

**VENICE-NOKOMIS WOMAN'S CLUB**  
**GENERAL MEETING at the Venice Community Center**  
**October 11, 2018**

**General Meeting:** Ann Shoup called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Executive Board Members present were Ann Shoup, Debra Wright, Lorraine Finizio, Aimee Holmes and Lise Mills. Absent was Kathy Price. Standing Committee Member present was Tricia Cook.

**President – Ann Shoup:** Ann Shoup welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the Collect.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Aimee Holmes:** In conjunction with our upcoming VNWC Breakfast Fundraiser, Aimee was happy to introduce two members of the Tidewell Honors Program to which our fundraising efforts will be awarded. She introduced Suzanne Blakedales, Community Relations Member for the Tidewell Veteran's Hospice Program. Suzanne thanked us for inviting her and choosing this program as our donation recipient. She then introduced Tom Upright, a volunteer for the Tidewell Hospice Pinning Program. Tom gave a brief description of his background that led him to this worthy program. His time in the Vietnam War as a helicopter pilot and later four years in the Reserves led him to realize the sacrifices he, his fellow soldiers and their spouses made for this country and how important it was to show each veteran how much they were and are forever appreciated. Once retired and after first volunteering in the Tidewell Hospice Pet Therapy Program (with his Weimaraner dog), Tom joined the Tidewell Hospice Honors Program, officiating in the Veteran's Pinning Ceremony. He gave a brief description of how the ceremony is carried out and gave a heartwarming example of how important this program was. He thanked us for our fundraising efforts.

**New Business:** Ann was delighted to bring the members' attention to the wonderful article in the October 10, 2018 edition of the Venice Gondolier which highlighted the VNWC's legacy of being responsible for the first library in Venice, and how this legacy is being carried forward with this year's contribution from VNWC in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$100,000.00), slated for the Children's, Teen and Creation Station areas of the new Venice library currently under construction. The library is scheduled to be opened December 15<sup>th</sup> and VNWC members will be invited to attend. Camille Cline, fundraiser for the Friends of the Venice Library, will tell us next month what this will entail. Attending VNWC members are urged to wear their Club t-shirts.

Ann asked those members present if they would be willing to step up and take over the ordering of Club t-shirts, replacing Dewaine Smith and Joy Brandt, who have asked to be replaced, since they have been doing this for several years. Before the meeting had gone much further, two ladies stepped up to volunteer. They are: Bernie Novicki and Joan Brinton. Thank you ladies.

A question had arisen as to why the membership roster has not been posted on our new web site. The cause was a security issue whereas, if a member went onto the site and later forgot to log out, anyone could subsequently get onto the site and be privy to our protected information. This issue has now been resolved. Should a member forget to log out, the system will automatically log them out after ten (10) minutes of inactivity. Now that the site is secure, future General Meeting Minutes and monthly Financial Reports will be posted on this secure website; there will be no more emails of these postings.

**A motion was made by Paula Sylvester to approve the September General Meeting Minutes that were emailed prior to this meeting. Lorraine Finizio seconded the motion. With a show of hands, the motion was unanimously passed.**

**Treasurer – Debra Wright:** Debra reports that there was an error in the e-mailed financial reports where two (2) formulated cells in the spreadsheet were not working. She checked with her CPA, Sandra Pridemore, after the error was adjusted, and was told it was now correct. Several copies of the corrected financial reports for May, June, July, August and September were placed on each table for members' perusal. As of September 30, 2018, the following was reported:

Wells Fargo Checking Balance as of September 1, 2018:	\$8,157.78
Deposits:	\$ 214.50
Withdrawals (checks):	\$2,211.35
Outstanding Checks:	\$ 21.00
Wells Fargo Checking Balance as of September 30, 2018:	<u>\$6,190.93</u>

Our investment accounts as of September 1, 2018 are as follows:

Edward Jones VNWC Investment Account:	\$322,810.16
Community Foundation of Sarasota County:	<u>\$417,572.39</u>
Total Investment as of September 30, 2018:	<u>\$740,382.55</u>

In regards to our fundraising, it was asked if we had not previously agreed that we should hold back some of our fundraising monies to reimburse our own expenses for that fundraiser. Tricia Cook commented that it had something to do with being a 501 C3 organization versus a 501 C4 organization, which is the category under which VNWC falls. Lise Mills, Fundraising Chair, said donors wish to know that all their contributions go to the charity which we are sponsoring, but that we do take out our expenses. The discussion was tabled and was to be discussed at a future general meeting but this issue was not revisited.

