

**Venice Nokomis Woman's Club  
General Meeting  
Venice Library, Community Room  
Thursday March 12, 2020**

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

**Minutes:** February minutes have been available on the VNWC website for members to review. Being no corrections, February minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joan was not able to be present; in her absence, Tricia Cook reported that there were no questions about the treasurers' report. Tricia noted that Roxanne Smith was collecting the \$30 dues from members. The April luncheon reservation forms and checks for \$21 for lunch were being collected at this meeting as well. Aimee Holmes, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Programs, has the luncheon forms.

**Membership:** Lorraine Finizio, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Membership, announced that two ladies were joining the VNWC today, Ellie Vick and Carol Potter. They shared how they found out about VNWC: Carol from Facebook and Ellie from our Venice Theatre distribution of the Dance Party flyers. Lorraine administered the oath of membership; welcome ladies! We also had two guests, Vickie Hazle, attending with Kathy Price and Jill Alibradi, our speaker from the Venice Art Center.

Lorraine introduced the upcoming slate of officers:

Liz Mazzu, President

Laura Hester, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Membership

Kathy Price, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Programs

Pat Church, Secretary

Tricia Cook, Fundraising

There were no nominations from the membership or any opposition to the incoming slate. Congratulations to our new officers, they will be installed at the April Luncheon.

**Programs:** Aimee introduced our speaker for the meeting, Jill Alibradi, from the Venice Art Center. Jill shared that their summer program and scholarships will be different this summer. In the past, children signed up for individual classes, making it difficult for working parents to get their children to and from the Art Center. Now the program will be for weekly, all day sessions. There will be about three classes per day, starting around June 1 and going through 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August. Attendees can sign up from one to nine weeks and scholarships will be available for families. Possibly children can attend for just a day if that is their choice. An entire nine week cost would be about \$2000, very comparable to other art centers. Jill hopes they can be more selective for scholarships, providing them to families in need rather than first to apply, given until the money runs out. The application has no questions that

are income related, so she was wondering if our club could help identify families in need. Members made suggestions of checking with guidance counselors at local Schools, Family Promise (speak with Jennifer), TWIG or Salvation Army to identify those families. Jean Trammell also suggested speaking with Sandy Davidson from the Venice Theatre, as there may be some overlap with students. Aimee shared that one of our members is involved with a local PTO and perhaps she could offer suggestions. The scholarships amounts vary depending on their grants; last year they received \$4000. Last year about 175 children attended classes. The children are grouped as follows: 5-7 years, 8-10 years and 10-12 years. Adult classes are available for teenagers. The Art Center would love to have volunteers to help in the classes. Those interested can speak with Linda Pica, their volunteer coordinator who is available on Mondays and Wednesdays. The summer schedule and programs will be available online. Art instructors are also needed. When asked what the most popular program was last summer, Jill shared it was "Clay Monsters", which were cute. The children also did fabric and silk painting. Aimee also shared that she would be passing a sign up for the Family Fun Day at the Art Center, to be held in July. Neither Aimee nor Jill knew the exact day in July but would post that information when available. Members agree that it was fun to volunteer at this event and that we have been doing so for about 4 years. About 350 plus children attend.

Aimee reminded members to complete the April Luncheon reservation form and leave it with their \$21 check or mail them by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Newsletter:** Sharyn Lonsdale, who is our newsletter writer shared that she is planning a new addition for the monthly newsletters, a 'Meet the Member Profile. This is an optional questionnaire that Sharyn will send to members, both old and new. What great way to get to know each other!

**Presidents Notes:** Jean reminded members that at last month's meeting, a handout of our possible beneficiaries (with a description of each) was distributed. She invited Tricia Cook to report on the Finance committee's recommendation of our 2021 fundraising beneficiary. Tricia shared that last year the Finance Committee identified 10 potential Civic organizations beneficiaries. They made their current recommendation based on three criteria: 1) Where we could impact the greatest number of children. 2) Would associating with that organization also allow us exposure and the greatest opportunity for club growth? 3) We are coming up to our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the VNWC. in 2026. Would organizations with a connection to Venice's history be more appropriately served at that time, such as the Venice Historic Preservation, the Venice Heritage, etc? We should think about what our club has done to contribute to the community over the past 100 years and how we can celebrate that. Hopefully a committee can be formed to begin to plan for this. As the Finance committee discussed this criteria they noted that the Venice Symphony serves over 2300 students in a variety of programs. One that Tricia spoke about was their Summer Music Camp, which loans students instruments during the program, enabling them to test various ones such as harps and oboes. The Symphony's Summer Music has a budget of \$10,000 to purchase and repair

instruments. At this time, they are hoping to replace some aging instruments and to add a percussion ensemble to their program. We think we could help and potentially expand their program. This recommendation of supporting the Venice Symphony youth was made to the board by the Finance Committee, which the board approved. This would be for next year, 2021's fundraising beneficiary. Jean asked for any additional nominations from the floor and there were none. Laura Hester made a motion to support the Venice Symphony Youth Program for our 2020/21 fundraising efforts. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tricia Cook. Discussion followed with some member questions. First Verna Silk asked if we're only supporting one group, whereas in the past we've given funds many organizations. Jean explained that previously we have given smaller funds to multiple groups, but that by supporting just one group we have a greater impact both financially and with community recognition with an effect of increasing our membership. Tricia noted that we also still have several outreach programs that we support, TWIG, Backpack Angels, and Salvation Army Christmas Angels. In the past members have felt overwhelmed with financial requests. Lisa Ketner asked if we would be able to gift students with an instrument to own rather than on loan for summer program. Sharyn Lonsdale, VNWC member as well as Venice Symphony representative, explained that many of the schools assist students in obtaining instruments. However, the Symphony would love for the VNWC to establish this sort of program as long as students in need and ability would be identified. It was brought up by Linda O'Brien, that we are only providing support for one year, not on an ongoing basis, making it difficult to put this in place. Tricia reminded members that our only annual financial gifts are through our annual scholarships, for female high school and now college students. She explained that our beneficiary support through our fundraising efforts is finite, for one fiscal year. Jean asked for any more discussion on the motion. As there was none, members unanimously voted in favor of supporting the Venice Symphony Youth Program for our 2020/21 fundraising beneficiary. Sharyn thanked us in advance for our upcoming support.

In response, Irva Maddox shared how proud she was to be a member of the VNWC, especially with all of our accomplishments in fundraising and work among our community.

**Fundraising/Publicity:** Laura Hester, fundraisings chairman, noted that we have raised grand total of \$10,145.85, with expenses of \$4,183.35, making our net total income \$5662.50. Laura will deliver a check for this amount this today to the Venice Theatre. This income is only from the Dance Party; it doesn't include Fox Lea Farms. We don't have those numbers yet, but should know by the first of next week. Fox Lea had a high attendance; about 500 visitors came in while were collecting monies at the gate.

Laura shared a list of the many businesses that either sponsored us or were donors for the Dance Party. Please keep this list in your car and support theses businesses and thank them for their support! Lisa Ketner made the suggestion of us giving VNWC supporters a car window sticker says "We support the VNWC". Great idea! Tricia has a commitment from Fran Valencic, social columnist from the Venice Gondolier, to attend our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. At this meeting we will have our

scholarships recipients to speak. Additionally, we will present the ceremonial check to the Venice Theatre representative. Laura Colton. The check amount will include the Fox Lea earnings in addition to the Dance Party proceeds. Hopefully, a Fox Lea representative will also be attending this meeting.

Tricia thanked the many volunteer participants at Fox Lea on Friday evening, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers collected money at the gate, sold raffle tickets, shared VNWC club information and parked cars. Several husbands drove patrons in golf carts from their cars to the gate. Those thanked include Bernie Noviki, Bonnie Burkehalter, Kathy Moller, Irva Maddox, Joan Brinton, Roxanne Smith, Diane Higgins, Lisa Ketner, Kathy Price and Terry Fernandez. Also recognized were Laura Hester and her husband for manning the exhibitor entrance, directing patrons to the correct entry. Husbands that drove the golf carts include Ken Brinton, Dan Noviki, Denny Moller and Alan Price. We absolutely thank Tricia for organizing us. Also thanks to Kathy M. for upgrading our Home Depot aprons, she hid their logo with our VNWC name. Fox Lea has already committed to letting us partner with them next year and Tricia hopes all members will plan to attend.

**50/50 Raffle:** Eileen Ryan collected money for the raffle; total of \$74 was collected with the raffle winner receiving \$37. Jean drew the winning ticket, which was Eileen!

With no more business, Jean declared the meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Kathy Price  
Secretary