



The Property Owners Association, Inc.

The Villages, FL

Minutes for the POA Membership Meeting of July 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Weiner at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was next, followed by a moment of silence in recognition and remembrance of women and men who have served or are serving in our Armed Forces.

- 1. POA Board Members Present:** Susan Ball, Boyd Briscoe, Ken Copp, Elaine Dreidame, Jerry Ferlisi, Myron Henry, Donna Kempa, Robert Rovegno, Robert Taraska, Sal Torname, Jerry Vicenti, Cliff Weiner, and William Yelverton. *Excused:* Carolyn Reichel. Deb Butterfield, editor of the POA *Bulletin*, was also in attendance.
- 2. Approval of the minutes for the June 21, 2016 membership meeting.** The substitute secretary did not have a copy of the June 21, 2016 minutes with him, so approval of these minutes was deferred by President Weiner.
- 3. Treasurer's report.** Donna Kempa reported that operating cash decreased by \$921.08 for the month as receipts (\$9,982.29) were lower than expenses (\$10,903.37). Operating funds total \$164,872.52. There are 6279 paid households YTD.
- 4. 2016 memberships.** Jerry Vicenti noted that POA membership for 2016 is just over 7,000 but is down slightly from 2015, and he asked POA members to encourage past POA members to pay their 2016 dues and for other friends to join the POA. Currently about 56,000 copies of the POA *Bulletin* are distributed to approximately 120,000 Villagers. Jerry felt that most Villagers read the *Bulletin* (including those south of 466 and 466A) but probably have not felt an immediate need to join the POA. Increasing the membership may require another controversy with the Developer for Villagers to realize how important the existence of the independent POA is to them. Jerry also again mentioned the different colors of membership cards depended on whether the member has paid for just one year or instead has paid ahead by two or three years.
- 6. SHINE.** Betty Cunningham commented that SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will provide updated information on Medicare and Medicare supplements but does not endorse any specific provider. She again alerted Villagers in attendance about the frequency of scams around The Villagers, especially through phony phone calls and occasionally through actual visits.
- 5. Important representatives at back tables.** The POA Board and officers appreciate the services provided by representatives of the Village District Offices, Senior versus Crime, and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) as well as lightning experts who were also present.
- 6. Cash Raffle.** Three lucky attendees had their numbers drawn.

7. Open Forum. Questions were numerous and included ones about a membership table at the town squares and the need for technology at recreation centers (e.g., to read smart phone I.D.'s). One question was about the IRS suit. The suit has been dropped entirely by the IRS, and while attorney costs to The Villages have been notable, there are no additional costs. Although amenity fees cover such things as recreation centers, it is probable that Villagers amenity fees also helped cover attorney costs for The Villages. The POA supported the position of Developer in this “contest” with the IRS. An extensive article on the IRS topic appears in the August POA *Bulletin*.

The question about changes in health insurance options for Villagers commanded considerable attention, and the August issue of the POA *Bulletin* will feature an article on this topic. At the core of the topic is that the Developer will now require (beginning on January 1, 2017) that Villagers be enrolled in a United Healthcare Medicare Advantage plan to remain as participants in The Villages Health System. This “profit approach” to health care for Villagers may disenfranchise as many as 13,000 Villagers who are currently enrolled in The Villages Health System.

Additional questions will be responded to in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

8. Speakers of the evening. The very informative evening program consisted of a panel presentation from local 'home care' agencies. Collectively, they featured a wide variety of services including medical/clinical as well as 'activities of daily living' which are available to 'seniors' in The Villages.

Krist Schuler, Clinical Liaison from *Cornerstone* spoke about 'hospice and palliative care'; Mary Hotopp, Administrator at *Senior Home Companions, Inc*, reviewed a variety ADL services available to 'Villagers' from her agency; Trish James, Owner of *Seniors Helping Seniors* discussed similar services available; Leslie Switzer, Account Executive of *Better at Home*, spoke about this agency which provides both 'in-home services' prescribed by a physician as well as the ADL variety; and Dale Cook, Geriatric Care Manager from *Seniors Solutions Online*, discussed a listing of services which can provide broad reaching 'case management' help to consumers, arranged 'on line'.

All providers subscribe to a 'least restrictiveness' philosophy wherein a client will not experience a reduction in QUALITY CARE while receiving needed services AT HOME.

9. Next month's program. Metro Crime Prevention

10. Meeting conclusion. A motion to conclude the meeting was made and attendees headed to the back to enjoy some Ollie's ice cream.

Respectfully Submitted by Myron Henry

Pinch Hitting for Secretary Carolyn Reichel