

VICTORIA GARDENS WOMEN'S CLUB
MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 6, 2022

Members in attendance: Laura Blackburn, President; Bonnie Friedman, Vice President; Darlene Cross, Secretary and Directors: Linda Holmes, Joan Neumann, Rosie McKenna, Lynn Reim, Susan McMahon, Connie Hampton, and Ellen Haynes.

TODAY'S MEETING DISCUSSION TOPICS

- **2022 Charities Plan Approved:** Susan discussed the following items:
 - \$5000 was approved for Stetson University.
 - Thank you notes were received from COA and Stetson.
 - Susan suggested to the BOD that we need to be intentional and target donations.
 - Pets for the COA were well received. It was recommended that we continue with this in the future.
 - It was recommended that we donate \$1000 to the Visitation House which we have done previously.
 - It was agreed that we would donate \$2500.00 to the Empty Bowls event which would make the VGWC a platinum sponsor. Susan shared information about this event, and all agreed it was an extremely worthwhile event. The Empty Bowls event is January 27th and is being led by the Neighborhood Center.
 - The Giving Tree was a highly successful event and involved many members of the VGWC. It was determined that the gifts had an estimated monetary value of \$17,000. However, the value to the recipients was far greater. Susan shared with the BOD that these were the only gifts received by some of the recipients. The Beacon wants to publish the success of the Giving Tree event.
 - Susan shared with us that the COA has a dance event in February. It is in Daytona and is their big event of the year. It is Dancing Through the Decades, March 23, 2022, and is held at the Ocean Center.
 - The Branch Collection schedule is being updated to include COA.
 - It was discussed that it continues to be a struggle getting the message to everyone regarding what VGWC does for others in our community.

- **January Shred/Food Drive Publicity:** Laura sent out 3 blasts to all residents. There is a Car Show the same day in the Trails.

- **Cruise Week Registration:** Laura stated it will be run like an e-store. Bonnie, Rosalene and Linda will be meeting to discuss cruise week and the registration. Bonnie will explore Sparrows Grille for the Captain's dinner.

- **January Luncheon Status:** Lynn advised that the Luncheon was cancelled, and Laura will handle refunds for all who paid. The speaker will be rescheduled to March 9th from 2-3pm at the clubhouse.

- **February 9th Tea Party:** Lynn advised that this event is on and representatives from the Council on Aging will be invited to attend.

- **Gala Ticket Sales Status:** The event has been re-scheduled to May and sales will resume in the near future. The focus is on the Cruise Week event currently.
- **Shirt & Tribute Card Promotion:** Laura requested promotion of both items. Rosie will include in the branch training which will educate the branch leaders and they will pass the information on to their individual branches. Nancy Greenfield will attend the meeting and be on the agenda for the tribute cards. Connie is attending the meeting as well and will be available to discuss any questions regarding the shirts.
- **Karla's Tribute:** Laura showed us Karla's gift which was beautiful. Laura scheduled a time for the BOD to stop by Karla's home and present the gift.
- **Golf Tournament:** Susan advised us of an opportunity to be a sponsor for the Deland Junior Service League. It was discussed and the BOD voted no. Susan will explore the organization further.
- **Branch Leadership Training:** Rosie discussed the goals of the training and the agenda format.
- **LDI Training & Synergy:** Rosie stated we need to focus on training leaders with energy. Mentor up & coming individuals in the VGWC. Recognize new possibilities. The by-laws for BOD terms changed a year ago and all BOD officers' terms end in May 2023. Ellen's term will end May 2022. Rosie suggested establishment of a nominating committee to identify viable candidates for future openings. The nominating committee would recommend candidates to the BOD.
- **January 24th Meeting** with Lifestyles at 3pm: Bonnie and Linda will attend as representatives of the VGWC.
- **WC Budget Impact** of the new HOA budget: Laura advised that the new budget would impact the Vine and in turn will impact the VGWC. Laura pays the Vine if there are any no shows and there are no refunds to the respective no-show member.
- **Heathrow Women's Club:** Bonnie suggested that we check out this club's website. They are using the FB marketplace to fundraise for their club. It's another fund-raising option for us.

Laura provided us with the dates for our 2022 meetings:

2022 MEETINGS

- February 3
- March 3
- April 7
- May 5
- June 2
- July 7
- August 4
- September 1
- October 6
- November 3
- December 1

Treasurer's Report is posted on the website for future reference.

