

**Property Owners Association of The Villages
General Membership Meeting
February 18, 2025**

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

- Board members present: Jerry Ferlisi, Ken Knodel, Tita Dumagsa and Dan Warren; excused: Reb Benson and Gary Search.
- Members present: Approximately 75.
- Organizations present: Sun Kool and Seniors vs Crime.
- Membership meeting minutes plus Treasurer and Membership Reports: Deferred.
- Raffle: Deferred.

Announcements:

- Cliff mentioned the annual Shredding Event will be on March 29, 2025 from 9am-12pm at the New Covenant United Methodist Church. Must be a POA member, with dues current at the end of March, and have a ticket to participate. He added there are about 135 of the roughly 1,100 tickets left and that folks should send an email and a ticket will be sent out.
- Cliff mentioned the meetings are live streamed – have been for a while – averaging about 400 to 500 views per month and as high as 6,500 on the Candidate Nights meeting. It has resulted in less physical attendance at membership meetings but more overall viewing, which is a good thing. He added he has tried for 4 years to get the county to video district/etc. meetings and recently ran successful tests at District 4 and Amenity Authority Committee meetings that hopefully will result in this capability in place by the start of the next fiscal year (October 2025).
- Cliff mentioned there will be a volunteer meeting on February 20th from 9:00-11:00 at Laurel Manor for anyone interested in helping, such as the POA shredding event, or interested in being a POA Board Member – adding folks are needed as board members.
- Member Meetings at Laurel Manor. Cliff mentioned The Villages Hospital in March; Lisa Honka on Your Key to Senior Living in April; Dr. Curtis on new things with Alzheimer's research in May (adding the importance of topic with many Villagers' developing Alzheimer's – like his mother); and, Bradley Arnold on the Sumter County Budget in July.
- Member Meetings at Everglades. Cliff mentioned Lisa Honka on Your Key to Senior Living in April (adding it will be two different topics than the two at Laurel Manor in April).

Questions:

- Street lights in the evening are yellow now versus white, what can be done? **Ans:** Cliff said all districts are in negotiations with SECO on a way forward as they change out light poles with LED light; including a large increase in lamppost rental costs. District 7 has submitted a request for proposal regarding going to solar light poles with results expected in April.
- Patsy Osborn thanked the POA for putting the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) governing documents on the POA website so all can see that the Interlocal Agreement reflects the decision-making authority of the AAC. **Ans:** Cliff said the POA is about informing Village residents on important issues affecting them.

Speakers: Debbie Selsavage, Coping with Dementia, LLC, on a Positive Approach to Care.

- Debbie said her company is focused on education and training of compassionate care for people with Alzheimer's and dementia; support services for care-givers; and, educating businesses and staff to become more dementia friendly.

- Started because of dealing with her husband who passed away in 2010 from dementia.
- Has a mission to provide best quality of life for dementia patients and caregivers versus research, which is what folks like Dr. Curtis and Charter Research are doing.
- Done via speaking engagements, workshops, conferences, support groups, etc.
- About 10% of the population has some form of dementia with the total number of dementia cases increasing over the next 20 years – because the largest population (baby boomers) are in their 70s.
 - Dementia is an umbrella term of systems...memory loss, loss of rationale thinking, loss of direction, etc...Alzheimer's one of the forms that researchers are looking for a cure.
 - There were 60 to 70 forms of dementia in 2014 and over 125 now. We have a risk gene for dementia (such as Alzheimer's) but not the genetics. Memory tests, like what Charter Research and others accomplish, help towards determining if you have the gene and potential amyloid buildup.
 - Dementia does not change a person's personality; it puts it on steroids.
 - By age 25 our brain is fully developed (about 3 pounds). With dementia two parts of the brain are actively dying (i.e. shrinking to about 1 pound at death) with no cure. Patients retain the right-side and lose the left-side of the brain. Age is a component but dementia is not age related.
 - We have a certain amount of forgetfulness over time, but folks with dementia cannot backtrack what they forgot.
 - Normal thinking is with logic while dementia thinking is with emotion. We must find a way to validate their questions or request and always apply compassion.
- Questions, some pertinent ones (related to folks with dementia):
 - Folks seem to get worse and develop bad traits, why? **Ans:** Folks go to those traits since they cannot think logically and this is all they have left.
 - Folks forget who you are, why? **Ans:** They know you are good but cannot express it anymore.
 - If they sleep during the day and are up during the night, should you let it continue? **Ans:** Could be depression, locking out the world or medication causing this. Try and flip this with activities, if possible, during the day. Not good for them or caregiver to be constantly tired.
- Debbie closed by stating she will have a 12th Care Partner Conference with Charter Research in Leesburg on April 8th, 9:00-2:30 at the Venetian Center. Cliff thanked Debbie for her discussion and reminded folks that the POA has been helping Charter Research secure rooms for four memory screenings to date, with the next one on March 20th, 9:00-12:00 at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm that was seconded and unanimously approved. Submitted (based on video review) by: Reb Benson, Secretary