners of \$30 each (with one donating their winnings back to the POA); then one winner at the end of the evening of a lightening arrestor system from A-1 Lightening.

**Announcements:**

- Cliff mentioned the Vials for Life Program, hoping all will participate. Also mentioned that the Sumter County Sheriffs got a three-year grant for a Dream Program supporting caregivers of folks with Alzheimer's/dementia. He stated that about 10% of Villagers have Alzheimer's/dementia.
- Cliff mentioned if anyone would like a POA presentation to let him know, he has a couple lined up. Cliff added if anyone wanted an AED presentation to let him or Sal Torname know.
- Cliff mentioned the success of the shredding event on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Wildwood Community Center and we will be running this again for members only on April 9, 2022 at the same location.
- Cliff mentioned we are now publishing 60,000 POA Bulletins (plus another 4,500 that receive it electronically) to keep all residents informed, to include all the new residents in the southern portion of The Villages. Also stated the POA is always looking for volunteers to help.
- Cliff stated all General meetings are being recorded with the video on the POA website within a few days and hope to be able to setup live-streaming of the meetings by this fall.
- Cliff mentioned the Sumter County Commissioners Emergency (ambulance) Services Commission on improving services and response times and highly encouraged folks to attend their meetings.
- Cliff introduced Commissioners Gary Search, Craig Estep and Oren Miller stating they are doing an excellent job and we need to give them time to make the right changes for Sumter County.
- Cliff mentioned Bradley Arnold (Administrator) and Craig Estep (Commissioner) to discuss Sumter County issues in July, and Ed Cain (Fire Chief) and Richard Baier (District Manager) to address emergency services in August.

**Questions:**

- A resident asked about live-streaming Sumter County Commissioner meetings. **Ans:** Gary Search (after the other two Commissioners stepped out) said they will not be able to start adequate live-streaming until the new building is finished that has this capability built into it.
- Where are the Emergency Service Commission meetings being held? **Ans:** At the Wildwood Community Center at 7pm on scheduled dates.

**Speaker:** Len Hathaway discussed tips on lightning protection (based on authoritative books on the subject)...to inform, combat myths and detail experiences.

- Florida has 110 days of lightning strikes each year. Now #2 lightning capital of the United States, Oklahoma beat out Florida by 6/10<sup>th</sup> of a point last year. Indonesia and Africa have the highest days per year of lightning strikes in the world
- More men than women have been struck by lightning with leisure activity (water related) the main environment. 12-year-old was struck at the Polo Fields in September 2017 during no rain and known lightning 2 miles north...proves its randomness.
- Golf fatalities from lightning strikes: 11 since 2016.

- When thunder roars go indoors! Stay away from windows and running water, current can carry thru plumbing, electrical lines and corded phones.
- Indirect Strikes: Flag pole, tree, etc. More frequent but less severe affects. Need primary surge protection (such as SECO unit) to protect what you don't plug in and secondary (surge protection cords and plugs) to protect the rest of your electronics you do plug in.
- Direct Strikes: House, etc. Less frequent but more severe affects. A Lightning Protection System (LPS) provides a path of least resistance, hence minimizes the damage potential.
- LPS: Highly effective, but buyer beware since no installer certification required. Uses lightning rods, cable (copper or aluminum) and ground rods.
  - Use only a qualified installer that complies with the National Electrical Code.
  - If high tolerance for risk...do nothing; if low tolerance...then get an LPS for peace of mind.
  - Units cost \$1,300 to \$3,500 installed depending on size of the home.
- Lightning strikes on homes in The Villages (since 2004): 20 (15 stucco, 5 vinyl) without LPS and all had damage; 15 with LPS and none had damage.
- Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST), mainly north of CR-466. Recommend installing an LPS or change to steel piping. Seven homes have had fires with CSST leaks from lightning strikes.
- Some myths:
  - Rubber shoes or rubber tires on a car will protect you.
  - Lightning never strikes the same place twice.
  - Sandy soil or a tower or a tree will provide protection.
  - LPS attracts lightening; If LPS on home next door my home won't get hit; LPS doesn't work.
- Questions, some pertinent ones:
  - Need to have an installed LPS check? **Ans:** Yes, have it checked every 3 to 5 years and after a roof shingle installation.
  - Need to have a SECO surge protection unit checked? **Ans:** No, just ensure two red lights are on.
  - Can an aluminum flag pole be struck? **Ans:** Yes.
  - Have a concrete floor with rebar is that enough protection? **Ans:** No, that won't ensure no lightning impacts.
  - If house struck by lightning and you have a sulphur smell does that mean super heating of the sheetrock in the house? **Ans:** Have not heard that, please discuss further after the meeting.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.

Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary