

**Property Owners Association of The Villages  
General Membership Meeting  
September 29, 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 35.
- Organizations present: Seniors vs Crime, Shrine Club, Shine and Realty Executives.
- August membership meeting minutes read and approved unanimously by members present.
- Treasurer Report (Donna Kempa): August income: \$5,240; expenses: \$14,525; net loss: \$9,285; and, operating funds: \$127,115. She stated it's not unusual for revenue to be down in August.
- Raffle: Three winners of \$30 each, with one winner donating their \$30 back to the POA.

**Announcements:**

- Cliff introduced the Sumter County Commissioner in attendance (Oren Miller), plus the District Supervisors in attendance (Sal Torname, Jerry Ferlisi, Andrew Curtis, Mark Hayes and himself).
- Cliff mentioned the Vials for Life Program, stating its importance and that he will continue advertising it until hopefully all Village residents are participating in the program.
- Cliff mentioned the success of the shredding event in April at the Wildwood Community Center and that we will run it again on April 9, 2022 at the same location. He stated Sal Torname is our point of contact and that folks will need a ticket; it is for members only with more information available in the November POA Bulletin.
- Cliff stated we are now live-streaming all General membership meetings with a video version available to view at the POA website within two days of the meeting. He also stated we would be doing something else new very soon, with more to follow.
- Cliff mentioned the Sumter County Commissioners voted to keep the Villages and Sumter County Fire Departments separate and that each will incorporate an ambulance service also. This was the option the POA (in conjunction with the VHA) supported. Cliff stated for The Villages the best way to make this happen is a Fire District and if this happens, which will require state legislation, it will be controlled by five residents – not the VCCDD or developer.
- Cliff mentioned looking into The Villages Regional Hospital unloading issues; that American Medical Response (AMR), contracted ambulance service for Sumter County, pointed out as an issue.
- Cliff highlighted the fact there were 4 or 5 incorrect statements by the reporter on their article in the September 26<sup>th</sup> Daily Sun and how Daily Sun reporters are continuing their relentless attacks against the three new Sumter County Commissioners. Cliff stated the reporters need to present information accurately versus the bias opinion and true lack of accountability we have seen lately.
- Cliff mentioned next month's meeting will be at the Everglades Recreation Center.
- Tita Dumagsa discussed the need for volunteers. That the POA really needs website expertise/help and someone to help with membership questions at general membership meetings. Tita stated some areas of help do not need experience or specific expertise.

**Questions:**

- Does the Daily Sun publish letters to the Editor? **Ans:** Yes, but best way is to keep publishing POA monthly bulletins that state the facts and bring to light inaccurate statements on issues of interest to Village residents. POA bulletin is received at over 65,000 homes, way more than the Daily Sun.
- Is it true the Sumter County budget went up 30% for 2021-2022? **Ans:** Yes, but some of the increase is due to items the previous Commissioners approved. Oren Miller stated they will spend the COVID-19 funds received on water and sewer items (as required) and then spend the money in the budget earmarked water and sewer on other county requirements.
- Will the POA Bulletin have the corrections to what was posted by the Daily Sun? **Ans:** Not in the October issue since it has already gone to press, but will have an article on Daily Sun inaccuracies in the November bulletin.

- A member thanked the new Sumter County Commissioners for their dedication and another stated that folks can write the Orlando Sentinel, they publish items on The Villages.
- A member stated a discount partner (Kiley & Sons Plumbing) didn't honor the POA discount and saw they are still listed as a discount partner, why? **Ans:** Sometimes management changes, etc. result in a business no longer accepting the discount or they reinstate it after we (the POA) find out about the issue and talk to them; which could be the case in this instance, we will confirm.

**Speaker:** Ann Bosler talked about the Caring Neighbors program.

- Ms. Bosler said she and her husband started the program in The Village of Hadley a few years ago. After being involved with a corresponding program in their church, they saw where this program would be helpful to all in The Villages, not just church families. This is a great place to live but things can change quickly - such as diagnosed with cancer or Parkinson's, loss of a spouse, etc. - where a person could use some help.
- The program has grown to where the Village of Hadley has 30 volunteers now and five more Villages have started this program. Goal is for every Village in The Villages to have a program.
- The program operates (and receives funding) under the United Way of Lake & Sumter County and all volunteers are background checked.
- The program is designed to provide non-medical services that do not require long-term continuous support. Some of the support areas include: Transportation; Respite care (give a caregiver a break); Meals; Dog walking; and, running errands (get food, mail or prescriptions).
- The program fills about 95% of the requests received. The assigning process includes:
  - Neighbor has a need.
  - Assessment scheduled.
  - Service request emailed to all volunteers in that Village.
  - Volunteer replies to all stating they can fill the request and calls the neighbor.
  - Service provided.
- Ms. Bosler ended by encouraging all to form a group in their Village...only six volunteers needed to start the Caring Neighbors program. You will receive a "get started" package and a current volunteer will be assigned to help your group until it is self-sufficient.
- Question, pertinent ones:
  - Is there a program in Marion County? **Ans:** Must go thru the Marion County United Way which operates a little different than the Lake-Sumter County United Way.
  - Do I have to be a Lake or Sumter County resident to volunteer? **Ans:** Will have to look into that, each group only serves residents of their Village.
  - Is the person who does an assessment a professional? **Ans:** No, but we ask for assessors with some medical background if possible.
  - Will information on this program be made available? **Ans:** Since each Village sets up their own program and level of support, there is no general brochure available; Cliff mentioned there will be an article on the program in the November POA bulletin.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.

Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary