

Venice Nokomis Woman's Club  
General Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2019

Jean Trammell, President, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. Members collectively said the Pledge of Allegiance and read 'A Collect for Club Women.'

**Minutes:** There were no corrections to the April minutes and they were approved unanimously after a motion from Paula Sylvester and a second from Laura Hester.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer's April report was approved unanimously without corrections after a motion from Verna Silk and a second from Tricia Cook.

**Scholarship:** Two of our four Scholarship recipients were able to attend our meeting and share their future plans. First, Morgan Abel, explained that she will be attending Santa Fe College to study zoology technology. She is interested in exotic animal and wants to work with endangered and zoo animals. Morgan is excited that each semester, she will be assigned to work with a specific zoo animal. She ultimately wants to be a vet, specializing in exotic animals.

Then Sierra Dozier spoke about her college plans. After graduating from VHS with a 4.5 weighted GPA, she will attend University of Coastal Florida where her major will be Forensic Science. Sierra is passionate about many aspects of science, something she has an aptitude for. She hopes to work in research, with an emphasis on cancer. Pictures were taken with our Scholarship recipients, past President Ann Shoup, former Treasurer Debra Wright and Jean Trammell. Photos were taken by Fran Valencic, for the Gondolier and Tricia Cook, our Publicity chair.

Jean thanked the graduates for attending the meeting as they are inspirational young women.

She also shared that she has not yet found a communication chair. Jean highlighted the job details and asked for anyone with interest to contact her.

**Outreach:** Tricia Cook highlighted signup sheets located on back tables in our meeting room. She discussed the various Outreach areas in which we've been involved. They include collection of toiletries for school children, Christmas in July, Holiday Parade and Twig to name a few. An important upcoming event will be our table at the Arts/Crafts festival on Miami Ave on 15 & 16 of June. We will be publicizing our club in hopes of recruiting additional members. Lorraine Finizio, as membership chair will expound upon this.

Tricia requested members to make known their interests in these or other outreach projects.

**Membership:** Lorraine first discussed the Arts/Crafts festival in June. We will be staffing the table in 2 hours shifts and times are available for volunteers on both Saturday and Sunday. Members should wear our VNWC shirts and will provide information about our club. We're hoping to increase interest in VNWC and our

activities. One of our members expressed concern about her knowledge of our club. We will have VNWC brochures and as Tricia suggested, we can direct interested people to our website and Facebook page.

Lorraine also discussed the idea of eliminating the paper handbook and publishing our member roster on the secure portion of our website-the members only section. There is a signup sheet for any members that wish NOT to have their information published on our VNCW website. There will be no printed book for those that opt out of website roster. Concerns were expressed about how to be in touch with members that have unpublished information. It was suggested to consult previous member books or to simply be in touch with Lorraine as she has that information on members. Our goal is not only to eliminate printing costs, but to keep our rosters updated with current member information. It was asked when or who made decision to go to online vs. printed form. It was shared that the finance committee initially made this recommendation.

Lorraine also asked for members to join her membership committee and contribute ideas for increasing our numbers.

Member fees are due by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyone with checks today may give them to Joan Brinton, our new Treasurer.

Lorraine encouraged members to direct prospective members to our website, they can find information about us and complete an application online. Currently we have 50 paid members whereas last year we had 97. We lost 7 members that have died recently. It was noted that of these 97 members, only about 50 were active participants.

Lorraine also shared what the some of different sign ups were for: Fundraising committee will be working with Laura Hester; Arts and Crafts will be helping with specifics related to fundraising, such as raffle baskets or decorations.

Jean shared that new Finance committee members were needed. The new budget will be planned by the Finance group, so those interested should speak with Joan Brinton, as the new budget needs to be planned and put in place.

Verna Silk has agreed to be our new Sunshine Chair, sending appropriate cards to members as needed.

**Programs:** Aimee introduced our program speakers.

First was Sharyn from Venice Symphony. She began by thanking us for our past support. As we have indicated our emphasis on support of children's programs, Sharyn discussed their educational programs. First she shared 'Symphony in the School' which has been in existence for about 28 years for 1700-1800 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Sarasota County. Its finale concert is with the students and their musical instructors will be at VPAC. Their summer camp program is made up of students from ages 5 to 18 and in its 30<sup>th</sup> year. Two Youth Orchestras have newly formed, a concert strings and symphonic strings. Various members of the symphony donate their time as mentors and teachers in these programs. Our financial gifts have been well used toward Scholarships to students in need and helping with instrument repair and maintenance. No child is turned away for lack of financial resources. Sharyn invited members that might be interested to attend the students' concert

Jill from Venice Art Center spoke about their summer children activities. They have scheduled 4 sessions for kids, such as a monster clay class. Additionally there is Kids Night Out, which is actually a parents night out. They offer scholarships as well for children in need and are hoping to expand the financial offerings, perhaps to foster children. Many more classes are listed on the Art Center website and sign up for classes is available online.

Uncorked, wine and paint classes for adults, will also be offered over the summer. Jill shared that the staff did this as a group and wondered if a group of VNWC members would like to participate in this. Many members indicated their interest! Jill also shared that they are doing the Family Fun Day on July 27. Aimee will have signups for VNWC to assist in this program; although she has a conflict that day with a Habitat event, she hopes members will participate as we have in the past. Aimee also spoke about doing a wine tasting at Made in Italy or at Total Wine. This would be for prospective as well as current members. Members expressed interest in this as well. Aimee will be in touch regarding these events via the website.

Jean announced that on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 9am, Carolyn Redlin, past VNWC President, will receive a the Legacy award from the City of Venice. The selections are made the Historic Preservation Advisory Board and endorsed by the Venice City Council. This recognizes the work Carolyn did in historic preservation and education. This award will be presented in City Chambers.

**Fundraising:** Laura Hester, our new chairperson, shared that she needs more fundraising committee members. She encouraged members to volunteer for this committee and hopes members will think of it as the 'Funraising' committee. Laura also shared information about an upcoming moneymaker for us: She has been speaking with Laurie Birnbach at Fox Lea Farms about events in which we can participate. During their horse show events, they use 8-12 volunteers to park cars and transport guests in golf carts. VNWC would receive half of the collected gate receipts, less tax. In addition, we would have a VIP and regular table in the tent where we could do raffles, raffle baskets, silent auction—whatever we choose. Additionally, in Fox Lea's email blasts, that reach 150,000 people throughout the country; we would be named as co-host and have a link to our website. Also, there will be a 7week summer clinic and we potentially would receive 100% of the drink donations during any event at which we participate. Laura reminded everyone that we have committed to growing our scholarship program as we will potentially award monies to college students that previously received awards. So is important to have successful fundraising efforts to support this. Jean added that "many hands lighten the load" so please volunteer!

Jean then asked for any other business.

Linda O'Brien, a volunteer with the Port Charlotte Salvation Army food pantry, reminded members that postal workers will be doing their food drive on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Food donations may be left in bags outside of homes and they will be picked up for donation to our local pantry.

Joan Brinton announced the passing of one of our VNWC members, past President, Phillis Runyon.

Fran Valincic, our guest and supporter from the Gondolier, shared that the South Sarasota Literacy volunteers have a waiting list of 70 people waiting for tutors. The office is at the Venice Library and she encourages anyone interested to please offer to help.

Next was the 50/50 raffle: \$62 was collected, the club kept \$31 and the prize was split between 2 winners: 1st drawing Kathy Price, who received \$20 and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tricia Cook with \$11.

Members were reminded to watch for announcements regarding wine tasting and summer lunches.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm by President, JeanTrammell.

Kathy Price,  
Secretary

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