

Venice Nokomis Woman's Club General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 9, 2020
Venice Public Library Community Room

President, Jean Trammell called the meeting to order at 1 o'clock. Members collectively recited the Pledge of Allegiance and read the "Collect for Club Women".

Minutes: December's meeting minutes have been available on our web site for review. They were approved unanimously after a motion from Lorraine Finizio and a 2nd from Tricia Cook.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Brinton, Treasurer noted that the December report is not online, so we will need to vote on it's filing at February's meeting. She also reported that we received \$4500 from Edward Jones, our annual expense money from our investments. It was also noted that the board decided to change our monthly 50/50 raffle drawing from two members winning to just one.

Programs: Aimee Holmes, 2nd VP for programs, introduced our program speaker: our own Sharyn Lonsdale, who also works with the Venice Symphony, speaking about their children's' programs.

She began by explaining that her VNWC role is that of Communication chair and she works for the Venice Symphony as their Marketing Director

She highlighted the three children's programs:

Summer Music Camp: This two-week program (open to 100-150 students) has been in existence for 30 years and is for grades K through High School. One highlight of this program is that children are able to try new instruments that they may not have had an opportunity to previously play. They have a concert at the end of their program. No child will be turned down if they have a financial need.

Symphony in the Schools: This brings music to 3rd graders in south Sarasota County, impacting about 2,000 students, including homeschooled and special needs students. This program is aligned with Carnegie Hall with a program called 'Link Up'. Symphony musicians go into classrooms and work with the students, teaching them to play the recorder. At the end of the approximately eight-week program, a concert is performed by the students at the VPAC.

Youth Orchestra: They have been in existence for just two years. This group is led by three musicians and is a strings only group. They are a very dedicated group that rehearse weekly and does many performances such as performing at the Tree Lighting in Blalock Park in December. Venice Symphony educational program information is available through the website and by email to its educational director, Tim Ferguson. Future educational opportunities for adults are in the works. Sharyn also shared that the Symphony did a program called 'Musical Memories" for some of the area's Alzheimer patients. This was done in conjunction with the Tidewell Hospice and funded by a research group.

Tricia Cook thanked Sharyn and also Chris Casson for their support of the collection of toiletries for Backpack Angels and supplies for TWIG. This was done at the December concerts. Sharyn noted the the Symphony often collaborates with local group for collections of various items Laura shared that at February's meeting, we would be making Valentine's Day cards for distribution at a local nursing home facility. Members enjoyed this project last year and the residents were happy to receive the cards.

Membership: Lorraine Finizio, our 1st VP of Membership, introduced our guest, Cathie Kelty, who attended the meeting with Margie Simcox.

Five new members were inducted into the VNWC, with the Lorraine administering the oath of membership. The new members also shared a bit about themselves.

Our newest members are: Margie Simcox, Carol Karakashian, Patty Creech, Myrna Goldblum and Kathy Couture. Welcome!

Lorraine announced that she would be heading the Nominating committee and needed three other members to participate in this group. Volunteers were Tricia Cook, Irva Maddox and Tina Marrelli. Kathy Emann also offered to help.

Communications: Sharyn Lonsdale, Communications chair, reminded members that the newsletter and Evites are being sent about one week prior to our meeting. She shared her email: sharyn1111@gamil.com and asked that if any members are not receiving these two items to please contact her. Also, any articles or announcements for the newsletter should be submitted about 2 weeks prior to the meeting date, about the 15th of the preceding month. Lorraine noted that some of the newer members had not been added to the roster, and she reiterated the importance of being touch with her or Sharyn if not receiving the club information.

Fundraising: Laura Hester filled us in on our upcoming fundraising event: 'DanceParty for the Arts', Tuesday, February 11, 6-10 pm at the American Legion, on Venice Avenue.

Laura shared that 135 tickets are out (not all sold) and asked that members take tickets after the meeting, to sell and/or purchase. At the close of this meeting, Laura noted that 153 tickets are now out for sale and if another 30 or more are sold, this will put us a profitable position for a successful event! She has given tickets to Sabal Palm Bank, the club's bank; they will be selling them for us. They are very supportive of the VNWC. They will accept cash, check or credit card. This was later amended by via an email from Tricia Cook to note that Sabal Palm in not able to do a ticket purchases by credit card, only cash or check.

Laura also noted that she has event posters: 11x17, 8.5x11 and some small notices. She asks that members take at least one and post wherever possible—clubhouses, churches, etc. It was shared that many are already posted downtown—at the City Kiosk, Venice Theatre, various shops and public buildings. Laura will also place posters in other businesses that may not already have one displayed.

Please donate spirits: wine, liquors and liqueurs for the Wall of Libations. The values should be at least \$10 for your unopened and not outdated items. Be in touch with Laura, she will even pick them up from members!

It was also shared that more people are needed for decorating the day of the event. A signup will be on the back table, if you can help, please add your name after the meeting. Kathy Price is in charge and will be in touch with those signed up after she and Laura do their 'practice run' of the table decorations next week.

Lorraine Finizio and Roxanne Smith are in charge of assembling the raffles baskets. Roxanne and her group have collected amazing donations for the baskets, they collectively have a value about \$2500.

Laura will be in touch with those signed up for raffle ticket selling at the event. They will be done not by amount purchased but \$10 for 'an arm-length' and \$20 for 'waist-length'. Bring your money!

Laura will be displaying some informational signs on Venice Avenue and other locations.

Laura has a new email: vnwchester@gmail.com, so please add this to your contacts. This will be used in conjunction with fundraising information.

Lisa Ketner suggested that we be in touch and encourage past club recipients of our financial donations to support our DanceParty fundraiser.

Laura reminded members that the Gotta Dance folks will not only be giving free dance lessons, but will be available to dance with those without a partner. The 6 o'clock free dance lesson is the 'Merengue' and no partner is needed!

If members or others are unable to attend but want to support this effort, Laura shared ways to do this. First, write a check to the VNWC with 'Fundraiser Donation' written in the memo section of the check. Or the Venice Theatre web site is another way to donate. Go to the theatre's webpage and follow links and select 'Donate'. Then under 'optional donation note' you add VNWC. She reminded members about the reason for this fundraiser—for the children's programs at the Venice Theatre.

If anyone wants to dress for a favorite era in music, please do so; although that info was not included in the advertising.

Tricia mentioned that she would discuss our Fox Lea volunteer commitment at the February meeting. She has names of those that signed up to help on Friday March 6, 2020 at Fox Lea Farms.

TWIG: Liz Mazzu, our liaison for Twig, spoke about the upcoming warehouse volunteer event. This will be on February 11, 2020 from 9-10:30. Having attended an orientation prior to this is not necessary for participation in this volunteer opportunity. This basically consists of sorting and hanging items for the store. Please speak with Liz after the meeting to help with this. Liz also explained to those not familiar with TWIG that it's a store (located on Venice Ave in the Angelo's Plaza), for foster children to shop for free on a monthly basis. They can choose seven items and socks/underwear from the selection of new and gently used items.

50/50 Raffle: One of our new members drew the winning ticket and the winner was Eileen Ryan, who received \$33.

Presidents Report: Jean thanked those that decorated (and undecorated) the VNWC tree; this was on display in Blalock Park during the Christmas season. Jean encouraged members to stay for cupcakes. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07pm.

Kathy Price
Secretary