A second question arose: since money is being taken out of the Edward Jones account for Club operating expenses, it could be perceived that at some point in the future we could be operating in the red. If so, how long could our money last?

Approximately two years ago, Pat Granholm, past Treasurer for the VNWC, presented a chart showing that a percentage could safely be taken out of the Edward Jones account without jeopardizing that the account can continue in perpetuity. The discussion was tabled at that time and was to be discussed at a future general meeting but this issue was not revisited.

Debra Wright will research and determine what that amount is for the Club and will present at a future meeting.

On another note, a minimum \$7,500.00 balance must be maintained in our monthly Wells Fargo account as to not incur a \$14.00 per month penalty. **To that end, a motion was made by Verna Silk and seconded by Lise Mills, that \$5,200.00 be withdrawn from the Edward Jones account for the purpose of giving us the necessary monies needed for operating expenses. By a show of hands, the motion was unanimously passed.**

**Memorial Funds:** Jeana Hilligoss gave an update on three Memorials Funds. In 2013, a policy was started whereas whenever a member passed away, \$25.00 would be set aside in a fund. To date \$695.00 has been saved. It was decided that a park bench would be the perfect memorial for past and future deceased members and that the time to make use of that money was now, when it could be combined with a memorial bench for Carolyn Redlin, a past President who revitalized the VNWC. Two benches were placed on a wonderful garden-like spot at the intersection of West Venice Ave. and Park Ave. Together, unofficially, we are calling it the VNWC Park. The VNWC bench cost \$510.00 for the bench and \$127.00 for the plaque. Carolyn Redlin's bench (which faces the VNWC bench) cost \$510.00 and \$247.00 respectively. Upon Carolyn's passing many friends and colleagues donated monies that were accepted and held by VNWC on her behalf for just such a tribute. A most generous amount of money (\$1,245.00) was collected, the remainder of which also purchased a two tiered fountain and plaque placed near the two benches.

**A motion was made by Susan Coleman and seconded by Debi Wolfe that the final amount of \$1,315.15 be withdrawn from the VNWC Wells Fargo checking account for the park bench and plaque that will be placed at the 'VNWC Park'. By a show of hands, the motion was unanimously passed.**

Carolyn Redlin was President of VNWC from 2014 to 2016. She loved the fact the VNWC was the first to bring a library to Venice and with her passing, she bequeathed, thru the Club, \$30,000.00 to be used for the library to complement our \$100,000.00 donation to the children's wing and used for special needs. These funds will be held with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation and administered by the Friends of the Library Board of Directors. **Therefore, a motion was made by Rose Bridges and seconded by Mary Lou Belisle, that the \$30,000.00 donated by**

**Carolyn Redlin to be held by VNWC now be withdrawn and given to the Gulf Coast Community Foundation for the purpose of enhancing the children's wing of the new Venice Library. By a show of hands, the motion was unanimously passed.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Lorraine Finizio:** Lorraine reported that there were currently ninety-six (96) paid members which included the six (6) ladies to be inducted today. Janice D'Amico was pleased to induct the following ladies:

Joan Brinton  
Sandra Quesenberry  
Gail Sampson

Stacy Kushman  
Barbara Saputo  
Peggy Stasko

**Upcoming Programs:** Aimee announced the following upcoming programs and events:

For our November General Meeting and in anticipation of the new library, we will hear from the Literacy Volunteer Group who will discuss how their organization works.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual December luncheon which will be a Boots and BBQ Luncheon featuring a Ten Dollar (\$10.00) Elephant Gift Exchange in lieu of a formal program. Aimee asks that members sign up on the distributed signup sheets.

