

VENICE-NOKOMIS WOMAN'S CLUB

GENERAL MEETING at the Venice Community Center

November 8, 2018

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

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

She then introduced Friends of the Library President, Deborah Kostroum and Director, Camille Cline who presented plans for the December 15th Grand Opening of the Library and how VNWC can participate.

To kickoff the “Light Up Our Library Green Campaign” for solar roof panels, Clyde Butcher will speak on November 13th. The goal is \$260,000.00 for this final effort.

Camille stressed the need for books, DVD's, sheet music etc. for their Bookstore. Tricia Cook will head up this effort and email volunteers with the procedure. Volunteers are needed for the Bookstore as well.

Through the use of Renderings, Camille pointed out the various areas of the new Library, especially the Children's, Teen and Creation Station. There will be a December training for volunteers.

Several thousand people are expected at the December 15th Grand Opening beginning at 9:00 A.M. They need SWAG bag distributors, Parking Directors, Docents for the day until 5:00 P.M. Tricia Cook will lead this effort of volunteer opportunities. Signup sheets were at the volunteer table.

Tricia Cook opened the second part of the Program by introducing Paddy Padmanabhan, a Board member of the Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County who explained the background of this 36 year old organization and the benefit of Literacy to society as well as to the individual.

There is a need for volunteers to tutor English as a second language to candidates ages 18 and over. No teaching experience is necessary. There is a 2 day, 6 hour per day training program/guidance session. A once a week session lasting an hour and a half is all that is necessary and tutoring each student lasts as long as needed. Some students want additional information on what it means to become a citizen, life skills and Immigration Services, Government, the Supreme Court, Cabinet, Constitution etc. There will be 2 rooms in the new Library devoted strictly for Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County.

A volunteer, Nancy Nasser, introduced her student, Bonita, from the Philippines who briefly spoke about her valuable experience with the Literacy Volunteers and how it changed her life in this county, how she was helped with information getting a Green Card, a driver's license and learning to live in America and ended with “and don't forget to get a library Card!” to resounding applause.

Business meeting began with a correction in the October Minutes that had been previously emailed to the membership. The date of the Christmas Gala was corrected from December 3, 2018 to December 13th. **Jean Trammel made a motion to accept the corrected Minutes and Sandy McGowen seconded them. The Minutes passed unanimously.**

Debra Wright, Treasurer reported that the October Treasurers Report is available on the Website in the Members Only Section. In addition, all Treasurers reports from April forward (as well as all the General Meeting Minutes) will be found there. She suggested members look them over in the next month and we will discuss & approve them all at the next general meeting. She has changed the format back to the original familiar previously used format.

Ann Shoup then gave a very brief overview of the accounts listed monthly in the Treasurer's Reports, especially for the many new members who may wonder about them. One of the accounts (Wells Fargo) is for Operating Expenses (rent, storage, insurances, programs, website etc.). Accounts 2 and 3 are invested funds from the VNWC sale of a Clubhouse in 2011 for \$650,000.00. In 2012, \$350,000.00 was invested with the Community Foundation of Sarasota and the remainder in Edward Jones in 2013. We use only the interest from those accounts. Our Scholarships and Civic Awards come from the 4-41/2% annual interest from CFSC and the \$6-6,500.00 from Edward Jones goes into our operating account as needed. Until this spring, when the membership voted to give the Library \$100,000.00 toward the Children's, Teen and Creation Station from our Capital assets, our capital assets were never spent. This was an extraordinary situation since the VNWC was the first lending library starting in 1926 and children were our legacy. Anyone who wants further information can go to the Website and the About Us tab.

Lise Mills, Fundraising, reported on the Breakfast Fundraiser held on November 3rd that fed 228 guests. Lise thanked all the volunteers, donors, and attendees. Lise thanked those that took blocks of tickets to sell, especially Mary Lou Belisle who, along with her team created the red, white and blue raffle baskets. She thanked Debra Wright, Lorraine Finizio, Susie Mayo, Tricia Cook, Aimee Holmes. The total raised was \$2,526.00. Thanks to Jeana Hilligoss, the Community Foundation of Sarasota, found an anonymous donor of an additional \$2500.00 in matching funds, making the total \$5,026.00.

At the October meeting, there was discussion about VNWC providing matching funds but without a defined amount so the October Board decided on \$2500.00, the same as the anonymous donor match.

Motion by Lise Mills for VNWC to provide matching funds of \$2,500.00 for the Breakfast Fundraiser.

Discussion followed on what account it would come from and why and if it would take away from the Scholarship/Civic Award total we can gift. Jeana then explained that to keep our money growing, the Foundation suggests we used 4-4 ½% annually which is what we do. The program used all but \$500.00 last year so that is still available. She then questioned why we would consider giving them more than \$5,000.00 and what it would be used for outside of what we saw at the last meeting program. Lise explained the VNWC interest in this should justify this amount and it would move the program up to the next level in the accreditation process. Mary Lou suggested that we have \$500.00 available & we should use that amount and not go beyond it. Lise then amended her motion making Tidewell's total \$5500.00.

