

Victoria Gardens Women's Club
Board Meeting
October 7, 2024

Attendees: Susan McMahon, Ruth Chrismore, Gail Thomas, Cindee Cullingford,
Lindy Waters, Laura Blackburn, Patricia Martuscello

Absent: Joan Neumann

Guest: Rosie McKenna

Program:

- We had a lengthy discussion regarding the October luncheon. It was decided that we would reschedule it to Wednesday, October 16th if our speaker was available on that day.
- The November meeting, the Pepper's fashion show is all set. There will be bottles of wine for door prizes. A number will be put under a random chair at each table, that person will win a bottle of wine. Board members are asked to bring a bottle of wine to the November meeting and give it to Ruth. Please put it in a wine bag.
- The December meeting is being planned. Holiday craft sales will be available in the hallway before and after lunch. All vendors who participated last year have agreed to provide a booth this year. A total of 7 will attend as well as Mr. Saunders from Saunders Jewelry. Musical entertainment from local school or Stetson choirs are being considered.
- The January 8th meeting will be held from 6:00-9:00 PM. The speaker is Sheriff Chitwood from Volusia County. Susan will introduce Derek Mears from Ameriprise Financial, a new VGWC sponsor and he will introduce Sheriff Chitwood. The VGWC will partner with the VGMC to sponsor this event. A beverage table will be provided along with desserts made by the VGWC bakers.

Charitable Action Update:

- Rosie McKenna reported on the VGWC volunteer program. She is currently partnering with Life Styles to raise awareness for volunteer opportunities, think inside the community, outside the gates.
- The Dog Halloween Parade was to be held on October 12th from 3-4:30PM at the clubhouse. This will be rescheduled due to hurricane Milton.
- The Life Styles committee along with the VGWC are working with the Neighborhood Center to provide dinners for people. The Thanksgiving Food Bag drive will start on Monday November 4th, community members can pick a feather at the clubhouse from the large turkey to select items for donations. The donations will be collected on November 19th and 20th and put in bags by volunteers from the VGWC. A truck will pick

up these bags and take them to the Neighborhood Center. Among the usual items on the feathers will be a gift card for a turkey.

- Daryl Coleman and her committee are currently organizing the Giving Tree Project. The Giving Tree will provide gifts for Lynn's Kids (they tutor foster children), The Neighborhood Center Family Emergency Center Household (adults, items they can take for a household when they move out), Begin Again (50-75 Hospice children), Family Renew children, Bridge Residents at the Neighborhood Center, and Foster Children.
- The community wide HOA Landscape committee is currently meeting to organize putting together volunteers to take care of the common areas. These areas are our responsibility as community members. The committee has already cleaned up the Heron Point Circle. Three dates for future community clean ups are November 16th, December 7th, and January 11th. They will be working on other areas in the Gardens.
- We are a sponsor for Empty Bowls at DeLand High School, November 14, 2024. Members are encouraged to attend.

Fundraising:

- Susan reported that Casino Night is right on track. The Prize Patrol kicked off this month. Lottery tickets are being collected at monthly meetings. We have \$15,250 in sponsorships committed to the event; new goal is \$20,000. This opens the door for more gambling tables.
- The Mahjongg Event ticket sales are currently at 42, they expect to exceed 100 sold tickets. The committee is working hard. Proceeds are going to the Hospice Begin Again Program.

Financial Report:

- Gail reported that we currently have \$25,000, \$6,000 in restricted funds, and operating budget is at \$19,000.
- \$386.41 was left from the Neighborhood Center Family Emergency Center project and the board voted to put it into restricted funds moving forward.

Membership:

- Cindee reported that we are currently at 245 members (will probably reach 250 by the end of the year).
- Many calls have been placed to people who have not renewed.
- Badges were ordered for new members.
- A new member tea will be planned as soon as Cindee meets with Connie Hampton.
- Cindee will begin contacting new residents.

Branch Update:

- There are 12 Friendship Branches with 216 members.
- The Leaders Orientation Meeting was held on September 16, 2024 and was a huge success. The leaders and co-leaders received a packet filled with great information, including a spreadsheet of possible outings and restaurants for branches to choose from.

- Some other ideas were to provide a BOGO Basket for some of our charities, a possible Breakfast Branch, and an Excel Tutorial Workshop for Branch leaders and co leaders.

Making A Difference Recognition:

- September nominee is Valerie Steil
- A discussion was had to select the November nominee.

Tech Update:

- Laura reported that everything is up to date on the website.
- Tickets for events are now available ahead.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 AM
Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Martuscello
Recording Secretary
Victoria Gardens Women's Club

Friendship Report:

There are 12 Friendship Branches with 216 members.
There has been minimal member movement among branches during the last month.

The Leaders Orientation Meeting was held on Sept. 16, 2024, and was a successful information sharing session. Speakers, Susan McMahan, Rosie McKenna, Janice Keifer, Pat Saunders, and Sharon Cieszkiewicz, were responsible for keeping the Friendship Branch Leaders engaged and informed. Leaders carried home a packet that included the day's highlights.

Some ideas shared and generated included:

BOGO Baskets
A possible Breakfast Branch
An Excel Tutorial Workshop

Publicity Report

- During the month of September 2024, I created the following:

Save the Date for Mahjong Madness 4 notice
Giving Tree logo ideas
October 9th League Luncheon notice
Volunteers Needed flyer

Mahjong Madness Silent Auction Bid Sheets
Mahjong Madness Players Score Sheets

Joan Neumann