Secretary's Report of the Last Minutes are posted on the website for future reference.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Charitable Action Committee – Susan's Report

- **Annual Giving Tree** – We fulfilled 300 gift tag requests this year resulting in 900 new gifts with an approximate value of \$17,000. We set a goal of doubling our results from last year, but with the greater need and addition of Neighborhood Center and Volusia Council on Aging we almost tripled our results. Special thanks to Cheryl Sullivan for chairing this event and the many members who volunteered to help with gift tags and gift drop off. Agencies who benefited were Family Renew, Neighborhood Center Bridge Residents, Volusia County Council on Aging seniors, Rose Manor, Foster Children and Community Partnership for Children and Visitation House. Thanks to all the VG residents and members who supported this year's event!
- **Non-Perishable Food Drive and Shred Event** is scheduled for January 22, 9:00 – 1:00 at the Clubhouse parking lot. Open to the entire community. Residents are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items with them when they come with their documents to Shred. We have 4 local businesses covering the expense of the Shred truck and food donations will benefit Neighborhood Center Food Pantry. Thanks to Judy Agamie for chairing this event. VGWC is partnering with the VG Men's Club to host this event.
- **The Branch Collection process** is going great. We now have ready supplies of shampoo, deodorant, pet food, and paper products. We have purchased additional shelving for the storage unit to keep these items. Thanks to all members who have donated in-kind items. We will continue these donations January – May with 4 branches assigned each month to donate particular items. We have updated the schedule to include items for seniors in need and will distribute these through the Volusia Council on Aging We did not collect in December given other holiday giving events.
- The Board approved purchase of **two Robotic Pets**. These are animated pets frequently used with seniors suffering from dementia. We were made aware of this need through the Council on Aging and are excited to present them on behalf of all the VGWC members.
- **VGWC donated \$1000** to Neighborhood Center Merry and Bright Fund benefiting homeless youth, emergency shelter and growth achievement program. Susan McMahon, VGWC Charitable Director, Bonnie Friedman, VGWC Vice-President and Debra West, Director Neighborhood Center were present when the check was presented.



Publicity Committee – Joan’s Report:

The following flyers were created:

- Giving Tree Delivery
- Save The Date – Mt. Dora
- January Lunch
- Shred It & Food Donation
- Gala Raffle Sales
- Rescheduled Gala Notice
- Gala New Date

Working with Susan McMahon & Cheryl Sullivan on
The Giving Tree.

Programming Committee – Lynn’s Report

January 12th: Meeting cancelled

Will try to rebook the speaker, Bethanne Weiss, and have her do a longer talk on Wed. March 9 (2-3 pm) no food will be served. Auditorium seating with space between chairs so attendees can do some of the exercise moves that Bethanne talks about and demonstrates. This program will be from 2 to 3 pm with no refreshments and cost will be ???

February 9th: “Tea Party” with Zach Zacharias speaking on “Elegant Abodes of Volusia County”. Tea sandwiches, scones, and a variety of teas will be served. Time: 2pm to 4pm. Price to be determined.

Membership Committee – Connie’s Report

- Things are slow as far as membership goes.
- We look forward to getting name tags delivered and the T-Shirt orders going and selling more to have some income for the organization.

FRIENDSHIP BRANCH Committee – Ellen’s Report

I am happy to report that the December Branch Holiday get togethers were enjoyed by all. They were festive and creative. It was a wonderful time to share the Holidays with the good friends that have been nurtured through the Branches.

Registration has slowed down in December. There were only a few new members added to the Branches.

The In-Kind donations have been received with great enthusiasm with our members and donations are filling our warehouse shelves.

The Branch Committee met and discussed the safety issues with the uptick in Covid cases. We will be sending out an e-mail to all the Branch Leaders to advise them to proceed with meetings using their own discretion. Safety of our Members is and has always been priority #1. We will also be distributing a list of meeting ideas and safe venues to help them navigate through these difficult times. It is our sincere intent as a committee to support our Leaders and meet their needs to the best of our ability.

We have a Leadership training session scheduled for all the Branch Leaders on January 14. Rosie McKenna will be the facilitator. She always makes it fun and interesting with prizes, sweet treats, and a little caffeine to help keep everyone focused.

Special Events Committee – Linda’s Report

- The Gala Date has been rescheduled to May 21st, 2022.
- Joan will send the new gala flyer to Evelyn and Remy. Once it is approved, Laura will email a copy of the flyer to Julie requesting that Evelyn post it on the bulletin board and in Jackie’s acrylic stand on the resident's service desk.
- If any guests with reservations want a refund: we will direct them to contact Laura Blackburn via email at the VGWC.org website. **Refunds will be available for 30 days after the BLAST about the rescheduling**. Contacting Laura Blackburn is only if a guest requests a refund.
If a guest does not request a refund, their reservation will be good for the May 21st Gala.
- We will continue selling reservations for the May 21st, Gala.
- As of now, Cruise week is still April 24-29. I have been out of town and I'm not aware of any changes on that.