

**Property Owners Association of The Villages
General Membership Meeting
October 17, 2023**

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

- Board members present: All, except: Jerry Ferlisi and Steve Lapp, excused. Deb Butterfield, POA Bulletin Editor, also present.
- Residents present: Approximately 85.
- Organizations present: Realty Executives, Sun Kool, and, Seniors vs. Crime.
- September membership meeting minutes read by Reb Benson and unanimously approved.
- Treasurer Report: Ash Marwah provided the September report, Revenue: \$8,901; Expenses: \$15,630; Net Loss: \$6,729; and, Operating Income: \$93,466.
- Membership Report: Ken Knodel mentioned membership drives the ability to provide the POA Bulletin to every resident, especially the new folks down south, where there are issues that need addressing. He stated thanks to all members, especially those that joined or renewed their membership so far this year.
- Raffle: Three winners of \$30 each announced.

Announcements:

- Cliff mentioned folks should get with Seniors vs Crime before having work accomplished on your home...especially if installing a pool, since there have been issues with some companies lately.
- Cliff introduced the various representatives in the room: Mark Hayes and himself as District Supervisors, Dan Warren on the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) Board and Jim Vacarro and Reb on the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC).
- Cliff went over what CHIRP by Community Watch is about; adding the POA have the whistles available for folks to take home.
- Cliff mentioned there will be a POA Board recruitment meeting on October 24th, 9am, at Laurel Manor for those interested in being a Board member or helping the POA.
- Deb talked about the POA Facebook page as an important communications tool and requested folks to please “like and “follow” the page. She added we are close to making a decision on improving the website and upgrading the online database.
- Member Meetings at Laurel Manor. Cliff mentioned Solar Energy in November; and, Cut the Cord in December.
- Member Meetings at Everglades. Cliff mentioned meetings are the first Thursday of January, April, July and October; with more to follow on speakers for each meeting.

Candidate Introductions

- Cliff provided both members running in November for Lady Lake Town Commissioner Ward 5 (historic district of The Villages) five-minutes each to discuss their background.
 - Mike Sage talked about his government background, working for AT&T and 35 years as part of the historic district. He will pursue no tax increase, a strong police and road management.
 - Jim Reitz, incumbent and current Lady Lake Mayor, discussed his background to include time in the Air Force, township deputy accessor and Lady Lake Commissioner. He addressed the many accomplishments under his watch to include the first-ever 4th of July town event – a huge success, opening of Snooky Park and trail and several other events/activities.

Questions:

- A resident asked about fixing standing water in their yard and being told the neighbors irrigation is causing the problem. **Ans:** Cliff asked them to get with him after the meeting for more details.
- Is it true the AAC was asked to pay for refurbishment of the golf cart bridge on Hwy 441? **Ans:** Cliff said we are looking into this and will put the answer in the POA Bulletin.

Speakers: Under Sheriff Pat Breeden and Captain Bob Siemer, Sumter County Sheriff's Office (SCSO).

- Sheriff Breeden mentioned: 409 SCSO employees; cover 530 square miles; and, have grown from 30,000 residents when he started 30 years ago to 130,000 in 2022 and now approaching 160,000.
- Capt Siemer, Villages District Supervisor, discussed the SCSO Safe Program on free non-traditional services for residents of Sumter County:
 - Safe Program Registration...lets deputies know about those with special/unique needs.
 - Safe Card ID...provide ability to communicate your disability to law enforcement in a safe and effective way.
 - Vial for Life...provide needed information to emergency personnel in situations you are unable to do so (medical history, medications, etc.). Don't forget to provide pet information.
 - Human Scent Preservation Kit...provides ability to store a person's scent for up to 7 years for the bloodhound to focus on while looking for the missing person.
 - Peace of Mind...those enrolled will call the Sheriff's Office each weekday and speak to a volunteer. If they do not hear from you by noontime, they will call; if no answer, they will have your designated contact person check on you; if still no answer, they will dispatch a deputy.
 - Dream Program...provide GPS aided devices for recovery of people with Alzheimer's.
 - Deaf/Hard of Hearing...provide a placard and sticker to be displayed on back windshield to alert a deputy and communicate safely during a traffic stop.
 - Home Safety Programs...provide free home inspection on crime prevention tips.
- Capt Siemer went over their mobile app and its features; such as scam, crime and sex offender location buttons. He mentioned being alert to crimes of opportunity (don't leave your car unlocked or cellphone in golf cart) and scams (don't give out numbers over the phone or use a phone number in an email).
- Sheriff Breeden mentioned all should sign up for AlertSumter to get notices on severe weather, fires, floods and other emergencies.
- Questions, some pertinent ones:
 - Who do you call for an emergency? **Ans:** Call 911, the call will be routed to the appropriate location (such as Villages Public Safety Department, Sumter County Sheriff, Wildwood Police, etc.). If non-emergency, call 352.793.2621.
 - Have seen Border Patrol cars on I-75, do you know why? **Ans:** Probably for human trafficking and illegal alien surveillance; SCSO has done several operations with Border Patrol and Florida Highway Patrol on these issues.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.
Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary