

Venice Nokomis Woman's Club General Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2018  
Venice Library Community Meeting Room

President Ann Shoup called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Members collectively recited the Pledge of Allegiance and then read our Collect. We were welcomed to the first meeting at the Venice Library, where we're scheduled to meet through 2019. Members were asked offer suggestions for table/chair arrangements.

Minutes from January's meeting were approved unanimously as written after a motion from Paula Sylvester and a second from Jean Trammell.

Debra Wright, Treasurer, explained that the timing of receiving financial statements impacts her monthly report. So that January's report is available to members for further review, physical copies were present at this meeting. At March's meeting, members will vote to approve both January and February's Treasurer's reports. Future reports will be posted on the VNWC web page at the same time as the meeting minutes.

Next, Ann introduced Julie Pinkerton, from the Rotary. Julie spoke about the Rotary's role in our VNWC scholarships given to high school seniors. The following points were discussed:

--The Rotary functions as a separate (non profit) entity that has an college resource office at the Venice High School. There they assist students and prepare them for 'Life after High School.'

--They help students through the process of college/technical school decisions, the application process, essay advice., etc. Also included in this is help for funding and scholarship applications. They have a scholarship data base program that matches students with various aspects of scholarship applications such as eligibility criteria and upcoming deadlines.

--Julie also touched on the fact that since VNWC offers technical as well as academic scholarships; it can have a positive outcome by assisting those students that may not be able to compete for academic scholarships.

--The Rotary has a scholarship selection committee that reads and scores the applications. After selections are made, the applications are sent to our Scholarship Chair, Jeana Hilligoss for approval. Julie's group is very aware of the number of scholarships a student may potentially receive, thus preventing any one student from getting 'over funded'. After final selections are made, Julie is in touch with the Sarasota Community Foundation, who will provide the school itself with the monies awarded.

--We set the criteria for our Scholarships: 3.0 GPA, economic need and school/community activities.

Julie ended her talk by thanking us for our financial/scholarship support for so many years!

Next, Dewaine Smith, Finance Committee Chair, discussed the scholarship process from our side. Jeana, as Scholarship Chair, shares with Julie our criteria, the number of scholarships and the amounts. After recommendations are made from the Rotary, Jeana shares them with the finance committee and they make recommendations, which are then presented to the board. After their approval, it is shared with the general membership.

She discussed and explained the Sarasota Community Foundation of Sarasota (SCFS). They are a public charity founded in 1979 to have a positive community impact. They have a portion of our funds invested and it is the interest from our investments that fund our scholarship recipients.

Dewaine discussed some upcoming changes in our scholarship giving and how this process evolved. Since 1988, the VNWC has given \$147,500 to 130 students! Sadly, we have no updates/information on any of these recipients. So it was decided to change our guidelines going forward for scholarships. Starting in spring 2019 we will offer two \$2000 academic awards and two \$1000 technical awards.

Then in 2020, the students that received 2019 academic scholarships will have an opportunity to reapply for an additional \$2000 for each subsequent college year. They must continue to maintain the same criteria and Earle Young from the SCFS will monitor this process.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Membership:** Lorraine Finizio started by recognizing guests attending the meeting and having them introduce themselves:

Jill Welman attended with member Paula Sylvester

Connie Waldinger came with member Gail Sampson

Roxanne Smith brought by member Pam Gabana

Beverly Bertoni came with member Dianne Higgins

Lorraine welcomed them and encouraged members to bring guests.

As chair of the Nominating Committee, she shared the upcoming slate of officers:

President: Jean Trammell

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Lorraine Finizio

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Aimee Holmes

Secretary: Kathy Price

Treasurer: Joan Brinton

Fundraising: Laura Hester

Tricia Cook has agreed to continue as Public Relation Chair and Liz Mazzu will continue as TWIG liaison.

There were no nominations from the floor and there was no opposition to the slate of officers. There will be a vote at the March meeting with induction of officers at the April meeting.

Lorraine also recognized member Carrie Girard, who joined at the November meeting but didn't receive flowers. She was belatedly presented with them at this meeting.

Ann acknowledged and thanked the nominating committee for their hard work:

Lorraine Finizio

Tricia Cook

Aimee Holmes

Laura Hester

Debra Wright

**Fundraising:** Chair, Lise Mills, reported that in March, she plans to present a ceremonial check to the Tidewell Hospice. Their group was the recipient of our November fundraising breakfast event. She thanked members for their volunteer efforts.

**Outreach:** Joy Brandt and Laura Hester had prepared a group project: members completed Valentine's Day cards by adding stick-on hearts and a note. They, along with volunteers Paula Sylvester, Jane Gilligan, Dianne Higgins, Verna Silk and Lorraine Finizio, will deliver the cards to residents at the Venice Assisted Living (formerly the Summit House). Our leftover snacks will be taken as well.

**TWIG:** Liz Mazzu shared an exciting recognition we received from TWIG. On January 24, 2019, a champagne reception was held by TWIG to honor its donors. Our name was added to a wall plaque for 2018 donors. Liz had attended and shared with us their appreciation for our time, clothing and monetary donations. Liz then explained the background of TWIG for new members: they provide new/lightly use clothing for foster children 0-18 years. The families are able to shop in TWIG's boutique once per month. They have recently expanded to serve 18-21 year old former foster children. This is in addition to having a clothing stocked trailer that travels monthly to various group homes. The trailer is maintained /staffed by 'Pit Stop' automotive volunteers. This amazing program is having a huge positive impact on this population of local foster children. Their shopping days have increased from 2 to 4 Saturdays/month. Liz also shared that an upcoming volunteer day is available to work in TWIG's warehouse on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. She encouraged members to attend training to volunteer in the boutique and explained their clothing needs. Liz will happily transport any items that members bring in for the shop. She became involved with TWIG after reading an article in the local newspaper that explained the program and gave background on the couple that started TWIG.

**50/50 Raffle:** \$104 was received from ticket sales. There will be 3 prizes: \$25, \$15 and \$12. Winners were:

\$25: Jean Trammell

\$15: Crystal Lacey

\$12: Bonnie Burkhalter

**Announcements:** Next meeting March 14, 2019 at library. In March, we will have Irish music, by Corodon Fuller, a friend of Laura Hester. He will possibly have a vocalist performing with him.

There are library tours available with Ann Hall after the meeting

Ann thanked Debi Wolfe for her wonderful set up and snacks.

Meeting unanimously adjourned at 2:55 after a motion from Kathy Emann and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Lorraine Finizio

Kathy Price,  
Secretary