Karen Troyan, the liaison for the Salvation Army, says that the Salvation Army does much for the community and in turn needs volunteers to make many of their programs work smoothly. She will send out a list of where help is needed. However, at this approaching holiday time of year, they are in need of people to take an angel tree (which has a child's name and his/her needs/wishes written on it). At the next meeting, Karen will make fifty (50) angel trees available to distribute to anyone willing to participate. Members can also give the gift of money if they prefer. Karen gave the specifics involved in this effort.

Gayle Mathys will be in charge of the Holiday Parade this year which is held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 24<sup>th</sup>. The parade will feature a golf cart instead of a float, and walkers will be passing out glow sticks and bubbles in place of the usual candy. Gayle hopes that our members can showcase what a happy and fun group we all are and they are asked to please wear their Club t-shirts adorned with Christmas hats, lights, etc. Members who can walk about two miles are needed.

**Fundraising Director – Lise Mills:** The Breakfast Fundraiser is November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and forty-three (43) VNWC members have stepped forward to help. Additionally, we have 15 grumpy old men as servers, 14-15 volunteers from the Venice High School Girls' Soccer team, and 8 volunteers from the Tidewell Honors Program. Between this event and our next big fundraiser, our annual Bingo, Lise plans on setting up a few low key events, still to be announced. However, for this event, Lise proposed that the Club match the funds obtained from the Breakfast. The members present were all in favor of this suggestion but a discussion followed as to what amount would be financially feasible and what kind of limit should then be imposed so as not to deplete VNWC's principle savings. Debra Wright will do some research on this matter and it will be discussed and decided upon at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting before bringing it back to the general membership for approval.

In addition Aimee will suggest to Tidewell Hospice that they ask one of their donors to also match our donation from this fundraiser.

### **Senior Outreach - Lise Mills**

Lise further reports that there is still a need for volunteers for our Outreach Program for seniors. Seniors need help going to local stores such as Publix, Walmart, TJ Maxx and Target. Some needs are weekly and some are twice monthly. Please contact Jane Gilligan or, until Jane returns later this month, Lise Mills.

**Outreach Co-Chair – Tricia Cook:** Tricia reports that recently four (4) children were placed in the foster care system and they are in need of clothing and other items. She asks that you contact Liz Mazzu for more details.

Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Venice Tree Lighting event in which VNWC has participated for several years. As in the past, we will be handing out water and cookies. Tricia needs help bagging these cookies. Time and date for this will be announced.

**Board Report – Ann Shoup:** Three Club members were invited to and attended the September 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to voice their concerns about the lack of membership input and/or voting opportunities, especially with reference to financial decisions and closed Board Meetings. Following discussions, the Board agreed that the Governance Committee will meet to make some necessary changes to the ByLaws and Policies and Procedures including incorporating the Finance Committee's recommendation that "Unbudgeted expenditures of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or more shall require two (2) Board signatures and the expenditure be presented to the Club members for majority approval." The Committee will work on making these documents more inclusive of the membership. The guests and the Board were pleased with the results of the discussion and any changes will come to the membership for a vote when completed. When the guests left the meeting, a formal motion was made directing the Governance Committee to amend these documents and bring them to the membership for a November meeting vote.

**Conclusion:** Aimee asked if anyone was interested in being on the Governance Committee to work on the ByLaws and Policies and Procedures. She asked that they come to see her.

It was also announced that after the meeting is adjourned, there would be a game played, entitled 'Who Am I?'

**50/50 Raffle:** The raffle netted One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) plus \$19.00 from the "I forgot my nametag" jar for a total of \$119.00. Three (3) raffle tickets were drawn. Joy Brandt won prizes one and two for \$25 and \$20 respectively. Janice Crocker won the third prize for \$15 dollars.

**Tricia Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Debi Wolfe. By a show of hands, the motion unanimously passed.** Ann Shoup adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Submitted by:  
Rose Bridges  
Acting Secretary