Motion made by Lise Mills that VNWC provide \$500.00 to the Tidewell Honors Program from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Seconded by Susie Mayo and passed unanimously.

Mary Beth Hansen, Paradise Grill owner, has donated \$250.00 to be added to the Breakfast Fundraiser total now making it \$5750.00. In addition she also collected \$700.00 in checks for the Food Pantry.

She has been very good to us over the years. We should all support the Paradise Grill. There are a number of certificates that can be used for drinks, dinner etc. Let's all visit this establishment.

Lise has sent a thank you email to the volunteers and is asking that anyone with suggestions/comments email her so these thoughts can be added to the planned "lessons learned" meeting.

Lorraine Finizio, Membership introduced two new members to be inducted. Kathy Moller and Carrie Girard. Janice D'Amico administered the oath and the new members were welcomed to the Venice-Nokomis Woman's Club.

Lorraine is chairing the Nominating Committee and announced the other 2 Board members, Debra Wright and Aimee Holmes and the two members from the Membership, Tricia Cook and Laura Hester. This completes the 5 member committee. Lorraine explained they will be looking for people to fill open Board positions and to please, answer the phone, when they call.

Tricia Cook asked **Sheila Bowers**, who was accepting checks for the Christmas Gala, to speak about it.

The cost is \$20.00, it will be held at the Venice Community Center at 11:30 on December 13th. Checks can be mailed to the VNWC P.O. Box.

Tricia welcomed **Jane Gilligan** (Seniors Program) back. The **Holiday Parade** is on Saturday November 24th, **VABI Tree Lighting** on Saturday December 8th and the **Grand Opening** on December 15th. Wear your VNWC shirts and name tags for all these events! Order from **Bernie Novicki** and **Joan Brinton**. VNWC white visors are also available for \$10.00. Ordered shirts will be available at the next meeting.

Gayle Mathys said Parade Walker Space is still available and parade walking is "guaranteed to burn off 500 calories". Call her to sign up. Parking will be in the Museum parking lot area. There will be plenty to do if there is a wait. Glo stick assembly, decorations, etc. She will send volunteers specific instructions.

Liz Mazzu called attention to signup sheets for the TWIG Orientation and for February 19th in the Warehouse. TWIG is looking for club memberships to fill these days.

Karen Troyan, Salvation Army Angel Tree Program noted of 50 Angels, she has 9 left to be adopted. Red Tide has slowed businesses and as a result the wait staff/servers that depend on tips are hardest hit. The Angel program has increased by 250 this year. Bell Ringers are also needed for 2 hour shifts. She then provided instructions for filling the Angel bags mentioning they are due by December 10.

Debra Wright spoke about the Christmas Gala, catered by Gold Rush Barbeque but also including fish, chicken, a vegetarian dish, desserts and wine! Debra and Janet Apple will shop for the wine. There is a fantastic decorating crew. There will be a white elephant (new not used) gift exchange (\$10.00 limit).

There will be gifts available for purchase if you forget yours. The Gala will follow a short business meeting beginning at 11:30 at the Venice Community Center December 13th. Pay \$20.00 at the sign up table today or mail your check to the VNWC P.O. Box 416 Venice 34284.

Ann Shoup mentioned that there are many ways to volunteer for this season but you are not expected to sign up for everything, just the things you can best manage.

The Governance Committee submitted the following revisions for adoption.

Requested Changes to the VNWC Bylaws (~~Brown-remove~~ ~~Red- Add~~)

Meetings – Previous Version

Board meetings are deemed closed to the general public ~~and membership~~. The board reserves the right to accept or decline a request for non-board member attendance herein referred to as “Board Meeting Guests”.

Meetings – Revised Version

Board meetings are deemed closed to the general public. ~~Members are welcome to attend board meetings with 48 hours notice to the Board. The board reserves the right to accept or decline a request for non-board member attendance herein referred to as “Board Meeting Guests”.~~

Article 12 – AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Previous Version

These bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by the vote of all of the directors then in office. Such action is authorized only at a duly called and held meeting of the Board of Directors for which written notice of such meeting, setting forth the proposed bylaw revisions with explanations therefore, is given in accordance with these bylaws.

Revised Version

These bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by the vote of the Directors then in office ~~and all of the General Membership~~. Such action is authorized only at a duly called and held meeting of the General Membership for which written notice of such meeting, setting forth the proposed bylaw revisions with explanations therefore, is given in accordance with these bylaws. ~~If the vote results in a tie the Immediate Past President will be asked to vote in order to break the tie.~~

Motion to approve the changes by Ann Shoup, seconded by Debra Wright, passed unanimously.

Ann Shoup then thanked Debra Wolfe for the beautiful hospitality table and provided treats. Her presentation monthly is always most artistic. This was met by a well-deserved round of applause.

Following this meeting there will be a Dedication of the Carolyn Redlin Memorial and the VNWC deceased member bench at the intersection of W. Venice Avenue and Park. Jeana Hilligoss will officiate.

The 50/50 collected \$76.00. \$38.00 to VNWC, \$13.00 to Many Ann Suprenant and \$25.00 to Ann Shoup.

Motion to Adjourn by Gayle Mathys, seconded by Sandy McGowen, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

