

Venice Nokomis Woman's Club General Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 10, 2017
Venice Library Community Room

President, Jean Trammell called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm. Our call to order was early as the Venice librarians presenting the 'Creation Station' Program had a 1:30 commitment. We started with the Pledge of Allegiance. Next on the agenda was our Library presentation.

October Program: Linda Montour and Arisa Hitt are the Creation Station Librarians that presented this informative program. Head Librarian, Ann Hall was present as well. Linda began the program by thanking the VNWC for their donation that gave the Venice Library the Creation Stations. Their October schedule was shared: the younger children are on Tuesdays, the teens/tweens are scheduled for Wednesdays and adults have Thursdays. Specific programs are scheduled on each of those days; at this point, drop-in use of the creation stations is not available. Linda showed some items from the various programs: Dash Robots, that teaches coding with iPads and then examples of the Cricut, it cuts paper, cloth, leather and other materials. They have a 3D printer, six Brother sewing machines, 3D doodle pads and other items. A question was asked regarding volunteer opportunities, Linda hopes that will be available in the future and asks for anyone with an interest to give the library their name, phone, email and area of interest. This was a most interesting program and publicity photos were done afterward with the VNWC board members and the librarians.

Minutes: There were no corrections or additions to September's general meeting minutes. They were unanimously accepted as written after a motion from Verna Silk and a 2nd from Lorraine Finizio.

Treasurer Report: Joan Brinton was absent for a family loss; her September report will be approved at next month's meeting.

Publicity: Tricia first introduced Tish Murphy, our Sabal Palm Bank representative, also attending the meeting as a guest. For their 10th anniversary celebration, Sabal Palm will be sponsoring an ice cream truck that will be dispensing free ice cream during the week of November 4, at various locations around Venice. On Thursday, November 7, from 4-5pm,; they'll be in Venice Theatre's parking lot and will accept donations for the youth scholarship programs. We will need a jar or bucket to collect donations.

Membership: Lorraine Finizio, membership chair, first introduced three guests: Tish Murphy, whom we met earlier from Sabal Palm Bank. Also attending were guests Dawn Perreault and Sally Sparrow. Tricia Cook invited Tish and Dawn and Ann Cavanna brought Sally. Jean noted that she and Tish worked together on previous Venice projects, such as selecting the plantings for the Legacy Trail.

Two new members were inducted today, Terry Fernandes and Lisa Ketner. Lorraine administered the oath and welcomed the ladies. Both shared that they were excited to volunteer with our organization. Welcome everyone!

Programs: There was no report as Aimee Holmes, program chair, was absent.

Fundraising: Laura Hester, our fundraising chair repeated the information about Sabal Palm's ice cream truck on November 7th from 4-5 in the Venice theatre parking lot.

Laura was excited to share details of our fundraisers. Our 'Dance Party for the Arts' will be held Tuesday, February 11, 2020 from 6-10pm at the American Legion, 1770 Avenue. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and an inexpensive cash bar. Kathy Emman has been instrumental in bringing the 'Gotta Dance' dancers to our event. They will provide 2 instructors from 6:15-7 for free dance lessons and also 2 to 3 couples for demos throughout the night plus partnering with guests as needed. Laura is hoping to have youth from Venice Theatre do a brief demonstration of a past theatre event. This would show event attendees the type of programs they are supporting. We have been offered the 'Silver Foxes' for a demo, but Tricia is checking about the youth instead. Ticket sales, at \$30 per person, will start next month. The American Legion building holds 260 and we can sell around 220 tickets for this event. Also in November, sign ups sheets will be at the meeting. Volunteers will be needed prior to the event and at the event itself. Laura plans to schedule event workers in one-hour shifts so they can enjoy the party as well. Lorraine mentioned that there were signups available to help with the raffle basket and table decorations.

Laura explained our Libation Grab Bag: donated liquor and wines, worth at least \$10, will be put in brown paper bags. After purchasing a bag for \$10, the person's name will be put on it and set aside for pickup when leaving the party. We will need members to bring in liquor boxes as well as liquor to donate.

Laura also gave credit to Roxanne Smith and her helpers for the amazing donations they have solicited for the raffle items.

Members should watch bulletins/newsletters for more information about this exciting event.

It was shared that Tricia got our Fox Lea Farms date: Friday night March 6, 2020. This is the equestrian event at which we will sell event tickets, park cars, transport attendees and sell Fox Lea's 50/50 raffle tickets. We will get ½ event monies collected, less tax and 50% of Fox Lea's raffle take. We are able to staff a VNWC table at the event if we choose to; it will be in a great location—on the path to the buffet table. This will enable us to have a raffle item and showcase our club and fundraising activities. We will get great publicity through Fox Lea's emails and their other advertising.

Tricia shared that the Venice Theatre will also advertise for us: on their scrolling banner above their stage, they will highlight our 'Dance Party for the Arts' and our Fox Lea involvement, that we're raising funds for their youth programs. They will be doing this in February and early March. Tricia also explained 'Peach Jar', a program that Venice Theatre uses to send email to parents whose children are in

their programs, keeping them informed of news and activities. We will get some advertising through this as well.

Additionally, Gotta Dance will advertise our February event in their large emailing blasts. They shared with Laura about 'Dance around Sarasota' where we can get our event publicized, and Gotta Dance will have us added to that event site. The American Legion will add our event information to their facebook page.

Salvation Army: Linda O'Brien reminded members of the Christmas Angels program, that she would distribute the angels at November's meeting. The information needed to purchase gifts and items for the child are on the paper angel itself. After purchasing the items, members may take the gifts to the Salvation Army office, located on Albee Farm Road in Venice. The angel gifts are due by December 9, 2019.

Linda also shared that the Salvation Army is changing its food distribution format to a grocery style set up and they need volunteers at their North Port location. Linda isn't sure if Venice needs help with their food pantry at this point, however they always have a need in the clothing store for volunteers. Linda can give interested ladies the contact name and number for this. Clients are able to come once per month for food and must demonstrate financial need. She has applications for those interested, as a background check is necessary prior to volunteering.

President's Notes: Jean shared that Sharyn Lonsdale is our new communications volunteer and that she did the VNWC Newsletter that was sent prior to this meeting. Any articles for the newsletter can be sent through Jean or directly to Sharyn. Sharyn will share the date by which she needs newsletter articles.

A question was asked about our upcoming participation in the Holiday Parade. Laura Hester shared our past experiences with participation in the parade. There was an issue that the ladies walking in the parade were not keeping up with participating VNWC vehicles, and were therefore not visible when the officials at the podium announced our club. Last year 22 members signed up and 11 actually came to participate. For these reasons Laura has not planned for us to participate this year and says, "Just go to the parade". Members expressed agreement with this decision.

Jean shared that we have requested to decorate a holiday tree in Blalock Park; we are on the waiting list.

After the 50/50 raffle drawing, Jean encouraged everyone to stay for cake and social time.

50/50 Raffle: Bonnie Burkhalter and Bernie Noviki, in charge of today's raffle, announced that \$66 was collected. The 1st place drawing will be for \$20 and the 2nd place is \$13. The new members drew the winning tickets:

1st: Bonnie Burkhalter

2nd: Roxanne Smith.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm

Kathy Price,
Secretary

