

**Property Owners Association of The Villages  
General Membership Meeting  
April 19, 2022**

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

- Board members present: All.
- Members present: Approximately 25, with about 160 watching via live-streaming.
- Organizations present: Hospital Auxiliary, Seniors vs. Crime and Realty Executives.
- March membership meeting minutes read by Reb Benson and unanimously approved.
- Treasurer Report by Donna Kempa: March income: \$11,303; expenses: \$13,601; net loss: \$2,298; and, operating funds: \$174,756. Donna mentioned advertising revenue slows up at this time of the year so it's important to pay membership dues when a renewal notice is received. Expenses are mainly related to bulletin publishing and distribution and that we still have a surplus for the year.
- Raffle: Not accomplished due to low attendance.

**Announcements:**

- Cliff introduced the Sumter County Commissioner (Gary Search); District Supervisors (Sal Torname, Andrew Curtis (running for Delegate), Jerry Ferlisi, Andrew Bilardello (running for Commissioner), Reed Panos (running for Commissioner), and himself); and, Amenity Authority Committee member (Donna Kempa); plus, Ash Marwah (running for Delegate), Sharyl Anderson and Jeff Bogue (running for Commissioner), Gerald Loom (running for Sumter School Board) and Dan Warren (running for NSCUDD) that were in attendance.
- Cliff talked about the Vials for Life Program, going over the process and stating its importance.
- Cliff mentioned the member only shredding event on April 9<sup>th</sup> had over 600 members drop off items to shred and folks donated almost \$1,800 to the Save Our Soldiers (SOS) Program. He stated thanks to all that helped and donated.
- Cliff mentioned briefing the topic of live-streaming meetings to PWAC and AAC and District Management, using POA data from the last several months. Will now see if this gets included in Community District budgets being developed.
- Cliff mentioned that he received about 150 emails (in response to the bulletin request for feedback from residents on roofing related issues) with about 148 of those being negative comments. He said be careful using a roofer, many are reputable but just as many are not...do your homework.
- Cliff mentioned signing up for District e-notification, especially with hurricane season approaching.
- Cliff mentioned Len Hathaway on lightning in May (at Laurel Manor), Candidate Night in June (at Everglades), Mr. Estep/Mr. Arnold, Sumter County Commissioner and Administrator, in July (at Laurel Manor), Dr Anderson, RBOI, in September and Patrick Walsh, Covanta, in October.

**Questions:**

- A resident stated that Governor DeSantis has announced plans to hold another special session of the Florida Legislation to address roofing costs.
- A resident mentioned the new traffic light at US-301 and Marsh Bend Dr is annoying, had to wait thru three signal changes recently. **Ans:** Another resident mentioned bringing this issue up with Bradley Arnold and that he has let FDOT know about the timing issue. It is up to State engineers to evaluate and make changes.

**Speaker:** Vicki McMillan and Marilyn Gagen from Honor Flight discussed the program.

- Vicki, who has been with the program 6 years, stated:
  - The non-profit program started in 2004 when a doctor wanted to help a veteran who had never seen the war-related memorials in Washington, DC.
  - There are over 140 Hubs nationwide now with The Villages Hub starting missions in 2012.
  - Started with WWII Vets and now mainly Berlin Crisis, Korean, Vietnam and Iraqi Vets; but any veteran can sign up to go.
  - Veterans pay nothing...but it takes a village our size to run the local Hub.

- Currently about 600 are on the waiting list. Wait time depends on when served. WWII Vets go to the top of the list (since over 2,000 of them are passing away each year).
- Vicki talked about the mission process:
  - There are four airplane flights per year and two flightless events per year (same program but at Eisenhower Recreation Center from 10am-4pm).
  - Pre-training with Guardians (folks that escort each Vet) about 2 months out from the mission.
  - Have a Squad (about 10 Guardians) social for Guardians to meet their Vets.
  - Meet at 1am at American Legion Post 347 on the day of the flight. Proceed to Sanford Airport then Washington, DC. After events, back to Sanford Airport and the American Legion Post. About 22 to 26 hours total time and 15 to 20 miles walking (wheel chairs for vets).
  - Activities in Washington, DC include:
    - Tomb of Unknown Soldier
    - Iwo Jima Memorial
    - Air Force Memorial (and lunch)
    - WWII Memorial
    - Individual or Squad Events (Korean, Vietnam & Lincoln Memorials, Nurses Museum, etc.)
    - Dinner at the airport or on the plane (if chartered) on the way home.
- Vicki mentioned the need for new guardians and volunteers...200 are working behind the scenes. Honor Flight meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:30pm at Eisenhower Recreation Center.
- Marilyn, who has been on seven flights, stated:
  - The Hub started, a few years back, having monthly follow-up luncheons at the Moose Lodge between Guardians and the Veterans they took to Washington, DC.
  - There are 7 or 8 Hubs in Florida, with The Villages (covering 5 counties) being the largest.
  - Don't need just Guardians, need many other volunteers...especially on flight day (drivers, wheel chair coordination, coffee & donuts, etc.).
  - The Guardian's fee was \$500/flight, but that has gone down. The cost Honor Flight pays for each Vet has gone up to \$600/flight. 90% of donated funds go directly to veteran functions.
  - Fund raising events:
    - Purchase at smile.amazon.com...1/2 of 1% as donation you can designate to Honor Flight.
    - Honor Flight Florida license plate...go to VillagesHonorFlight.org to get info.
    - Annual golf outing...May 6<sup>th</sup> at Del Webb this year (already sold out).
    - Kings Gallery in Spanish Springs art auction...thru April.
    - Nancy Lopez restaurant bill % to Honor Flight...May 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - Fashion show...funds raised from Vets modeling clothes (each fall).
    - Veterans weekend at Brownwood (for Honor Flight vets and all vets)...run a 50-50 raffle.
    - Can speak to a group...and "pass the hat", if desired, to raise funds.
    - City Fire has sponsored a free lunch for Honor Flight volunteers in the past.
- Marilyn said please volunteer, donate and/or do fund raising for Honor Flight.
- Pertinent questions:
  - Do Guardians need to be vaccinated? **Ans:** Yes.
  - What are the qualifications to be a Guardian? **Ans:** Be enthusiastic and under 75 years old (cannot fly after turning 75). Cost is \$250 for first flight and \$200 for each flight after that. Must have done two flights before becoming a Squad leader.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.  
Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary