

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the Venice Nokomis Woman's Club held on March 11, 2021 at Blalock Park, Venice.**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Liz Mazzu, at 1:10.  
The Collect was read to the membership by Liz.

Liz made everyone aware that the membership shirts were available through Laura Hester and are priced at \$25. See Laura to order if you'd like to order one.

Liz explained the decision of the Scholarship Committee:  
It was decided that we would again give four scholarships to female students presently enrolled at Venice High School.  
Two academic scholarships would be given @ \$2000 each  
Two technical scholarships would be given @ \$1000 each

Our 95th Anniversary was discussed. We are presently looking at what to do for our 100th Anniversary. Volunteers are needed for a "Brainstorming" Committee to gather suggestions. Anyone interested in being on that committee is asked to contact any Board member to submit their name.

Laura Hester, Membership and First Vice President, was introduced and held elections of two new Board positions. Since there were no other nominations from the floor, Kathy Moller was unanimously voted in for the position of Treasurer, and Lorraine Finizio was unanimously voted in for the position of Director at Large, a position created as a liaison between the members and the Board, and so there would be a deciding vote in Board decisions. They will both be installed at the April Meeting.

Laura spoke of an article about Mrs. Albee in the newsletter and what an interesting person she was. She said we should enjoy reading about Mrs. Albee and learning some of her and our history.

Laura announced that we will be celebrating our upcoming 95th Anniversary at the Venice Library on March 20, 2021, handing out cookies with "95" printed on them. If you can, members should try to be at the Library at 10:30 that morning for a photo-op. Please wear your Club shirts, if you have one.

Kathy Price, Programming and Second Vice President, reviewed the April meeting at which Nicole Britton, a representative from TWIG Organization, will be in attendance and will explain what TWIG does in the community.

For the May meeting, Kathy suggested we bring donations for TWIG. They accept new underwear and socks, lightly worn clothing, new toiletries, and lightly worn shoes.

May will be the last meeting before the summer break. A suggestion was made, after getting feedback from Kathy's email questionnaire, that we have an outdoor event with lunchboxes provided from Publix. Everyone seemed to be in agreement. More details to follow.

Kathy asked if anyone joined the Audubon Society after our last meeting at the Rookery. She explained some of the issues the Rookery is facing and made everyone aware of how important it is to have any support we can give them.

Tricia Cook, Fund Raising and Outreach, talked about Backpack Angels and how appreciative they are for our donations. She mentioned how the Angels have supplied 7,400 bags packed for over 22 schools. Please continue to bring Tricia any travel sized toiletries you might be able to donate to this worthwhile cause.

Tricia made us aware that the Gondolier is celebrating 75 years of community-based news. The Gondolier has stated how much they appreciate our Organization and is happy to showcase us in their paper whenever they can.

Liz reiterated how important the Venice Museum is in the Community and how we should visit it to learn more about where you live.

Joan Brinton, outgoing Treasurer, recognized Sharyn Lonsdale for her great job of putting together our wonderful newsletter every month. Thank you Sharyn.

Joan stated that the Treasurer's Report is available on our website.

Laura introduced our guest, Janet Knudsen, who gave a tutorial on how to make mats for the homeless out of plastic grocery bags. She showed us a sample of a "blanket" and showed pictures of other creations her group have made. It takes 800 bags to make one mat. Most mats are distributed to the Center for Hope and Charlotte Co. Coalition for the Homeless. Janet spoke of how she got involved in this great project and then taught us how to cut and loop. We are forming a group to continue to help with this project by cutting and looping at Liz' home. Anyone interested, please contact Laura Hester. Date TBA.

There was one guest at the meeting. Liz introduced and welcomed Judy Salmonson.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Lorraine Finizio  
Director at Large